EUPOL COPPS Newsletter - April 2023
Dear Friends,

Ramadan Mubarak! Happy Easter! Holidays grant us a welcome opportunity to pause for a moment. On our side, the busy first quarter of this year culminated in the visit of our new Managing Director/CivOps Commander Stefano Tomat and the MENA Managing Director Carl Hallergard. Our leadership met, among others, with Prime Minister Mohammed Shtayyeh and the Chief of the Palestinian Civil Policy (PCP) Yousef Helo. Both expressed their appreciation for our work and cooperation. They particularly highlighted the Mission’s work in enhancing community policing in Palestine. Our guests also had an opportunity to meet with our international partners the US and the UK as well as our European colleagues.

On 7 March 2023, the heads of Palestinian security forces adopted a joint priority list for the security sector. EUPOL COPPS has particularly congratulated the Minister of Interior on his choice to list human rights and gender as the number one priority for 2023-2024. We stand ready to continue supporting our Palestinian partners in the implementation of the reform agenda.

Within the justice sector, one of the most exciting developments is the operationalization of a new template for legislative drafting that has been developed by the Council of Ministers. EUPOL COPPS has conducted training for the use of this tool that marks an important step towards a more standardized and, hopefully, more participatory law-making process.

Over the last months, my staff has continued to advice the senior management in both security and justice sectors but it has also continued cooperating with officials on the field level and has provided advice and training in many areas, including but not limited to: crime prevention, crime investigation, community policing, human
resources management, environmental crime, cybercrime and sentence planning. To know more, please, enjoy our latest newsletter.

Kind regards,

Nataliya Apostolova
Head of Mission
EUPOL COPPS
Seeing a colleague sporting a Turkish uniform in the corridors of an EU CSDP Mission is not an everyday sight. Nevertheless, with Turkey being one of the three Third Contributing Countries to EUPOL COPPS, we are fortunate to have our dear colleague Ozkan in our midst. Always with a ready smile, Ozkan’s friendly approach is never failing. Despite his years of experience, Ozkan’s humility makes him an asset within the Mission, and we are fortunate to call him a colleague and friend.

Tell us a little about yourself (nationality, professional background and experience and expertise)

My name is Ozkan Baran and I am a National Police Officer from Turkiye. My rank is 2nd Degree Police Chief Superintendent or Police Colonel. I have been a member of the Police Advisory Section at EUPOL COPPS since June 2022, where I am the Police Adviser for Planning and Policy. Turkiye is one of the third contributing countries to this Mission, together with Norway and Canada. I have more than 27 years of policing experience,
both at the national and international levels. I managed many administrative and judicial responsibilities back in my country. On the international scene, I have been posted within the United Nations Missions in Kosovo and in Haiti and the NATO Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan, and at the Turkish Embassy in Bangkok/Thailand. I have much experience on combating against human trafficking, drugs, illicit goods and weapons; armed robbery; counterfeit and money laundering and serious/organized/transborder crime investigations as well as planning and capacity building areas.

I am currently the only Turkish Police Officer working in the mission area. I am very proud of being here in the Palestinian Territories and assisting the Palestinian Police both in their present responsibilities as well as in preparation for their future. Something that makes me very happy is the warm welcome of both our local counterparts as well as the Palestinian population, which certainly makes my work more pleasant.

**Explain your portfolio here at EUPOL COPPS**

Within the Police Advisory Section, I am the Police Adviser for Planning and Policy. Essentially, this means that my role is to assist the Palestinian Police improve the safety and security of the Palestinian population, as well as to support the Palestinian Civil Police reform and development, not least by contributing to the PCP Strategic Plan for the coming years.

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

I am very happy to be here and working with very professional Mission Members from EU Countries. Working with different colleagues hailing from varied cultural understanding and different working habits of law enforcement only serves to enrich my experience. The Mission is taking an important role to make the Palestinian Territories more stable and secure and also to improve the Institutions under Palestinian ownership. I am here to support them in assisting in the building of their institutions. Being part of this Mission is a great opportunity and I enjoy all my time working with my international colleagues and Palestinian counterparts, in addition to enjoying the close and warm
relationship with the Palestinian citizens during our activities.

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

I consider myself fortunate not to face many serious challenges during the daily execution of my responsibilities. Of course, being far from home and my family sometimes causes a degree of stress, as expected. However, the plus side is that, these days, long distance communication has definitely made our lives easier. A special thanks goes to my wife for always handling all kinds of challenges back home, in my absence. I would like to end by wishing all the very best to my local counterparts and Palestinian citizens, as well as a safe and secure return back home to all my international colleagues.

PPIO: Ozkan, many thanks for taking the time to grant us this interview. Your positive approach and outlook are undoubtedly examples for all of us to follow!
EUPOL COPPS held a three-day workshop for Female Prison Officers working within CRCs (Correction and Rehabilitation Centres).

During the workshop, ICHR (Independent Commission for Human Rights) presented its report on imprisoned women, TRC (Treatment and Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture) presented their psychosocial work with inmates, there was training in Bangkok Rules and Human Rights in prison, by the MOI (Ministry of Interior). The Swedish Prison Governor Charlotte Magnusson presented the Swedish Prison and Probation Services’ journey towards a more equal division of women and men within its management. The last day of the workshop allowed for the participants to practice the acquired knowledge by training in sentence planning. All themes in the workshop were filtered through a human rights and gender lens in operations and sentence planning; two important
cornerstones in shaping a secure and modern prison service.
25 female prison officers participated and all 7 prisons were represented.

EUPOL COPPS holds workshop on inter-institutional cooperation
The Mission organized a two-day workshop together with the Council of Ministers as a step to further institutionalize gender and strengthen inter-institutional cooperation. The first out of six sessions addressed enhancing skills in mediation, conflict resolution and effective cross-sectoral coordination. Representatives from The Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Palestinian Civil Defense and Palestinian Civil Police attended the workshop.

EUPOL COPP organizes International Women's Day exhibition in Ramallah
On the occasion of International Women's Day, and in conjunction with the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, EUPOL COPPS organized an International Women’s Day exhibition in Ramallah as a testament and a salute to outstanding women around the world, and in particular, the Arab world. The exhibition Agents of Change, held at the Mahmoud Darwish Museum, portrays a selection of ground-breaking women pioneers and their achievements in the public and private sector.

The event, under the global theme ‘Embrace Equity’ and the UN theme ‘Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls’, shines a light on the significant role of women in leadership, the importance of challenging discriminatory norms and stereotypes, and advancing gender equality with the hope of inspiring current and future generations of Palestinian women and men.’

**Senior EU Official meets Palestinian Premier**
As part of his official Mission to the Palestinian Territories, Stefano Tomat, Managing Director for Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) and Civilian Operations Commander for the EU's CSDP civilian missions held a bilateral meeting with the Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh, together with Carl Hallergard, EEAS Director, Deputy Managing Director Middle East and North Africa and Nataliya Apostolova, Head of Mission, EUPOL COPPS.

"We welcome your Mission and we need you," – the words of the Palestinian Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh to Stefano Tomat. Throughout the very positive exchange, during which the support of EUPOL COPPS was appreciated, the PM asked that EUPOL COPPS maintains capacity building, equipment and training for Palestinian police.
EUPOL COPPS celebrates annual medal parade for 28 Mission Members

As part of the visit of Stefano Tomat, Managing Director for Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) and Civ Ops Cdr for the EU’s CSDP Missions, the Head of Mission of EUPOL COPPS, Nataliya Apolstolova hosted a Medal Parade whereby 28 Mission Members were awarded a medal in recognition of their work, dedication and commitment, and contribution to the European Union, as well as their assistance to the Palestinians.
Top EU official meets Palestinian Chief of Police

Stefano Tomat, Managing Director for Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) and Civilian Operations Commander (Civ Ops Cdr) for the EU’s CSDP civilian missions met Chief of Palestinian Civil Police (PCP) Major General Yousif Helo in Ramallah and discussed ways to enhance and expand EUPOLCOPPS support to the PCP, ensuring service delivery to all citizens.
EUPOL COPPS Police Advisors were involved in a capacity building training conducted by the Research and Planning Development Administration (RPDA) Palestinian Civil Police (PCP).

The scope of the training, given to 20 participants from all 11 districts revolved around the benefits of planning and strategic planning for institutions, the future activities
contained within the PCP Strategic Plan 2022-2025, as well as how the PCP should monitor and evaluate the implementation process.

Our participating Police Advisors delivered a presentation on planning, monitoring and model operation plans.

EUPOL COPPS and Public Prosecution discuss 2024-2029 plan
EUPOL COPPS facilitated and attended a two-day workshop in Jericho for the Public Prosecution Authority with the purpose of performing a reality analysis of the internal and external environment of the Public Prosecution, and to formulate strategic goals and interventions for the Public Prosecution for the years 2024-2029.

The workshop was attended by, among others, the Attorney General, Assistant Attorney Generals, Heads of the special units of AGO, Chief prosecutors and admiration personnel from AGO.

The Head of Mission and Attorney General Mr. Akram Al-Khatib gave opening speeches. HoM stressed that EUPOL COPPS is committed to support the Public Prosecutor Authority in order to strengthen its central operative role in the Justice sector and emphasized the importance of the workshops goal to map out a comprehensive and realistic strategic vision for the years to come.

EUPOL COPPS advisers and senior Palestinian Police officers discuss the PCP’s strategic plan
EUPOL COPPS held a workshop with Palestinian Civil Police Planning Administration at the Mission premises in Ramallah to provide advice on the PCP’s Strategic Plan 2022-2025 and joint future activities.

The Mission’s Planning and Policy Adviser stressed that strategic planning for any law enforcement entity serves as a document that provides the vision and goals of the organisation over time, with a roadmap for how those vision and goals will be accomplished.

“I am very delighted to see initial process of Palestinian Civil Police Strategic Plan 2022-2025 which was already developed within the framework of advancement of the Police based on modern foundation that enhance public trust with the support of EUPOL COPPS,” the Mission’s Planning and Policy Advisor.

The Palestinian Civil Police and EUPOL COPPS will continue to have workshops on Palestinian Civil Police Strategic Plan 2022-2025 with Goal Owner and related Administrations.
More than 50 selected legal personnel from Palestinian Authority institutions concluded a three-day training session on legislative drafting and on using a new template form developed by the Council of Ministers (CoM) in order to structure and streamline the process for developing the PA legislative priorities.

After the conclusion of the training, the participants are expected to further enhance their know-how in producing a well-tailored legislative template.
The trainer, Dr. Fayez Bkirat, provided the attendees with necessary skills to develop legislative input to the Council of Ministers indicating clearly the legislative interventions along with the essential legislative documents, including the legislative explanatory memorandum and the impact assessment document.

The Palestinian parliament ceased to function in 2007 due to internal Palestinian divisions.

Dr. Amjed Ghanem, the Secretary General of Council of Ministers, urged the participants to present their legislative priorities to the CoM. “Using the legislative template will help us determine the government’s legislative priorities,” he said before distributing certificates, together with Nataliya Apostolova, Head of EUPOL COPPS Mission. “The Mission has seen the step of adopting this new template as a very important pillar towards standardizing the law-making process in Palestine. However, there are still more steps that need to be taken by the Council of Ministers in order to fully achieve a transparent, inclusive and participatory legislative process,” Apostolova said at the closing ceremony.

Legislative drafters are responsible for producing legislation which promotes democratic and transparent governance and enhance the rule of law.

Five Mission Members shadow Palestinian Police officers in Jenin
The Deputy Head of Police Advisory Section and four Advisers (District Coordination, C.I.D. and Cybercrime) visited the northern West Bank district of Jenin in a bid to lend support to their Palestinian counterparts in a plethora of Police sciences.

The advisers, each with experience of police work in their respective countries, shadowed the police officers throughout their meetings and discussions pertaining to day-to-day police work, such as managing a crime scene, Human Resources, logistics, environmental crime, detention cells, criminal investigation and cybercrime.

The Advisers met the District Commander, the Heads of all the District’s Offices as well as the Gender Coordinator and a delegation of Female Police Officers working at the District. On the topical issue of Gender, the District Commander is committed to creating the best conditions possible for all his Police Officers.
This visit gave the Mission the opportunity to spend entire days in Jenin together with the Police Officers in charge of the closest offices to the citizens and obtain first-hand information about their work and perspectives and deliver advice accordingly.

The CID and Cybercrime advisers attended the daily briefing of the police and followed the distribution of tasks. They had the opportunity to share their experiences with the local police, and to exchange best practices from their respective countries, as well as to learn more about the needs and daily challenges faced by the Police in the daily execution of their tasks, not least given the particular circumstances of Jenin.

“The aim of this trip is to further enhance the basic police concepts, such as upholding the law, preventing crime and antisocial behavior, protecting and reassuring communities, investigating crime and bringing offenders to justice,” said the Deputy Head of EUPOL COPPS Police Advisory Section.

EUPOL COPPS is confident that this visit will positively contribute to the further strengthening of the already excellent advice given by the Mission to the Palestinian Civil Police, with the ultimate aim of bringing the PCP closer to the Palestinian people.
EUPOL COPPS facilitated a three-day training session for legal staff members from different Palestinian Authority (PA) institutions.

The training for the 22 participants focused on legislative drafting and on using a new template form developed by the Council of Ministers (CoM) in order to structure and streamline the process for developing the PA legislative priorities. In addition, it aimed to further enhance the participant's know-how in producing a well-tailored legislative template.

The legislative template constitutes an important document to monitor the
legislative needs of PA different ministries and government institutions, as a preliminary step to develop the legislative plan of the government and arrange legislative priorities accordingly.

During the training, the participants received a thorough presentation on explaining the main contents of the legislative template, they were also equipped with analytical skills in order to understand the template’s structure and content. The training also provided the participants with necessary skills to develop well-tailored legislative input to the CoM indicating clearly the legislative interventions along with the essential legislative documents, including the legislative explanatory memo and the impact assessment document.

Similar training sessions will be held for another group of legal staff members representing other ministries and governmental institutions.

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EUPOLCOPPS HoM meets with Minister of Justice
With EUPOL COPPS fully committed to the Justice Sector in the Palestinian Territories, Head of Mission, Nataliya Apostolova met with the Minister of Justice Mohammad Al-Shalaldeh in order to emphasise the importance of continuing to strengthen the partnership between the MoJ and the Mission, in order to ensure that the needs and priorities within this important sector are not only met, but challenges are also surpassed.

EUPOL COPPS reaffirms its support and commitment to the MoJ, and looks forward to building upon the relationship between the two entities.
EUPOL COPPS facilitated the Training of Trainers programme for staff members of the Legal Affairs Unit at the Ministry of Justice.
In a bid to develop the capacities of legal personnel in becoming trainers, EUPOL COPPS facilitated the first session of Training of Trainers programme for about a dozen staff members of the Legal Affairs Unit at the Ministry of Justice to strengthen the ministry’s role in policymaking and further develop the justice sector in Palestine.

The training, delivered by renowned trainer Dr. Thuqan Qishawi at the Mission’s premises, will provide a blend of pedagogical theory and practical exercises, enhancing the participants’ ability to deliver efficient trainings themselves in the future. The remaining four sessions would be delivered in the near future.

Nataliya Apostolova, Head of Mission, and Ahmad Thabaleh, the Deputy Minister of Justice attended the opening session.

“This training, as well as other trainings, is a very useful tool for improving key functions at the MoJ, which the Mission, as always stands ready to support in order to strengthen the MoJ’s leading role in the development of the justice sector,” Apostolova said.

During the session, the Mission’s Ministerial Legal and Administrative Expert, Christoffer Önrup, shared his experiences from conducting similar trainings for Court staff in Sweden.

EUPOL COPPS have been providing capacity building trainings for the Legal Affairs Unit at the Ministry of Justice. This unit plays a major role in providing legal opinions and revision of legislation as well as other legal tasks.
EUPOL COPPS concluded a two-day workshop for 22 Palestinian Civil Police officers (PCP) on "Mental First Aid and Suicide Prevention" to instruct on mental health problems and respond to people experiencing such conditions.

The participants from Family and Juvenile Protection Department (FJPD) learned the common risk factors and warning signs of a suicidal person and how as first responders the FJPD officers could help them.

During the workshop, two Canadian Police officers with experience in suicide prevention -- Cindy Bowring and Leanne Butler -- presented to the attendees an action plan to be able to support someone with a mental illness or who develops the signs and symptoms of an emotional crisis.
Participants were also shown how to deal with suicidal victims, traumatized women and girls, psychological shocks and debriefing for officers.

The feedback from the participants was very positive as they engaged in a deep discussion on the topic.
Mental Health First Aid is the help one can provide to someone developing a mental health problem, experiencing a worsening of a mental health problem or in a mental health crisis.

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