Dear Friends,

Welcome to a further edition of our newsletter.

During the last month, I have been working to further advance our engagement on community policing and I have launched the process for the establishment of the women prosecutors’ network.
Our Community Policing Team has continued with their outreach in the districts of the West Bank, placing particular emphasis on the use of the Mobile Police Stations. Following an invitation by the PCP Director of Community Policing and Media and PR, the Community Policing and PPIO Teams also participated in a session of the newly established PCP Youth Council in Salfit.

With the creation of the women prosecutors’ network our Mission aims at strengthening the capacity and the decision making power of women prosecutors. Our gender transformative approach - which lead to the creation of the women lawyers’ network and is now leading to the establishment of the women police officers network - will be key in promoting more inclusive, gender responsive and transparent justice institutions.

Next to that, I have been participating in the EU Ambassadors Conference 2022 in Brussels. In that forum, I had the opportunity to discuss several geopolitical issues of fundamental importance, such as the global role of the EU, the challenges deriving from immigration, climate change and in particular the relations of the EU with its neighborhood.

Starting from next month, EUPOL COPPS will start to reshape its strategy to promote the rule of law and security sectors’ reforms in Palestine.

Kind regards,

Nataliya Apostolova
Head of Mission
EUPOL COPPS
Meet our Cybercrime Expert

Our Cybercrime Expert at EUPOL COPPS can easily be described as 'a smile in uniform'. Esther Sense, an experienced Police Officer from Germany, holding the rank of Chief Police Investigator, joined EUPOL COPPS earlier this year and aside from her years of experience in her fields of expertise, has brought to the Mission a sunny demeanor that is a pleasure to witness daily. Esther is always ready with a kind word and a pleasant greeting, which of course, made our interview with her all the more pleasant.
Tell us a little about yourself (nationality, professional background and experience and expertise)

I hail from Hannover, Germany. I joined the German Police Force in 2001 and spent the first years of duty in the riot police and carrying out patrol service. In 2008 I was seconded to one of the first, newly founded Cybercrime Units in Germany, where I was part of the team building the unit from scratch.

From 2013 to 2016 I worked in an IT-Development Department as a software developer for police related software.

Since 2013 I have been seconded to the IT-Forensic Department. First as a regular Officer for IT-Forensics and since 2020, following a three year course at the federal CID and at university, I became a certified expert for IT-Forensic with specialisation in Linux and Car Forensics.

Explain your portfolio here at EUPOL COPPS

I am seconded by Germany as a Cybercrime Expert within the Police Advisory Section, and my direct counterpart is the Cybercrime Department of the Palestinian Civil Police. My portfolio seeks to support the PCP in their cybercrime endeavours, taking into account the many challenges they face, such as lack of updated equipment. I also support them on a more holistic level, including raising awareness of cybercrime within the population, a topic which is not only increasing in importance, but is one which is of direct interest to the community as a whole.

What do you enjoy most about forming part of EUPOL COPPS, and about working in the Region?

Working with our counterparts, as well as all Mission Members, and building friendships with such a diverse set of colleagues. Operating in a sensitive theatre such as ours, I feel very fortunate to witness different cultures in my daily life, and to call this historically special place in the world home. It is a very special experience, and one which I appreciate daily.

What are the challenges you face, and how, in your view, may they be
overcome?
As with any other branch of the PCP, a number of political issues contribute towards the challenges faced in executing the PCP's mandate on a daily basis. The Cybercrime Department is relatively new within the PCP, founded in 2013. In keeping with their mandate, the department works on a high technical level, which is hardly understandable for non-technical persons. Since digital evidence becomes more and more important for criminal investigations, I am of the view that this department needs to increase their capacities, specially in the forensic lab, to ensure a proper and acceptable way of collecting evidence and to prevent illegal investigation methods. This has to be done not only by expanding the working environment to contend the rising numbers of cases in the Palestinian Territories, but also through constant training in investigation of digital evidence and data privacy to face the challenges that come with this very fast evolving and internationally linked field of police work.

Esther, thank you so much for sharing your thoughts with the PPIO Team. Your portfolio is indeed fascinating. Despite the challenges, keep up your positive approach and we are always on hand to continue to support your highly commendable efforts!

The Working Group for International Police Missions from the German Federal Police visits EUPOL COPPS
The AG IPM (Working Group for International Police Missions) from the German Federal Police, responsible for coordinating all Police Peacekeeping Missions and Frontex in the EU and UN, paid a visit to EUPOL COPPS in order to experience the Mission’s ongoing support to partners in theatre.

The visiting Delegation received a profound insight into the engagements of EUPOL COPPS and also witnessed actual collaboration between one of our primary partners, the Palestinian Civil Police, and EUPOL COPPS by means of the PCPS, Cybercrime Department and the FJPD. The fruitful and open discussions took place in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation, and areas of possible improvements, both for strengthening collaboration as well as for future deployments, were identified.

As part of our ongoing engagement with our International Partners on the ground, EUPOL COPPS Police Advisory Section hosted a team from GIZ in order to discuss and foster further areas of cooperation between the two organisations. A number of themes were discussed, including Community Policing, Training, Gender as well as Leadership and Organisational Development, and Criminal Investigation.

The two teams explored concrete ideas as to how to further shape cooperation in a way that seeks to strengthen support to our beneficiaries, whilst ensuring that our efforts are carried out in a collaborative manner, avoiding duplication and making the most of our joint resources.
EUPOL COPPS strongly encourages cooperation between international partners. For this reason, among others, such meetings will become a regular feature on our agendas.

👉 https://eupolcopps.eu/single-news/754/en

EUPOL COPPS organized a workshop to discuss the legislation for a modernized correctional service
EUPOL COPPS organized a workshop to discuss the legislation for a modernized correctional service. The workshop was opened by H.E the Minister of Justice, a representative from the Palestinian Civil Police and the acting head of Mission.

The bill of the Correction and Rehabilitation Centres was preceded by a proposal of updates from the Mission that led to several meetings during which the Mission, together with the PCP, was sitting in an ad-hoc committee chaired by the Ministry of Justice to tailor the draft.

The Ministries of Justice and Interior, senior Palestinian Civil Police officers, legal advisors from the Council of Ministers and other Ministries, in addition to representatives from civil society and EUPOL COPPS advisers participated in the event.

The Youth Council in Salfit and the Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) agreed to help farmers to harvest their olive groves in three areas in the Salfit district.

The Police will help with the logistics and will participate in picking olives.

The activity falls within Community Policing as well as within the Media and PR branch of the PCP, both concepts consistently supported by EUPOL COPPS.

Public Relations as well as Community Policing are at the heart of the PCP activities, and aim at strengthening ties with all sectors of society. EUPOL COPPS reiterates our support to the PCP in their endeavors.
Palestinian officials from Palestinian Judicial Institute concluded a series of Training of Trainers workshops.

Palestinian officials from Palestinian Judicial Institute (PJI) concluded today a series of Training of Trainers (TOT) workshops to enhance their training capacity.
The director of the Institute and other four members of the training department of the PJI participated in the two-day trip to Rome at Scuola Superiore di Magistratura.

During the workshops, the attendees received a description of the role and structure of the Scuola Superiore di Magistratura and share best practices in the field of methodology of TOT.

They also tackled topics such as: the design and implementation of initial and continuous training activities; the choice of contents and trainers; the training of trainers and the involvement of non-judicial trainers; face-to-face teaching and the classroom management; legal documentation; the use of new technologies; the evaluation system and training needs analysis.

The event, which was organised and funded by EUPOL COPPS, is part of the Palestinian Judicial Institute endeavor to develop a training of trainers TOT methodology to respond to the overall training needs of the Palestinian judiciary knowing that the highest standards in the continuous professionalization of the judiciary are contributing to an independent and efficient justice as public service.

EUPOL COPPS Mission visited illegal dumping sites in Al-Ram district, south of Ramallah, to determine the extent of damage to the environment.

The visit to the two areas -- Jabaa and Qalandya -- was arranged by the Environmental Quality Authority, Governor of Jerusalem District and Al – Ram Municipality.

The types of waste that the joint group witnessed on the illegal dumpsites includes construction waste as well as hazardous waste (asphalt, painting, electrical, sanitary installations, rubber, glass, plastic and metal).

The joint team also noticed a strong smell of rotten organic material. On one of the dumpsites there was a fire, sending heavy smoke billowing out of the area, which poses a potential health hazard.
“Open waste dumping has many grave outcomes such as low soil quality, ground water contamination and spread of deadly diseases. With the human population multiplying in thousands, it is critical to come up with safer disposal options,” said Michael Ljungqvist, the Mission’s Adviser Environmental Investigations.

EUPOL COPPS, which provides support to the Palestinian Civil Police and the Judiciary, has recently paid special attention to environmental issues in order to assist Palestinian counterparts in maintaining a clean environment.


Head of EUPOL COPPS Mission held a fruitful meeting with representatives of EU member states in Ramallah
Head of EUPOL COPPS Mission Nataliya Apostolova held a fruitful meeting with representatives of EU member states in Ramallah, ahead of the strategic review of the Mission’s next mandate. The attendees discussed the implementation of EUPOL COPPS mandate as well as the security sector and justice reforms priorities in Palestine.

The senior management of EUPOL COPPS hosted a group of Journalist from several EU member states
The senior management of the Mission briefed a group of journalists from several EU member states on the Mission’s mandate and the activities they carry out with the Palestinian Civil Police and the Criminal Justice institutions. Nataliya Apostolova, the Head of EUPOL COPPS, Head of Rule of Law Section and Police Advisory Section, provided detailed presentations to the visitors on the work that has been done with the counterparts since the establishment of the Mission in 2006. It was the first visit since the COVID-19 pandemic.

The journalists were accompanied by Maria Velasco, the Deputy of The Office of the European Union Representative of West Bank and Gaza Strip, UNRWA.
EUPOL COPPS Head of Mission Nataliya Apostolova met with a Delegation from the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) including the Assistant Secretary, Todd Robinson and Steve Peterson, INL DC. Presenting their priorities and main activities, both sides highlighted the need to closely coordinate in order to create synergies between the two offices, and agreed to organise follow up technical meetings between their respective advisors.
Palestinian Civil Police, EUPOL COPPS and other international supporters hosts a community outreach activity in Jericho city.

Palestinian Civil Police (PCP), EUPOL COPPS and other international supporters joined with our PCP hosts in a community outreach activity in Jericho City.
The focus during this trip was on social service agency networks operating in the Aqbat Jabr Refugee Camp.

Opportunities for collective problem solving were identified between police, international donors, local Women’s Council, Popular Committee representatives and other stakeholders.

EUPOL COPPS District Coordinator and Training Adviser visited the Palestinian Civil Police in Ramallah and Al-Bireh District
EUPOL COPPS District Coordinator and Training Adviser recently visited the Palestinian Civil Police Ramallah & Al-Bireh District. The District Commander provided an overview of their daily operations and challenges, and discussed future projects to be developed in close coordination with partners, including the ongoing fruitful partnership with EUPOL COPPS.

EUPOL COPPS met with the Ministry of Justice Human rights section in process of review the Corrections and Rehabilitation Centers law
The Mission met with the Ministry of Justice Human rights section for the third time in a row as part of the review process of the Corrections and Rehabilitation Centres (Prison) Law. The meetings followed the Mission’s proposal on required amendments and updates of the law. The Mission highlighted recommendations from the recently presented UN Committee against Torture report of Palestine, when processing the draft.
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