As a challenging year comes to a close, we wish you and your family health, happiness and success in 2023, and thank you for your cooperation.

From Nataliya Apostolova, Head of Mission, and all the team at EUPOL COPPS.
Dear Friends,

2022 was a remarkable year for EUPOL COPPS team and for all Palestinian institutions working with us to strengthen and support the Palestinian security and justice sectors.

On the threshold of 2023, I would like to recall some examples of our joint achievements of last year. Since the beginning of 2022, I have been working to strengthening our cooperation with the Palestinian Authority, starting with strategic talks with the Office of the Prime Minister, furthering technical discussions between the Mission’s advisers and our counterparts at the Ministry of Interior and at the Ministry of Justice.

In the area of fight against environmental crimes, our cooperation with both the Palestinian and Israeli authorities has led to the closure of an illegal dumping site near Ramallah. While a great success, there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure Palestinian people’s right to a healthy environment. In that regard, we are trying to identify more dumping sites that could be shut down and we are working hand in hand with the Palestinian Authority to enhance environmental crimes investigation procedures.

As far as community policing is concerned, our police advisors and PPIO team together with PCP have conducted multiple outreach activities vis-à-vis local communities and civil society organizations throughout the West Bank. The core of these activities is to establish a relation of mutual trust between the Palestinian people and the Palestinian Civilian Police.

EUPOL COPPS has been proactive in supporting the Palestinian Civil Police in
promoting equal opportunities for women police officers. In that direction, the Mission is now supporting the PCP initiative of establishing a network of Palestinian women police officers.

Notwithstanding these achievements, the challenges and obstacles we are facing are still numerous. Nevertheless, I am confident that the inspiration that guided our team in 2022 will grow stronger and this year will bring on further improvements of the Palestinian justice and security sectors.

I wish you and your families a very happy and successful New Year, and first and foremost hope that you stay safe and healthy.

Kind regards,

Nataliya Apostolova
Head of Mission
EUPOL COPPS

Meet our Environmental Crime Expert
Undoubtedly one of the most gentle souls in the Mission, this edition’s interview is with our colleague Michael, our Environmental Crime Expert. Despite his wealth of experience and expertise, his humility is exemplary. Whenever one meets Michael, he always has a kind word at the ready, and his qualities make him a most loved member of EUPOL COPPS.

Tell us a little about yourself (nationality, professional background and experience and expertise)
I hail from Malmö in Sweden and am a trained telecommunications technician and worked as such for 10 years. I joined the Swedish Police Force in 1988 and spent the first 10 years of duty in patrol service, riot police and as a computer instructor. In 1999 I started as a Crime Scene Investigator to deal with major crimes. During my time as a Crime Scene Investigator I was in Thailand on two different occasions working with DVI (Disaster Victim Identification) to identify victims after the Tsunami. The first time as a release officer responsible for the release of identified bodies and the second time as Site Command responsible for the identification work at the site. I
am also an expert in performing blood pattern analysis. After 20 year as a Crime Scene Investigator/Coordinator/blood pattern expert I started as an Environmental Crime Investigator in 2019. In special criminal law, there are many different crimes to work with. I mainly investigate environmental crimes and work environment crimes.

**Explain your portfolio here at EUPOL COPPS**

I am seconded by Sweden as an Environmental Crime Expert within the Police Advisory Section.

This is basically to support the PCP Environmental Crime Unit facing the challenges of the daily work (e.g. lack of equipment,

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

Working with other internationals and locals in the mission as well as with counterparts. To be able to work in Palestine and living in Jerusalem gives fantastic opportunities to get to know historical and most relevant places of the world.

**What are the challenges you face, and how, in your view, may they be overcome?**

Since 2019, EUPOL COPPS supports and advises the PCP Environmental Crimes Unit in developing a suitable organisational structure and relevant policies, procedures and practices to assist the unit in becoming fully functional and capable of investigating environmental crimes. Supporting the PCP in the development of a prioritised comprehensive framework for Environmental Crime Unit, as well as coordination with the Environmental Quality Authority (EQA) and the Prosecutors office is a main activity along with trying to close some of the illegal dumpsites currently found in the West Bank.

EUPOL COPPS organized a workshop for the Palestinian Anti-Corruption
Commission staff on gender, human rights and anticorruption

EUPOL COPPS organized recently a workshop for the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) staff on gender, human rights and anticorruption, explaining international experiences, with a special focus on the Spanish legal system.

Over a dozen participants discussed the importance of gender mainstreaming in investigating corruption, highlighting some examples on how to implement a gender perspective. There was a fruitful discussion between the participants and the Head of The Family Protection Unit at the Attorney General’s Office.
EUPOL COPPS and Palestinian Police discuss strategic plan

EUPOL COPPS held recently a workshop with Research and Planning Development Administration (RPDA) from Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) at Mission headquarters to discuss the future activities of Police Strategic Plan (2022-2025) which was developed with the support and mentorship of the Mission.
The Strategic Plan contains the best European and international standards on a number of issues such as human rights, gender, transparency, accountability, professionalism, increasing the quality of services, reducing the crimes and the traffic accidents, developing public awareness, cooperation, partnership programs, investment in PCP human capital, capacity building and increasing the preventive police activities.

The main objectives of the Police Strategic Plan (2022-2025) were presented during the workshop; as well as the future activities of each goal and goal owners, decided by the RPDA/PCP together with the Mission.

EUPOL COPPS reaffirms its support towards the development and progress of the PCP Strategic Plan 2022-2025.”

EUPOL COPPS participated recently in the seventh annual Rule of Law and Justice Seminar and discussed several issues including the implementation of recommendations from two cross-mission analyses on Rule of Law and Penitentiary; impact of climate change on rule of law; cooperation in missions the UN; security sector reform.

This year, Penitentiary advisers from four CSDP Missions (EU Advisory Mission in the Centre African Republic, EU Rule of Law Mission In Kosovo, EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya and The EU Mission for the Support of Palestinian Police and Rule of Law in Palestine.

The seminar, held at the Borchette conference centre in Brussels, was organized by the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CSDP) and attended by advisers from 10 of the 11 CSDP Missions.
EUPOL COPPS organized a workshop to discuss Employing Media to serve the objectives of Community Policing in Ramallah

"In this era of disinformation, colleagues dealing with the media need to exercise a stronger degree of caution, and of course, need to be ready to counter any disinformation in an apt way, always keeping the values of their organization at the forefront," said Nataliya Apostolova, Head of EUPOL COPPS Mission, at the start of
a two-day workshop for the Palestinian Civil Police on "Employing Media to serve the objectives of Community Policing" in Ramallah.

The two day workshop, organised by EUPOL COPPS with the support of UNDP, hosted 36 Palestinian Civil Police Officers from both HQ and all Regional Districts for two days of collective discussion and exchange of best practices on Media and CP issues.

Opened by the Chief of Police, EUPOLCOPPS Head of Mission as well as by UNDP Project Manager and PCP Media/PR and CP director, the workshop consisted of two days of intense discussion in a positive and constructive atmosphere, wherein all participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas and best practices on Community Policing and Media. EUPOL COPPS delivered a number of presentations whilst the PPIO Head of Section moderated the workshop throughout.

The main takeaways of the workshop can be summarized as follows:

- The importance of the Media in Community Policing. The link between the two concepts is intrinsic, and together, both Community Policing and Media are the bridge between the PCP and the general public.
- In order to continue to foster trust between the PCP and the population, Media as a tool of Community Policing is undoubtedly the ‘engine’s fuel’.
- Community Policing remains one of the priority areas of EUPOL COPPS' mandate, and is an area in which the Mission is investing much effort, confident that said investment is yielding positive dividends. The relationship between our PPIO and CP Teams and their PCP counterparts is exemplary, based on mutual trust and objectives.
- The overall focus needs to be upon a realistic service delivery, reaching into marginalized areas.
- Media development can and will help build public trust, advancing a service orientation in addition to traditional law enforcement.
The workshop was extremely well received by all PCP Officers, and has undoubtedly paved the way for similar and follow up workshops hosted by EUPOL COPPS in the coming months. The perceived added value was the open discussion amongst colleagues, the exchange of best practices on Media and CP, and the establishment of a set of recommendations in order to improve the overall communication skills of the PCP.

EUPOL COPP supported the Ministry of Justice in its endeavor to define its priorities for the next six years
EUPOL COPPS supported the Ministry of Justice in its endeavour to define its priorities for the next six years, based upon the directives of the government regarding the new planning approach in Palestine.

The two-day workshop in Jericho, which was attended by the Mission’s Rule of Law advisers along with the senior management and key staff of the Ministry of Justice, was also meant to present, discuss and endorse the draft Implementation plan of 2023.

EUPOL COPPS is committed to support the Ministry of Justice in order to strengthen its leading role in the field of policy development for the Justice sector.

“We assure you that EUPOL COPPS will continue its support to the Ministry of Justice and its staff in all areas relevant to the Mission’s mandate in order to achieve the ultimate goal of the Ministry which is to have sound and impartial justice system in place to serve all people of Palestine,” said Christoffer Önrup, the Mission’s Ministerial Legal and Administration Expert.

🔗 https://eupolcopps.eu/single-news/765/en

EUPOL COPPS hosted a meeting with the Senior Advisors of the Police Advisory Section and their Senior counterparts within the PCP
EUPOL COPPS hosted a meeting with the Senior Advisors of the Police Advisory Section and their Senior counterparts within the PCP. The scope of the meeting was to explore ways in which to improve the excellent working relationship that exists between the PCP and EUPOL COPPS. In her address, Head of Mission Nataliya Apostolova praised the relationship with the PCP as one based on mutual trust, with both sides looking ahead to ways in which to further deepen the partnership.

🔗 https://eupolcopps.eu/single-news/762/en

One week at PCP Ramallah and Al-Bireh District
Earlier this month, a number of EUPOL COPPS Advisers from the Police Advisory Section carried out a series of visits to the Ramallah & Al-Bireh Police District.

This visit granted the Mission the opportunity to spend a number of working days together with the Police Officers in charge of closest citizens` offices, obtaining first-hand information about their work and perspectives, and exchanging best practices. The Advisers met the District Commander and the Heads of all the District Offices, including the following units: Human Resources, Finance and Logistics, Operations, Community Policing, CID and Investigation, Traffic, Guards and Internal Security, Explosives, Touristic and Antiquities and Environmental Crimes; and also visited two District`s Police Stations, Birzeit and Beitunia.
Throughout the visits, the Advisers had the opportunity to discuss, as well as exchange best practices, on a number of pertinent issues with the local Police officers, ranging from daily routine problems, strengths and weaknesses of operations, current organisational and logistic needs as well as upcoming challenges.

This fruitful series of visits has enhanced EUPOL COPPS support to the Palestinian Civil Police, with the ultimate aim of continuing to enrich the PCP’s services to the local beneficiaries.


Senior EUPOL COPPS Police Advisers met Bethlehem District Police Commander
Senior EUPOL COPPS Police Advisers met Bethlehem District Police Commander Brigadier Thabet Al-Saadi and discussed ways to provide support to the Palestinian Civil Police in enhancing bridges with the public.

EUPOL COPPS Kicked off the 16 Days of Activism against violence against women and girls campaign
EUPOL COPPS kicked off the 16 Days of Activism against violence against women and girls campaign.

#OrangeTheWorld, #16DaysOfActivism

The theme and activities of the UNiTE campaign 2022, under the global banner UNITE! Activism to End Violence against Women & Girls, will aim to mobilize all networks, civil society and women’s rights organizations, organizations working with men and boys, the UN system, the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Gender Based Violence, government partners, human rights defenders, schools, universities, private sector, sports clubs and associations and individuals to become activists for the prevention of violence against women, to stand in solidarity with women’s rights activists and to support feminist movements around the world to resist the rollback on women’s rights and calling for a world free from VAWG.
As part of the ongoing 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign, the Head of EUPOL COPPS Nataliya Apostolova hosted the Heads of the Gender Units from the Justice and Security sector to address the legislative, institutional and intersectional administrative measures that are necessary for the constructive prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

EUPOL COPPS stands ready and remains fully committed to support our Palestinian partners in combatting gender based violence.
Empowerment of women and girls is of great importance for the Ministry of Interior. Awareness of rights and privileges is a vital step for protection from violence, and the
Ministry works on a number of tracks to help support gender based violence victims through vocational training and women empowerment interventions. We must work on preventive laws against violence that provide protection mechanisms, in order to preserve the structure of families intact, such as the Family Protection Law, and also ensure that there are enough economic resources allocated for victims and survivors of gender based violence.

**Nihad Wahdan, Head of Gender Unit, Ministry of Interior**

Violence has a negative impact on individuals, families and society. Our institutions must unite in a collective effort to confront this phenomenon and include all legal, social and health systems, as it is a shared responsibility to protect women from all forms of violence. In the Palestinian police, we have bolstered our efforts to prevent and reduce gender based violence by setting up a Family Protection and Juvenile Department, with a team of specialized officers that are equipped to deal with victims and survivors in line with the best practices for confidentiality, integrity and equality. In order to reduce violence, and in particular gender based violence, a law must be passed to protect the family from violence, and with deterrent penalties for crimes committed. Since the family is the basic building block in society, a family upbringing free from violence contributes to a healthy and good environment that benefits the entire society positively.

**Lt. Colonel Abla Abu Al-Rob, Head of the Gender Unit, Palestinian Civil Police**

The Ministry of Justice considers gender based violence as a form of discrimination that must be worked against, prevented and prohibited, and views gender based violence as an act against a person's will. Therefore, it is unacceptable and must be fought with actions to prevent gender based violence.

The Ministry considers the issue of devising preventive and legal measures, including removing restrictions imposed on women’s access to protection and legal services as one of the necessary priorities in the prevention of gender based violence and domestic violence, as the provision of protection and legal support services must not stop under any circumstances.

In our Gender Unit, we pay special attention to gender integration in policies and
activities by raising awareness and providing training for our Ministry, and we are looking forward to launching our field legal offices that will help women and girls access justice and the necessary protection.

**Rania Adwan, Director, Gender Unit at the Ministry of Justice**

The Council of Ministers’ approach in the prevention of gender based violence includes issuing legal protection mechanisms and prioritizing gender responsive policies. The Council also prioritizes and promotes the enactment of laws and legislation that aim to reduce violence and protect vulnerable groups and women. In a Palestine free from gender based violence, we believe that Palestinian women would be holding the steering wheel of development in society, empowered to lead in decision-making positions.

**Hayat Bazar, General Director of the Gender Unit, Council of Ministers**

On preventing and eliminating gender based violence, the Palestinian Bar Association works with protecting rights and freedoms, and by enhancing the role of women in society. The Bar Association’s approach is prevention through education and we have over the years, organized dozens of awareness-raising meetings and provided legal assistance in communities and neighbourhoods by our team of lawyers that are extensively trained on how to deal with gender based violence survivors. Within our Women's Affairs Committee, our 16 Days awareness campaign for schools and nurseries specifically addresses the importance of education, which forms the basis in building a society free from violence against women and girls.

**Adv. Rawia Abu Zuhairi, Council Member, Palestinian Bar Association**

Fighting corruption may increase women's chances and quality of life. Since gender equality and anti-corruption are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing, incorporating a gender dimension into the design of anti-corruption mechanisms can be beneficial. To give an example, corruption in law enforcement undermines the legal protection and promotion of women's rights. Due to women’s limited access to resources, corrupt judicial bodies promote discriminatory practices and fail to protect human rights and women's rights. Thus, PACC established a whistle blowing and
witness protection unit in 2019, which aims to combat all forms of corruption and prevent gendered victimization.

Rana Salaheddin, Head of Gender and Human Rights, Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC)

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