

The German Police University in Münster, Germany

The German Police University in Münster (Deutsche Hochschule der Polizei) has been among the active members of the Association of European Police Colleges (AEPC) since this was founded in Lyon in 1996.

We are glad to have the opportunity of presenting ourselves in this AEPC forum, and to the international community of web-based readers.

Let us make you familiar with the German Police University and give you an idea of the history, current roles, responsibilities and international involvements and projects (www.dhpol.de):



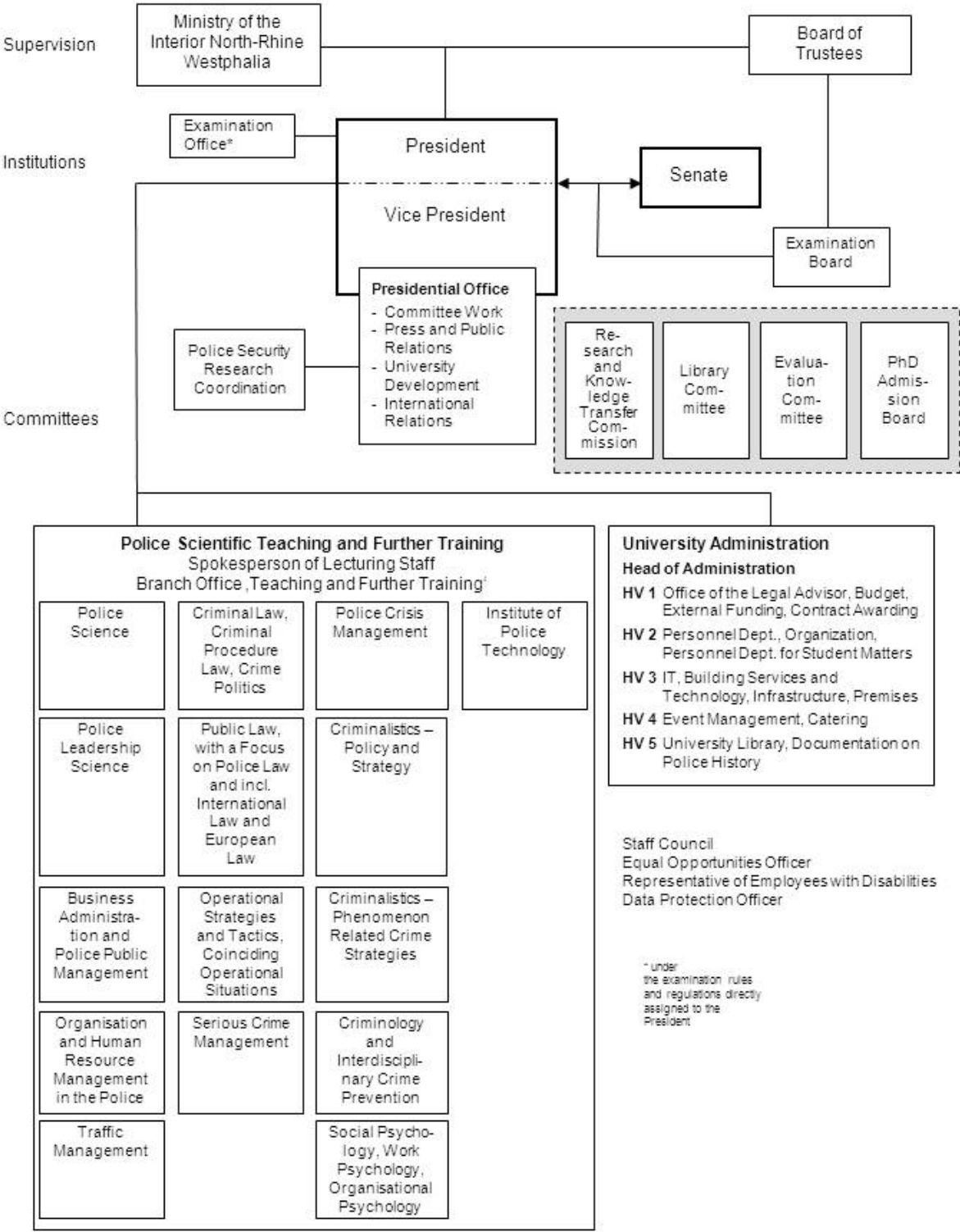
(Fotography: Sylvia Höpper)

The German Police University is situated in Münster, the capital of Westphalia in the North-West of Germany, and at a distance of about 60 km from the German-Dutch border. It has emerged from the Polizei-Führungsakademie and the previous Polizei-Institut which was founded at this place in 1948.

The German Police University is an internal academic University that is open to soon-to-be senior police officers and senior officers who represent the police services of the German Federation and all German Federal states. It therefore provides a most essential forum for linking science/academic studies and practical policing encouraging the exchange of know-how and the discussion of policing matters in Germany. The university provides future senior police officers with interdisciplinary, professional studies by a Master programme at university level and gives them among others notably an insight into the international dimensions of policing.

The university was founded in 2006. In 2013, it obtained the status of a university accreditation by a statutory German body, to be renewed in 2017.

The university is headed by a president and is split up into 14 academic faculties. Please see the organisational structure as follows:



Due to the federal structure of the Federal Republic of Germany, the financial contributions to the German Police University’s budget are shared among the Federation and all German Federal states.

Per year, the university runs one Master’s course designed for German police officers who already hold a Bachelor’s degree in policing and who have obtained an outstanding professional rating in

their services. The diploma is passed in 'Public Administration – Police Science'. This type of a Master-degree is – as far as known – unique in Europe: A degree focused on policing and police management and only provided by the German Police University.

Successful candidates will hold positions in the senior police service after their studies. The academic and scientific character of this university is reflected by a blended teaching staff representing academics and experienced senior police officers.

One of the most important pillars is providing professional further training courses in policing.

The University seeks to be the most important forum for providing a linkage between academic science and practical policing. It forms an arena for the discussion of relevant policing subjects in Germany. This is reflected by an average number of about 70 further training courses per year. Among delegates, about 5 % represent police services from abroad. Providing senior police officers with such further training opportunities in policing counts among the core businesses of the training and educational responsibilities of the German Police University.

As to the quality culture and under its mission statement, the German Police University is committed to the core values of being trend-setting, open-minded, integrated and value-driven.

Just a short look back in the history of international cooperation: The international dimension of police training and education has been valued since the 1970s. Close contacts with comparable educational policing institutions and organisations from other European countries were established that time. The first steps for the future police cooperation in the field of training and development have been undertaken in the regular meetings and further training courses offered by the Police Staff College Bramshill in the United Kingdom, the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Police in France, the Politiestudiecentrum in the Netherlands, and the Polizei-Führungsakademie Münster in the 1970s.

When the European borders came down in the 1990s, the university played a vital role in bringing together police training institutions in the East and West of Europe, e.g. by hosting the first common 'Heads of Training' conferences for both Eastern and Western heads of police training institutions, offering them the opportunity to share their know-how and experience.

The German Police University is the official German contact point for the network of the European agency CEPOL (Collège européen de police). In addition, it is among the founding members of the MEPA (Middle European Police Academy) network and of the AEPC (Association of European Police Colleges).

A lot of international bi-lateral Memorandums of Understanding with Police Education Institutions (as mentioned The Netherlands, United Kingdom, France, but also e.g. Russia, China) are completing the range of international cooperation. Each year foreign "guest-students" are attending the Master-Studies-course (e.g. Russia, Ukraine, Albania, Turkey, Jordan) at our university.

Among the current CEPOL activities undertaken by the university are the implementation of two CEPOL courses during the calendar year 2014:

40/2014 – Crime Control and Traffic Safety

54/2014 – Policing in Europe

Besides, the University makes an active contribution to the work of the consortium for establishing a CEPOL Master programme for European police officers from 2015 and onwards.

Among its MEPA and AEPC roles are the active involvement in various courses, conferences and meetings. The former President of the University has been one of the AEPC Vice Presidents over years, and the University has hosted various AEPC courses, e.g. the ESPOC, and AEPC committee meetings.

In the year 2013 the university hosted the CEPOL Science and Research Conference with more than 220 participants from all over Europe as well as over-seas.

Beside these European networks, the University is involved in various international projects and research works with relevant national research institutions and with the international scientific community. It provides essential impacts on the constant improvement of police work in Germany and beyond. Therefore, it seeks for transfer- and third-party funded projects in practice.

The University played an active role in supporting the renowned exhibition 'Order and Annihilation – Police and the Nazi Regime' that took place in the German Historic Museum, Berlin, in 2011.

During the 1st week in June 2014, the University hosted a major bi-annual security and technology conference for the law enforcement community, incl. an exhibition on safety and security technologies and smarter policing tools. This event hosted about 300 delegates who appreciated enthusiastically the exhibition, conference inputs and networking possibilities.



(Photography: Silvia Herbold)

Under § 4 of the existing doctorate regulations, doctorates can be conferred by the University in cooperation with other Universities for academic research proposals that are of major scientific relevance and apply scientific methods. Several doctorates have been conferred to academics during the last few years and a remarkable number of doctoral candidates are working on their theses. At present, an academic staff member from the National Police University of China in Shenyang prepares her doctoral thesis in close cooperation with the academic faculty 'Business Administration and Police Public Management'.

For any further relevant information on this university, please feel free to meet us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/dhpol.de) or to contact the website of the German Police University, Münster, on www.dhpol.de.