



**International
Police
Association**

June 2026

NEWSLETTER

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ONE World

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IPA Globe

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Discover the future of IPA communication – help shape our new global monthly publication by voting for your favourite name today. Read more on page 6.

#SHEisIPA Empowering Female Leaders in the IPA and Beyond' 12-17 April 2026

Thirty-five women and HeForShe allies from 20 IPA Sections recently came together at IBZ Gimborn for the latest SHEisIPA seminar, focused on empowering female leaders and aspiring leaders within the IPA and policing. The programme featured inspiring presentations, leadership workshops, cultural exchange, and an operational visit to the German Federal Police Aviation Unit near Bonn. The event highlighted international cooperation, professional development, and the strength of the IPA family, while also raising funds for charity through a cultural evening and auction.



Read more about this inspiring and impactful seminar on page 8.



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IPA Salzburg, Austria 65th Anniversary Invitation



Join IPA Salzburg for the 65 Years of IPA Salzburg Anniversary Weekend, taking place from **4–6 December 2026** in the stunning city of Salzburg. IPA members are warmly invited to celebrate this special milestone with a festive Advent programme combining culture, tradition, and international fellowship.

The weekend includes a visit to the iconic Hohensalzburg Fortress with dinner and a classical concert, a guided tour of the DomQuartier, and participation in the famous “Salzburger Advent” performance. Guests will also enjoy Salzburg’s Christmas markets, seasonal treats, mulled wine receptions, and a gala evening with music, readings, and a festive buffet.

This unique celebration offers the perfect opportunity to experience Salzburg’s magical Christmas atmosphere while connecting with IPA friends from around the world.

Places are limited, and demand is expected to be high. Members are strongly encouraged to register early, as the **deadline is 30 June 2026**. Don’t miss this unforgettable anniversary event—secure your place now.

[More Info](#)

Introduction from Diego Trolese Chairperson Professional Commission



Diego Trolese

Chairperson Professional Commission

Dear friends,

As summer approaches, IPA activities across our International Sections continue to grow, with more events, seminars, projects, and professional exchanges taking place than ever before. Across the Association, members are coming together through professional development, friendship, sport, cultural exchange, and service activities that continue to strengthen our international IPA family.

The IPA Games took place in Wrocław, Poland, from 10–15 May, bringing together more than 1,000 participants from across our Sections in a fantastic celebration of sport, friendship, and international cooperation. We also look forward to the Young Police Officers Seminar (YPOS), which will take place in Selm, Germany, this August and continues to be one of the Association's flagship opportunities for young serving officers to develop professionally while building lifelong international connections.

www.ipa-international.org

In addition, the Socio Cultural Commission beach clean-up event will take place in June, and I encourage all Sections and members to get involved in supporting this important environmental initiative.

Our educational activities also continue to expand through Gimborn, the flagship educational centre of our Association, set within beautiful surroundings and offering exceptional opportunities for professional learning and networking. Upcoming seminars include Human Commodity – Recognising, Combating and Preventing Human Trafficking, Developing Stress Intelligence, Smart Policing and Digital Technologies, Security Actors in Interaction, Police Street Survival Training, and Point Shooting and Firearm Skills. View the seminars here:



Within the Professional Commission, work continues across several successful and growing projects. The Arthur Troop Scholarship (ATS) continues to attract record participation, with 99 applications received this year, demonstrating the increasing interest of young members in professional exchange and development opportunities.

Education projects continue to evolve through new online seminars and collaborations with Sections and external partners, creating greater accessibility for smaller and more distant Sections while expanding professional learning opportunities for members.

Introduction from Diego Trolese Chairperson Professional Commission

From 12–17 April, the 4th #SHEisIPA Seminar, Empowering Female Leaders, took place at IBZ Schloss Gimborn, bringing together 35 women from 20 different IPA Sections. Read more on page 8.

We also successfully held our first off-site Gimborn seminar outside of Germany in Moldova, which proved to be a huge success. This initiative demonstrated the potential for bringing Gimborn educational opportunities directly to more Sections, and we now look forward to exploring where the next off-site seminar may be hosted.

YPOS remains one of the most valued Professional Commission initiatives, continuing to provide high-quality professional and cultural programmes for young serving officers and attracting strong international participation year after year.

The Strategic Young Members Conference (SYMC) project has now firmly established itself as a successful standalone initiative, with growing participation and interest from additional Sections wishing to host future seminars and activities.

Recently, a meeting with project leads was held in Italy to review progress and define the objectives and direction of projects for the second half of this term. The meeting provided an important opportunity for collaboration, planning, and strengthening cooperation across the Professional Commission initiatives.



Regional cooperation also remains extremely important. In North Europe, Sections continue to work closely together to exchange ideas, develop proposals, and strengthen cooperation across the Association. As liaison for the North Europe Group, I was pleased to attend the recent meeting held in Riga, Latvia where positive discussions and exchanges took place regarding future cooperation, shared challenges, and opportunities across the region.



Finally, I would like to thank all members of the Professional Commission, the International Sections, Commissions, IAC, my colleagues within the IEB, and our International President for their continued support, professionalism, and friendship throughout this mandate.

Warm greetings to you all and your families.

SERVO PER AMIKECO

Diego

Diego Trolese
Chairperson Professional Commission

A New Chapter for the IPA Monthly Publication

IPA Connect**ParticiPAte****ONE World****IPA Voice****Amikeco****IPA Globe**

Over the past years, the international IPA newsletter has grown into one of the Association's most important communication tools, connecting members across the world through stories, events, projects, and shared experiences. What began as a simple newsletter has now evolved into a truly global publication that reflects the modern, active, and international spirit of the IPA.

As the publication continues to grow, the International Executive Board has launched an exciting initiative to transform the newsletter into a refreshed monthly publication with a modern concept, updated design, and stronger focus on international engagement.

As part of this development, IPA members worldwide are now invited to help shape the future of the publication by voting for its new name. The six proposed titles are:

- IPA Globe
- One World
- IPA Connect
- IPA Voice
- Amikeco
- ParticiPAte

This initiative gives every member the opportunity to be part of the publication's future identity and direction.

Members can cast their vote here:

Vote Now

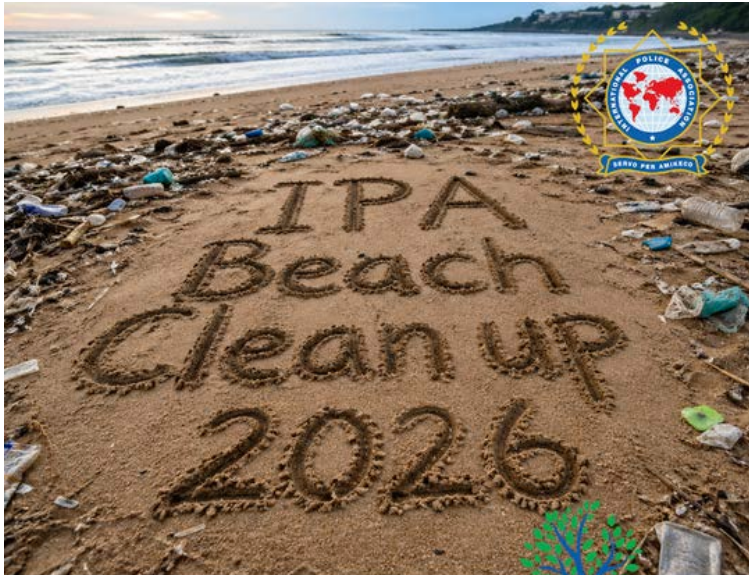
The deadline for voting is 14 June 2026.

The publication will continue to feature reports, photographs, and updates from IPA Sections around the world, showcasing the incredible work, friendship, training, cultural exchange, and professional cooperation taking place internationally. In the coming months, readers can also look forward to more updates on international IPA projects and initiatives as part of the newly refurbished publication.

Sections are encouraged to continue submitting short reports and photographs on their activities to help strengthen communication and engagement across the worldwide IPA family. Together, we can continue building a modern and connected international network that truly represents the spirit of Servo per Amikeco.

International Executive Board & International Administration Centre

Join the IPA Beach Clean Up 2026 Initiative



ACT NOW



1st June – 30th June 2026

On behalf of the Socio-Cultural Commission – GREEN IPA Project, we are pleased to invite all members of the International Police Association to take part in this important environmental initiative. In celebration of World Environment Day (5 June), Sections are encouraged to organise beach clean-up activities during the period 1–30 June 2026. This initiative also aligns with the United Nations “ACT NOW” campaign, promoting individual action on climate change and sustainability.

Beach pollution caused by plastic waste, fishing gear, and other materials continues to harm our environment. Through this initiative, we aim to raise awareness, protect our coastlines, and strengthen the spirit of friendship within the IPA community.

IPA Branches are encouraged to:

- Select a suitable location and meeting point
- Organise local clean-up activities
- Encourage members to bring gloves, reusable water bottles, and appropriate clothing

Following the clean-up, Sections may wish to organise a small social gathering to celebrate their efforts and strengthen connections.

We kindly ask all Sections to share photos, videos, and reports (via WeTransfer) to: **chair-scc@ieb-ipa.org** by 10 July 2026.

Please note that activities may vary depending on local conditions, and Sections may organise their events at alternative times if required.

Let us work together for a cleaner, greener world.

Christos Parginos
Chairperson Socio-Cultural Commission



4th SHEisIPA Seminar at IBZ Schloss Gimborn



Empowering Female Leaders in the IPA and Beyond' 12-17 April 2026



“Empowered Women Empower Other Women” Rhonda Morris – Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer – Chevron

What do we expect when we bring 35 women and HeForShe allies from 20 Sections together at IBZ Gimborn for a seminar designed to empower female leaders (and aspiring leaders) within the IPA and beyond? We want them to build strong, lasting professional friendships; we want them to share experiences and learning; we want them to explore international best practice, and we want them to experience unique cultural insights. We want them to leave having a better understanding of the Association itself through the IPA Fundamentals, and how they can get more involved. Most of all, we want them to enjoy the event and the opportunities afforded by the IPA police family.

I can honestly say that all these objectives were met, and more. Fantastic presentations were delivered from Silke Paul (North Rhine Westphalia Police); Sandra Temme, Melanie Moersch, Lydia Reese and Patricia Woelfl (German Federal Police); Becks Cant (Becks Cant Ltd); Natalia Burcur-Bandas and Cristina Schimbov (Women Police Association of Moldova);

Tessa Deyzel (Section South Africa National Board); Alan Fenton (HeForShe Coordinator – Police Service of Northern Ireland); Ulrike Neuhoﬀ (IBZ Gimborn), Ivana Pavlovic (SHEisIPA Project Team) and Magda Raducu (SHEisIPA Project Team) considering topics like ‘Sexual Harassment in the Workplace’; ‘Leadership Challenges – Gender Responsive Leadership’, ‘Calm, Courage, Command: Women Leading in Crisis – a Negotiators Perspective’; ‘Ethical Leadership’; ‘The African Chapter – SHEisIPA’; ‘Community Empowerment Project’; ‘Building Meaningful Networks and Stakeholder Relationships’; The ‘UN Women HeForShe Initiative’. Participants were invited to engage, discuss, challenge, share present and practically engage with exercises designed to embed new skills.

The cultural evening, where everyone had the chance to try something new from a culture, they may not have much experience of didn't disappoint. Food, drink, music and beautiful national dress were the order of the evening. This was accompanied by an auction of pictures drawn by the young people at the Maria Our Hope centre in Section Bosnia Herzegovina. 600 euros was raised for the Section Ireland charity Little Blue Heroes.



4th SHEisIPA Seminar at IBZ Schloss Gimborn



Empowering Female Leaders in the IPA and Beyond' 12-17 April 2026

An operational visit to the Federal Police Aviation Unit at St Augustine, outside Bonn was a highlight, both in terms of the presentations delivered from senior female leaders, and the tour of the base by the Federal Police aviators. It was a chance to touch, feel and clamber inside the helicopters, whilst gaining a unique insight into the many tasks they undertake. This was followed by some time in beautiful Bonn itself, a chance to relax in the glorious German sun.



These seminars continue to get better and better, partly because more Sections are seeing the value and supporting their female members to attend thus broadening the perspectives in the room, which is of huge value to all concerned, and partly because attendees are getting used to the format and come prepared to fully immerse themselves in all elements of the programme.

All participants were encouraged to share their experience of the event with colleagues and their National Boards in support of those coming behind them. For the mission of the project to flourish, as it is doing, it needs to be active within Sections in its own right. It was really impactful to hear the positive stories during the week of where this is happening, and I want to thank those National Boards who are supporting this.

Finally, I would like to thank Diego Trolese, Chair of the Professional Commission and International President Martin Hoffmann for their on-going support. They are the definition of male allies where this project is concerned and we celebrate that as a project team.

“The success of every woman should be the inspiration to another. We should raise each other up”

Serena Williams (Six Times Wimbledon Tennis Champion)

Karen Duckworth
Professional Commission Project Lead – SHEisIPA
President – Section UK

IPA Sections Unite for the “Plant a Tree – Green IPA” Initiative

Since 22 April, IPA Sections and Regions around the world have been coming together as part of the “Plant a Tree – Green IPA” initiative, launched by the Socio-Cultural Commission as part of the wider Green IPA Project.

Created to celebrate environmental stewardship, strengthen community engagement, and inspire long-term sustainability, the initiative encouraged IPA members worldwide to plant trees within their local communities in partnership with schools, local authorities, environmental organisations, and community groups.

The response from Sections has been fantastic, with members across different countries taking part in tree-planting activities of all sizes. Many Sections have gone beyond simply planting trees by involving local communities to help ensure the long-term care and sustainability of the projects.

The initiative, held under the motto “PLANT a TREE – GREEN IPA”, demonstrates the IPA’s shared commitment to protecting the environment and creating a greener future for generations to come.

Sections have also supported the campaign through specially produced promotional materials including banners, t-shirts, badges, and other merchandise featuring the new IPA emblem and event branding.

We are delighted by the enthusiasm, creativity, and dedication shown by IPA members worldwide and would like to thank every Section and volunteer who has contributed to the success of the initiative so far. You can read reports submitted by participating Sections and view photos from events around the world on our website here:

Section Reports

Photos and videos submitted by Sections will also form part of a special presentation during the upcoming IPA World Congress.

Christos Parginos
Chairperson Socio-Cultural Commission
www.ipa-international.org



Shooting for Reality with the IPA-Defensive Tactics Group (IPA-DTG): An International Training Experience in Sweden

In April, an intensive three-day training programme took place in Uddevalla, Sweden. The course was conducted in cooperation with ESDS, IPA DTG, IPA Swedish Section, and IBZ Gimborn, and delivered by an international instructional team with extensive operational and training experience.

The instructors included Robert Stenhouse (IPA North Wales Branch, United Kingdom), together with Slavo Gozdzik (IPA Sweden) and Emil Gozdzik. All three are certified ESDS Instructors, with Rob and Slavo also serving as IPA-DTG trainers. In addition, all instructors are qualified Firearms Instructors, ensuring a unified and evidence-based approach to human performance, safety, and stress-informed training methodologies.



Participants travelled from across Europe, representing police, military, and security sectors from Poland, Spain, Sweden, and the Netherlands. This international participation reflected a shared reality: regardless of jurisdiction, legal framework, or culture, the human response to lethal threat remains fundamentally the same.

The objective of the course was to prepare officers for life-threatening encounters by exposing them to realistically induced stress while maintaining safety, professionalism, and lawful decision-making.



What Really Happens Under Lethal Threat?

When officers are confronted with a genuine life-threatening situation, training theory quickly gives way to human physiology.

In close-range encounters involving knives or firearms, officers may experience involuntary stress responses. Hands can lock into a convulsive grip, depth perception may deteriorate, and weapon sights can become blurred or unusable. At the same time, the body instinctively attempts to survive by creating distance and recoiling from danger, while officers must still communicate, make lawful decisions, and apply proportionate force under extreme pressure.

These reactions are not failures of character or resolve. They are predictable physiological responses to acute stress. When training does not address these responses, officers may be placed at a significant disadvantage.

Shooting for Reality with the IPA-Defensive Tactics Group (IPA-DTG): An International Training Experience in Sweden



Bridging the Gap Between Training and Reality

Traditional firearms training remains essential for teaching safe weapon handling, marksmanship, and procedural compliance. However, static range environments rarely replicate the conditions officers face when they genuinely believe their life is at risk.

Under lethal stress, fine motor skills deteriorate, auditory exclusion may occur, vision narrows, and time perception compresses. The Uddevalla programme was designed specifically to bridge the gap between technical competence and operational reality.

Rather than discussing stress responses only in theory, participants experienced carefully structured drills and scenarios designed to elevate heart rate, compress perception of time, and force genuine decision-making. Officers trained using gross motor skills, dynamic movement, and rapidly evolving threat scenarios while learning to recognise and manage their own physiological and psychological responses.

Throughout the course, the emphasis remained firmly on survivability, accountability, and lawful application of force.

Force-on-Force Training Done Safely

To safely create realistic conditions, the course utilised Umarex Glock training systems firing rubber ball bearings instead of live ammunition. This allowed immersive force-on-force scenarios involving both firearms and edged weapons while maintaining rigorous safety standards.

For many participants, this was their first experience of truly immersive training requiring equal parts technical skill, emotional control, and ethical judgement.

Participants left with a deeper understanding of how acute stress affects perception, movement, and decision-making, while gaining increased confidence in managing potentially lethal encounters.

As policing continues to evolve in increasingly complex environments, training must evolve alongside it. Courses such as this demonstrate how collaboration between IPA branches, specialist groups, and training organisations can strengthen officer safety, professionalism, and operational effectiveness worldwide.

For further information or to discuss delivering a course locally, contact Robert Stenhouse at Robert.stenhouse@sky.com.

Slavo Gozdzik
IPA Sweden DTG

IPA Iceland Annual National Meeting

Recent years have been eventful for IPA Iceland, and 2026 is already proving to be both successful and memorable.

Our Annual National Meeting was held on 10 April at a new venue and was made even more special by the long-awaited visit from IPA Italy, Faenza and Ravenna. After two years of planning and close contact between myself and Ivan Samori, we were delighted to finally make this visit a reality.

Special thanks go to Ivan and the Italian group for their impressive performance with drums and flags in the main police parking area. Their display was warmly received and provided a wonderful celebration of culture, friendship, and IPA spirit.

During the afternoon, members of IPA Italy and IPA Iceland also enjoyed a friendly football match before joining together for the National Meeting and evening dinner, making the occasion a fantastic opportunity for international friendship and cooperation.

The Section Iceland meeting was, as always, short and efficient. The annual report, accounts, and other mandatory matters were completed in approximately 15 minutes.

Under "Any Other Business", we held a lottery for members who had signed up during the month leading up to the meeting. The winner received a €200 gift certificate with Icelandair. So far in 2026, Section Iceland has welcomed 25 new members.

Following the formal business of the meeting, we shared a special moment as we inducted a new honorary member.



Árni Pálsson, former Secretary General of Section Iceland, and a member since May of 1993 was made a honorary member of Section Iceland. Árni had been a board member and Secretary General for the Section and he had the initiative of the Friendship Fund within Section Iceland that sponsors IPA members to events abroad. It was an honour to present Árni with a certificate of honorary membership and a special gift.

After the formalities our friends from Italy presented gifts and a few kind words.

After the meeting the venue was open to all police officers well into the night.

Servo per Amikeco

Baldur Olafsson

President – Section Iceland

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

Pioneering II Meeting of the VII Ibero-American IPA Group Held in Lima, Peru

The II Meeting of the VII Ibero-American Group of the International Police Association was successfully held in Lima, Peru, from 28 April to 2 May 2026. The meeting formed part of the scheduled activities of the Ibero-American Group and brought together representatives from IPA sections across the region to strengthen cooperation, share experiences, and discuss future initiatives.

Participating national sections included Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Spain, Portugal, and the United States of America, with Colombia also represented as provisionally affiliated status.



The main objectives of the meeting focused on strengthening institutional cooperation among Ibero-American IPA sections, promoting the exchange of professional, cultural, and educational experiences, evaluating regional integration projects, and establishing future cooperation agreements and activities. Discussions also highlighted the importance of training and wellbeing programmes for IPA members.

During the inaugural session, delegates presented the project "Strengthening Ibero-American Integration and Cooperation of the International Police Association." The initiative aims to consolidate permanent coordination between national sections and develop joint training programmes in areas including citizen security, criminal investigation, cybersecurity, human rights, and community policing. Proposed goals also include increasing participation among member sections and encouraging the inclusion of additional countries within the region.



Pioneering II Meeting of the VII Ibero-American IPA Group Held in Lima, Peru

A formal opening ceremony was held in the Chavín Hall of the Police Casino with approximately 150 guests in attendance, including members of the National Police of Peru, police attachés accredited in Peru, and representatives from civil society.

Throughout the meeting, delegates exchanged best practices and discussed topics such as international institutional cooperation, strategies for membership growth, and technological innovation in policing. Participants also reviewed discussions from the 2026 IPA Lisbon meeting.



An important outcome of the meeting was the renewal of the Group Leader position, now held by Luis Agostino of Canada. Delegates also confirmed that the next in-person meeting will take place in Sri Lanka during the IPA World Congress.

Carlos Velasquez
President
IPA Peru



Friendship Week of the International Police Association – Peruvian Section

In late April, the Friendship Week organised by the International Police Association Peruvian Section gave participants an unforgettable opportunity to experience the history, culture, and landscapes of Peru while strengthening international friendship among IPA members.

The programme began in Cusco with a visit to Qorikancha, the legendary Temple of the Sun and one of the most important ceremonial sites of the Inca Empire. Participants also explored the impressive archaeological complex of Sacsayhuamán, famous for its gigantic stone walls and panoramic views of the city. Visits continued to Qenqo and Puka Pukara, both important historical Inca sites.



The group then travelled through the Sacred Valley of the Incas, visiting the picturesque town of Pisac and continuing through the Andean region to Ollantaytambo, home to one of the most significant archaeological complexes of the Inca Empire. At Chinchero, participants learned about traditional textile techniques and enjoyed encounters with llamas, alpacas, and vicuñas.

One of the highlights of the week was the visit to Machu Picchu, one of the Wonders of the Modern World. Guided tours provided fascinating insights into the history and significance of the ancient Inca citadel, while the breathtaking scenery left lasting memories for all participants.

The programme also included visits to Moray, an ancient Inca agricultural research centre, and the spectacular Maras Salt Mines, famous for their thousands of salt pools and unique landscape.

A wonderful time was had by all participants, with the week providing unforgettable experiences, cultural exchange, and lasting international friendships.

Carlos Velasquez
President IPA Peru



International Visit of IPA Social Commission Members to Ljubljana: Friendship without Borders

At IPA Club Ljubljana, we had the honour of hosting a delegation of the IPA International Social Commission, consisting of colleagues from four European countries: Christos Parginos from Greece, Mihai Tartareanu from Romania, Paula Cristina Borralho from Portugal and Antonio Gomez Montejano from Spain.

The guests were accompanied to Ljubljana on Sunday by colleagues from IPA Gorenjska. On Monday, we first took them for a walk through the streets of our capital, where they visited the city's sights, admired its architecture and experienced the relaxed atmosphere of Ljubljana.



Such informal moments are a valuable opportunity to exchange experiences and strengthen international ties. Although we come from different countries, we once again found that similar challenges, values and goals connect us in the field of social work within police ranks.

The highlight of the visit was a friendly gathering, where we were also joined by the President of IPA Section Slovenia, Jože Senica, and the President of IPA Club Ljubljana, Mihael Burilov. The conversation took place in a warm and friendly spirit, with plenty of laughter, exchange of experiences and new ideas for future cooperation.

After a pleasant afternoon, we said goodbye to our guests in the true IPA spirit. The visit was yet another proof that the motto *Servo per Amikeco* – Service Through Friendship – is not merely a written principle in our club, but a value we live in practice.

Our sincere thanks go to everyone who contributed to the organization of this successful meeting.

Anita Kovačič
IPA Slovenia



Meeting of The Presidents of IPA Central European Sections



From 7 to 10 May 2026, the Meeting of the Presidents of IPA Central European Sections was held in Bihać for the first time in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The host and organizer of this important international event was the IPA Section Bosnia and Herzegovina, in partnership with IPA USK – Bihać.

Presidents and representatives of IPA sections from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Slovenia, Croatia, Romania, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the meeting. During the meeting, discussions focused on strengthening international police cooperation, improving the work of the IPA organization, exchanging professional experiences and planning future joint activities.

In addition to the official part of the program, the delegations visited the cultural and natural landmarks of Bihać and the Una-Sana Canton, and also participated in rafting on the Una River and a social gathering at Natura Art. As part of the Green IPA project, a Friendship Tree was planted in the City Park of Bihać.



The President of IPA Bosnia and Herzegovina, mr. Šero Družić, emphasized that hosting such a meeting represents a great recognition for IPA BiH and confirms its reputation within the international IPA organization.

SERVO PER AMIKECO

Šero Družić
President IPA BiH

Kees Jongh Awarded Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau



Kees Jongh has been appointed a Knight in the Order of Orange-Nassau in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to the local community, policing, and numerous social organisations in the Netherlands.

Over the years, Mr. Jongh has made significant contributions in a wide range of areas. He played an important role in the development of the Tedingerdael neighbourhood community and was actively involved in the municipal council.

He also contributed to the annual commemoration ceremonies held at the Indies Monument in The Hague, helping to preserve important historical remembrance within the community.

Within the police organisation, Mr. Jongh left a lasting impact through his involvement in initiatives such as the Police Quality Mark for Safe Living (Secured by Design) and the development of the national police telephone number. His work has contributed to both public safety and accessibility within Dutch policing.

In addition to his professional achievements, Mr. Jongh has held several voluntary board positions, including with the senior citizens' association of the The Hague police unit, demonstrating his continued commitment to supporting both colleagues and the wider community.

Since 2020, he has also served as National Secretary of International Police Association Netherlands, where he continues to support the work and international friendship of the IPA.

This honour is a fitting recognition of a lifetime dedicated to public service, community engagement, and international police cooperation.

IPA Netherlands

IPA Poland Friendship Weekend 2026

Integration, Training and Building Safety Awareness

On 17–19 April 2026, the IPA Friendship Weekend took place in Jarosławiec at the Król Plaza SPA, organised by the Zachodniopomorska Grupa Wojewódzka IPA.

The event gathered nearly 200 participants – members and supporters of the International Police Association from across Poland. The meeting combined both integrative and professional elements, reflecting the IPA motto: “Servo per Amikeco – Service through Friendship.”



One of the key components of the program was a specialised training session focused on how witnesses should respond in life-threatening situations, including an armed attacker scenario. The training emphasized practical aspects of crisis response, such as situation assessment, setting priorities, evacuation options, sheltering principles, and providing initial aid to the injured.



The theoretical part was complemented by a practical reminder on the use of life-saving equipment for controlling massive bleeding, including CAT tourniquets and Israeli bandages. It was highlighted that actions taken in the first minutes of an incident are crucial and can significantly increase victims' chances of survival.



In addition to the training, the Friendship Weekend also had a strong social and integrative dimension. Participants took part in various activities fostering relationships, including two dance evenings, a wine tasting session, and recreational activities such as winter swimming.

The IPA Friendship Weekend 2026 once again demonstrated that integrating the police community and individuals involved in public safety can effectively combine education with relationship-building and cooperation.

Grzegorz Sudakow
IPA Poland

Members of IPA Štajerska on the Trail of Seven Waterfalls

In April, members of the hiking section of IPA Klub Štajerska – IPA Slovenia, set out on a hike along the picturesque Trail of Seven Waterfalls in the area of Buzet, in Croatian Istria.

The trail, which is very popular among nature lovers, leads through the diverse landscape of the Buzet canyon, past waterfalls, forest paths, small villages and natural sights that offer visitors an authentic experience of the Istrian countryside. Along the way, the hikers admired the beauty of nature, waterfalls and pools, while enjoying pleasant companionship in the fresh air.



After the more demanding part of the route, a somewhat easier section followed through the forest and smaller villages. The trail also led them across Napoleon's Bridge, considered one of the more interesting points along the route. Despite some more challenging sections, the hike took place in a pleasant atmosphere, with participants once again proving that good spirits and friendship are the best companions on any journey.

Such gatherings are important not only for recreation and discovering natural beauty, but also for strengthening friendly ties among IPA members. Hiking events provide an opportunity for relaxed exchange of experiences, mutual support and the reinforcement of the values that connect the members of our international association.



The hike along the Trail of Seven Waterfalls was therefore another wonderful opportunity to come together in the spirit of the IPA motto "Servo per Amikeco" – Service Through Friendship. Members of IPA Club Štajerska ended the day full of beautiful impressions, pleasant memories and the wish for new shared adventures.

Anita Kovačič
IPA Slovenia



National Congress of the IPA Romanian Section



The official opening of the IPA Romania National Congress took place at the Patriarchal Palace – Aula Magna “Teoctist Patriarhul”, marking a significant moment for our community.

The event began in a solemn and dignified atmosphere, with the national anthem of Romania and the IPA anthem, followed by a moment of silence and blessing. These moments reflected the deep respect for the values and traditions that define our organisation.

The congress brought together representatives of IPA Romania and IPA International leadership, officials from public order institutions, as well as international delegations—reaffirming the global dimension and strong solidarity of our organisation.

We would like to highlight the presence of Mr. Chief Police Quaestor Bogdan Despescu, Secretary of State within the Ministry of Internal Affairs who emphasized the importance of obtaining public utility status through a Government Decision promoted by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as the significance of the partnership concluded between IPA Romania and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

This year’s meeting holds special significance, as it is an anniversary congress celebrating 30 years since IPA Romania’s affiliation at the international level—a journey built on professionalism, friendship, and cooperation among police officers worldwide.

Since our affiliation with the International Police Association, the Romanian Section has continuously evolved, becoming one of the most dynamic and respected organizations at the international level. We have demonstrated that professionalism can go hand in hand with friendship, and that international cooperation is built on respect and loyalty towards national institutions.



IPA is not just a professional organisation. It is a community that promotes the values of the rule of law, the exchange of experience, intercultural dialogue, and the continuous development—both professional and personal—of its members.

Among the highlights of the event were the launch of a commemorative philatelic panel dedicated to this milestone, alongside messages from international partners and recognition of those who laid the foundations and contributed to the development of IPA Romania over the years, starting with the initiative of Lieutenant General Dr. Eng. Iulian Medrea, under whose coordination the Initiative Committee for the establishment of the Romanian Section of IPA was formed.

National Congress of the IPA Romanian Section

We celebrate three decades of growth, solidarity, and active engagement in society. We celebrate the people who built this organization, the relationships that have crossed borders, and the principles that keep us united.

From the moment of our affiliation with the International Police Association, the Romanian Section has steadily evolved into one of the most dynamic and respected sections worldwide. We have shown that professionalism goes hand in hand with friendship, and that international cooperation is founded on respect and loyalty towards national institutions.

IPA is more than a professional organization—it is a community that promotes the rule of law, the exchange of experience, intercultural dialogue, and the continuous development of its members, both professionally and personally.



We extend our sincere gratitude to the 11 international delegations who honoured us with their presence, reinforcing the spirit of unity and international collaboration that defines IPA.

We would also like to express our special thanks to Mr. Martin Hoffmann, President of IPA International, for his presence and continued support on this important occasion.

Mr. Hoffmann also emphasized the impressive development of the Romanian Section in terms of membership, noting an increase of 7.668 members over the past five years—representing a growth of more than 15 percent—an outstanding achievement made possible through the dedication of highly motivated officials and volunteers across all regions. He expressed his sincere appreciation to everyone involved for their excellent work, carried out fully in the spirit of IPA founder Arthur Troop.

Together, we celebrate not only our history, but also the strong international bonds that continue to shape the spirit of IPA.

Furthermore, the Congress marked an important step forward with the election of the members of the National Executive Committee.

Newly Elected National Executive Committee

- Mihai Liviu Tărtăreanu — President
- Marius Mureșan — Vice President for International Relations
- Ioan Florin Blaga — Vice President for Professional Activities
- Ion Melinte — Vice President for Socio-Cultural Activities
- Cătălin-Ștefan Bălțeanu — Secretary General
- Iulian Tița — National Treasurer

National Audit Commission

- President — Marian Ion Mușcălău
- Member — Aurelia Șerba
- Member — Claudia Dogaru

This newly elected leadership will carry forward the mission and values of IPA Romania, strengthening both national and international cooperation in the years to come.

Mihai Liviu Tărtăreanu, President of IPA ROMANIA

Learning Across Europe: German Student Officers Explore UK Policing



In late April, Essex police welcomed a group of student officers from the German Federal Police (Bundespolizei) to the UK to learn about similar areas of policing (aviation, borders & railways) in the UK. The request to arrange a visit came to me via the Police Liaison Officer at the German Embassy, who I've built up a good relationship with over the past couple of years through the IPA. He has helped me out by speaking to visiting German officers on several occasions and it was my turn to repay the favour.

15 officers and their professor came to BTP HQ on day 1 for a talk about generalised railway policing, fatality management, drones, CCTV, alongside a chance to meet ACC O'Callaghan and hear about the engagement between BTP & the Bundespolizei in Europe.

On Day 2 they visited BTP's Counter Terrorism department to see the units there and undertake a tabletop incident response exercise. Finally on day 3 they visited Stansted Airport to see how Essex Police undertake aviation policing and Border Force manage the borders. Despite a tube strike and some small hiccups along the way the trip was a great success, and the students learnt a huge amount they can take forward into their careers.

Chris Duncombe
IPA UK



Together on the Move: The 2026 Law Enforcement Torch Run in Zug



It was far more than just a torch relay. The 2026 Law Enforcement Torch Run in Zug became a powerful symbol of inclusion, community, and mutual respect in action.

The initial preparations began more than a year before the 2026 National Games. Together with Special Olympics Switzerland and the organising committee, the idea emerged to carry the torch symbolically from the venue of the 2024 Winter Games in Meiringen to Zug. The aim was not only to organise a sporting event, but to convey a message: people with and without disabilities are walking their path together.

On April 18, 2026, the starting signal was given for the torch's cinematic journey began. Supported by IPA Central Switzerland, IPA Bern, and several police departments, the route led over the Brünig Pass to Sarnen, continued by boat across Lake Lucerne to Lucerne, and finally to Immensee. Everywhere, the torch was carried on with pride and enthusiasm.

The presence of Special Olympics athletes was particularly touching. With their openness, zest for life, and positive energy, they left a shaped the entire event and made every encounter something special.

The highlight followed on May 7, 2026, in Zug. Around 300 participants gathered on Landsgemeindeplatz. Among them were numerous members of various police forces as well as athletes from all over Switzerland.

Together, the route led through Zug's old town along the lake to the OYM Hall. The torch was always carried together—by a police officer alongside an athlete. This was precisely what made the day so symbolic: not side by side, but together.



Together on the Move: The 2026 Law Enforcement Torch Run in Zug

The many smiling faces along the route clearly showed just how much such encounters can achieve. For people with intellectual disabilities in particular, direct contact with the police is often a defining moment full of pride and appreciation.

The day came to an emotional close at the WWZ General Assembly. To loud applause, the group, led by the torch, entered the arena. By this point at the latest, it was clear that the Law Enforcement Torch Run is far more than just a sporting event. It stands for openness, humanity and shared commitment to an inclusive society.

The 2026 Torch Run has impressively demonstrated what is possible when commitment, passion, and genuine encounters come together.



IPA Switzerland



International Friendship and Fellowship at IPA Gibraltar Gathering

The visit started at 9am with colleagues from the Policia Nacional and Guardia Civil from the International Police Association's Extremadura and Cadiz sections, meeting at the airport before making their way to the city centre on foot. Time was afforded to browse the goods and wares on offer in Main Street, stopping to enjoy the parade of the military parade that marched through town just before midday.



Lunch at the IPA was next on the agenda where upon their arrival at the club, they were greeted by the Commissioner of Police, Owain RICHARDS along with other IPA committee members, both serving and retired. The attendees socialised at the club over a delicious BBQ style lunch with telephone numbers, stories and patches being exchanged amongst attendees.



Prior to setting off on a Rock tour, a plaque commemorating the visit was gifted to the President of the IPA Gibraltar section, Police Constable Benjamin BENTLEY by IPA Extremadura's president Daniel CARRERO. The rock tour lasted a couple of hours and on termination the delegation didn't want the day to end, hence they remained in Ocean Village for one last coffee before heading back to the frontier with Spain and continuing their separate ways.



Benjamin Bentley
IPA Gibraltar

Upcoming Events



International Photo Competition

Open Now

Deadline 31st July 2026

IPA Literary Competition 2026

Competition deadline July 1st

Please send all entries to:
artsandcultureprojectteam@gmail.com



Categories
• short story
• Poetry



Scan the QR for details
Please visit the international website for all details
www.ipa-international.org



International Literary Competition

Open Now

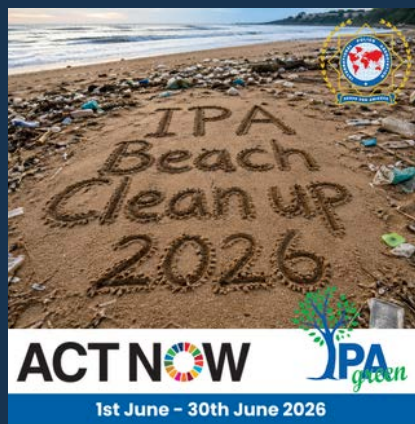
Deadline 1st July 2026



International Children's Drawing Competition

Open Now

Deadline 16th August 2026



Beach Clean Up 2026

1-30 June 2026



IPA Spain Clb3rwall Academy 2026

2-4 June 2026



IPA France European Shooting Course Championship

3-4 June 2026

Here are some of the events taking place throughout the IPA over the next couple of months.

Visit our international website for a full list of our upcoming events:

ipa-international.org/Events

Upcoming Events



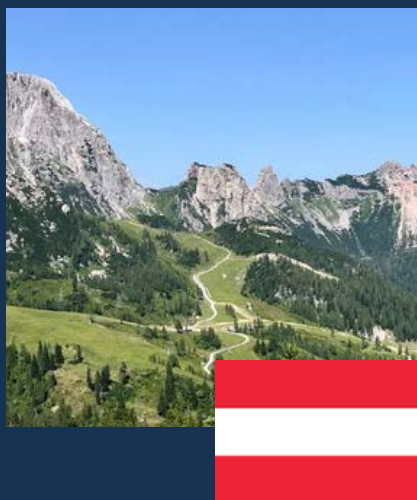
31st Mediterranean IPA Sections Conference (Med Sections only).
4-7 June 2026, Albania



Human Commodity – Recognizing, Combating, Preventing Human Trafficking
8-12 June, 2026



IPA Spain Catalunya Padel Tournament
13-17 May 2026



IPA Austria Hiking Week Nassfeld June 2026
14-21 June 2026



Developing Stress Intelligence – Strengthening Competencies
15-19 June 2026



IPA Romania Jupiter Cup June 2026
20-25 June, 2026

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Upcoming Events



Smart Patrolling – Digital Technologies for Patrol Service

22-26 June, 2026



IPA Belgium – Zomergem On-the-Move 2026

26-28 June 2026



Security Actors in Interaction – Civil-Military Cooperation in the Current Situation

6-9 July, 2026



Police Street Survival Training (E)

13-17 July, 2026



Point Shooting and Firearms Skills (E)

17-19 July, 2026,



IPA Estonia Summer Days 2026

24-26 July 2026

Here are some of the events taking place throughout the IPA over the next couple of months.

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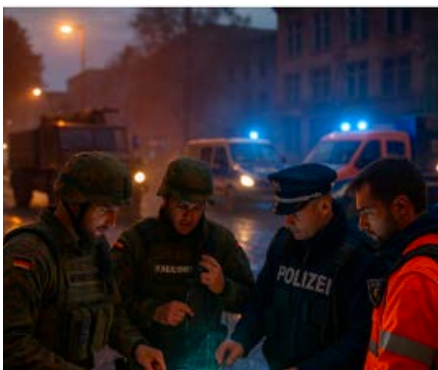
Gimborn Seminars

Set within the impressive surroundings of Castle Gimborn, IBZ Gimborn continues to provide outstanding international training and networking opportunities for law enforcement professionals from around the world. As one of IPA's key educational centres, it offers a diverse programme of seminars, workshops, and professional exchanges designed to encourage learning, cooperation, and the sharing of best practice.

The 2026 programme features a broad selection of topics aimed at supporting professional development, strengthening international collaboration, and addressing current policing challenges. Members are encouraged to explore the upcoming seminars and take advantage of the unique opportunity to learn, exchange experiences, and build lasting international connections within the IPA family.


[Click Here](#)

UPCOMING SEMINARS


[Register Here](#)

**Security Actors in
Interaction – Civil-Military
Cooperation in the Current
Situation**

6–9 July, 2026


[Register Here](#)

**Police Street Survival
Training (E)**

13–17 July, 2026


[Register Here](#)

**Point Shooting and
Firearms Skills (E)**

17–19 July, 2026



Marketing



Using Meta Business Suite to Improve Your IPA Section's Social Media

Social media is one of the easiest and most effective ways for IPA Sections to promote activities, attract new members, and keep existing members informed. One free tool that can help sections manage their online presence more professionally is Meta Business Suite.

Meta Business Suite allows you to manage both Facebook and Instagram accounts in one place and offers useful tools for scheduling posts, viewing statistics, replying to messages, and monitoring engagement.

How to Access Meta Business Suite

To use Meta Business Suite, your Facebook account must already have administrator access to your Section's Facebook page.

It can also be downloaded as a mobile app for both Android and iPhone, allowing administrators to manage social media on the go.

Schedule Posts in Advance

One of the most useful features is the ability to schedule posts ahead of time. This helps sections maintain regular activity even when volunteers are busy.

Instead of remembering to post manually every few days, you can prepare several posts at once and schedule them for future dates and times.

For example, a section could:

- Schedule event reminders
- Promote seminars and training opportunities
- Share photos from recent activities
- Highlight member achievements
- Welcome new members

Consistent posting helps pages remain active and visible to followers.





Marketing



Using Meta Business Suite to Improve Your IPA Section's Social Media Continued

Understanding Insights and Statistics

Meta Business Suite also provides “Insights”, which show how your content is performing.

Sections can view:

- Number of people who saw a post
- Likes, comments, and shares
- Follower growth
- Most popular posts
- Best times to post
- Audience age and location statistics

These insights help sections understand what content members enjoy most and what generates the highest engagement.

For example, many sections discover that posts with photos from events perform significantly better than text-only announcements.

Simple Tips for Better Engagement

A few simple habits can greatly improve your social media presence:

- Post regularly, even if only two or three times per week
- Use high-quality photos whenever possible
- Keep captions short and clear
- Share positive and engaging content
- Encourage interaction by asking questions
- Celebrate members, volunteers, and achievements

A Valuable Free Tool

Many organisations pay large amounts for social media management software, but Meta Business Suite offers a free and simple solution that can help IPA Sections improve communication and visibility worldwide.

By using the available tools effectively, sections can strengthen engagement with members, promote IPA activities more successfully, and attract new audiences to the Association.



Marketing



Stay Connected!

Keep up to date with the IPA community by following us on social media and feel free to share our updates with friends and family.

Scan the QR code to access our Linktree and explore all our platforms. Discover how we are promoting the IPA and connecting members worldwide.



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