

The Italian Interagency Law-Enforcement College of Advanced Studies

The College

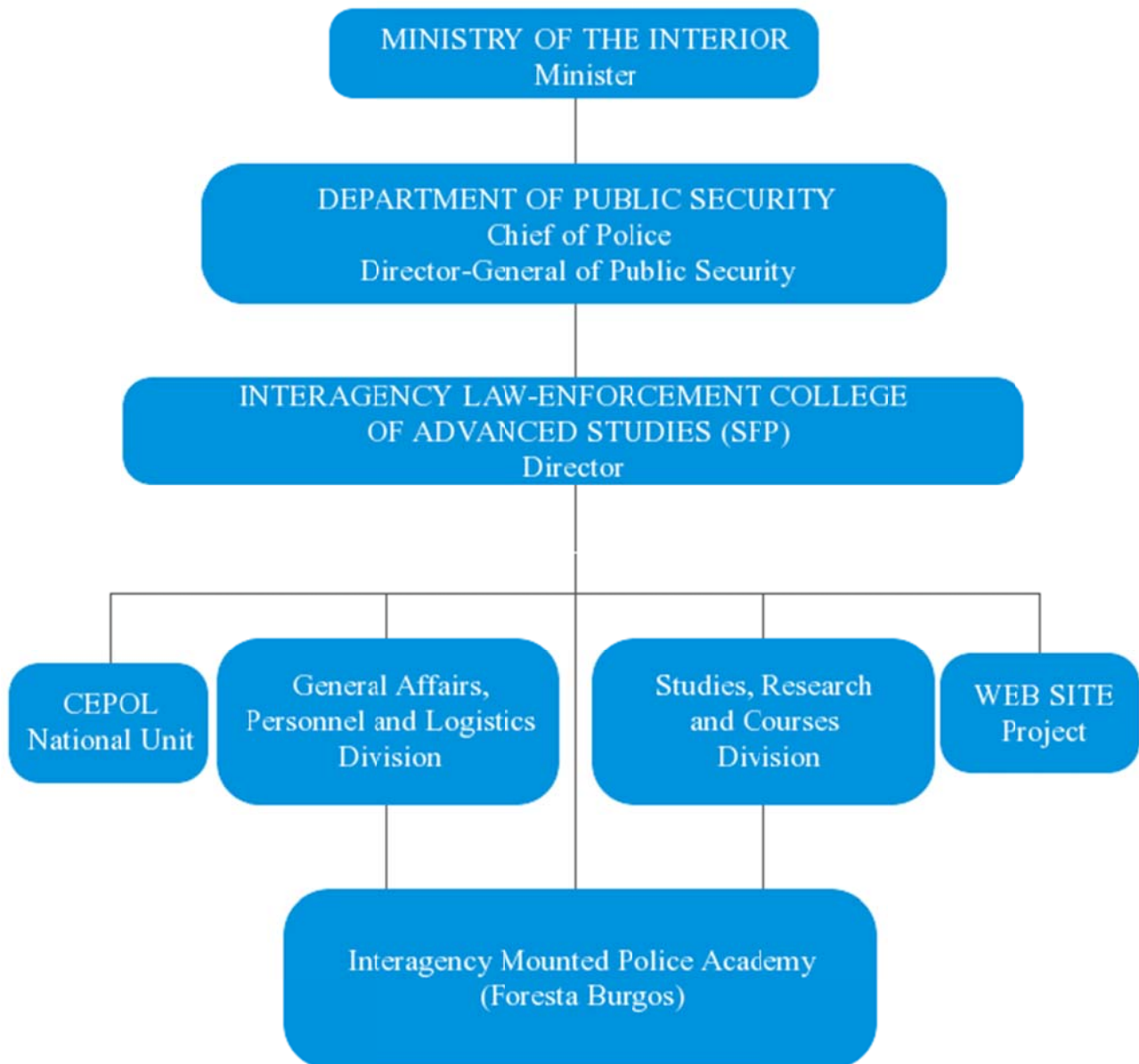
Provided for by section 22 of the Police Reform Act 1981, Scuola di Perfezionamento per le Forze di Polizia (SFP) – the Interagency Law-Enforcement College of Advanced Studies – is attached to the Interior Ministry Department of Public Security. It can quite rightly be regarded as a European university providing senior and middle management level police officers with specific advanced training, thus giving significant momentum to the spread of a cross-border culture of coordination and cooperation – thanks, inter alia, to the admission of senior police officers from other countries.

The College has a statutory duty to:

- conduct Advanced Training courses ;
- run refresher courses on interagency coordination and international cooperation;
- conduct crime analysis courses;
- organize meetings and colloquia, in collaboration with Italian and foreign universities, cultural institutes and specialized bodies;
- conduct courses on the use of the Enquiry System – an interagency law-enforcement crime database also known by its Italian acronym, SDI, in concert with Direzione Centrale Polizia Criminale (Central Directorate for Criminal Police);
- host other interagency training initiatives.

The College is also entrusted with the planning of the specialist training courses for mounted police officers held at the Foresta Burgos (province of Sassari) Interagency Mounted Police Academy. Having been identified as the most experienced and qualified interagency advanced training provider, the College has been designated to host undercover operations seminars intended for the heads of specialist anti-drug units, as well as refresher courses for senior officers from the witness protection service of the Criminal Police Directorate. Last but not least, the College hosts courses on how to deal with victims of crime (the so-called “Attention for Victims of Crime”, or A.Vi.Cri. courses).

The College hosts the Italian National Unit of the European Police College, also known as CEPOL (the acronym stands for Collège européen de police). CEPOL is a EU Agency whose aim is to help training senior police officers with a view to developing a European approach to major problems encountered by member states in the prevention of and fight against crime. The SFP Director is the head of the Italian Delegation to the Governing Board, CEPOL’s highest decision-making body. He gives voice to the differing needs of the national police forces, which he represents on the Board.



The Building

The Interagency Law-Enforcement College of Advanced Studies is housed in a building complex dating back to 1929. The beautifully-designed villa was built in accordance with the wishes of Pope Pius XI, an accomplished historian who encouraged Christian archaeological studies. In this area there is a rich and significant underground testimony to the beginnings of the Christian era; thirteen kilometres of dramatic subterranean passageways make the Catacomb of Priscilla the principal Christian archaeological site in Rome.

Monsignor Giulio Belvederi, who had no equal as the tireless executor of Pope Pius XI's wishes, contributed to the foundation of the Pontifical Institute of Christian Archaeology. The Institute welcomed young scholars of theology and literature from all over the world to study Christian archaeology with scientific rigour and spirituality.

Excavations began, which were to unearth hidden masterpieces, and architect Paolo Rossi de'

Paoli, who was well known for his artistic skills in religious as well as urban restoration projects, received his first assignment in Rome in 1927, when he was asked to oversee the architectural restoration of the entire Priscilla complex. This became a convent for the Sisters of Our Lady of the Cenacle, a place of preaching and teaching, known for providing assistance to the neediest. During the Second World War, the sisters allowed military encampments among the pine trees of their vast garden, and offered parts of the building to be used as a military headquarters and infirmary. After the war, the sisters returned to their mission of tending to the people, especially the elderly in need, while disseminating their message of evangelical charity and devotion. When the needs of the sisters changed, the complex was put up for sale; in 1985 it became a state property, and was restructured as the Interagency Law-Enforcement College of Advanced Studies. The present activities at the College, which are based on sharing and coordination, make this institution an internationally-recognized academic centre, offering advanced training courses to senior law-enforcement officers from all Italian police forces, and encouraging trans-border cooperation through the admission of law-enforcement officers from different countries. Learning in an environment of shared cultures, while preserving the character of each individual police force, can only lead to the success of the law-enforcement mission, namely maintaining security and public order, while respecting individual liberties. The Interagency Law-Enforcement College of Advanced Studies has continued as a place of study, inclusion, research, and the dissemination of values which, in many ways, seem to refer back to the original mission of the complex. Equality, security, legality and coordination are more easily attained through a serious common effort, reflected in the words engraved on the main facade of the building "erant omnes unanimiter perseverantes in oratione", which inspired the logo of the College, embodying a sense of duty and loyalty to public institutions.



The Director of the College

The directorship of the Interagency Law-Enforcement College of Advanced Studies (SFP) is rotated among National Police Dirigenti Generali, a police title corresponding to the military rank of major-general, and lieutenant-generals from the Carabinieri and Guardia di Finanza Corps. The

Director is appointed by the Prime Minister on a proposal from the Minister of the Interior. The Director serves a single, non-renewable 3-year term of office. The post is currently held by National Police Dirigente Generale Dr. Gian Carlo POZZO.

The Director is in overall charge of the administration of the College. His duties range from having a clear view of priorities to assuming full responsibility for the conduct of training and the achievement of the intended learning outcomes. In particular, he:

- supervises all the activities of the College;
- is responsible for the delivery of advanced and refresher training;
- coordinates the College Divisions and Offices issue policy statements regarding the proper functioning of the College, in terms of organization, administration, teaching and discipline;
- prepares a College performance report addressing the teaching activities as well as organizational and administrative aspects, and offers comments and proposal where necessary;
- performs any other conferred on him by the College Regulations and by any ministerial decrees implementing the Regulations.

Under the direction and control of the Director are two Divisions, “General Affairs, Personnel and Logistics” and “Studies, Research and Courses”.

The SFP Director is also the Italian representative to the European Police College (Cepol)

Governing Board and gives voice to the various training needs of the national police forces.

In the discharge of the duties conferred upon him, the SFP Director is assisted by the college divisional offices, the Board of Teachers (one advisory bodies) and the College Board – over which he presides.

Advanced training

The advanced training course is designed to hone the scientific and professional expertise of senior officers from all the Italian police forces, and sharpen their management and coordination skills, enabling them to achieve an integrated vision of global scenarios.

The course may be attended by foreign senior police officers.

The advanced training course extends over one academic year. It is open to senior and middle management level officers from the five Italian police forces of the rank of lieutenant-colonel (or police equivalent) and above.

Passing the end-of-course examination is a stepping stone to career advancement.

Pursuant to a ministerial order issued by the Minister of the Interior in concert with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, middle-management/field officers from foreign law-enforcement agencies may be admitted to the course.

Upon successful completion of the course, all trainees are awarded the course attendance and completion certificate, bearing the signature of the Interior Minister, and earn the “Scuola di Perfezionamento per le Forze di Polizia” qualification.

Teaching activity

The curriculum is organized into five general subject areas; the course is divided into three modules.

- The first module involves in-depth study of subjects relating to law-enforcement coordination and the fight against organized crime, international cooperation, communications sociology and public management.

- During the second module, the trainees attend special seminars focusing on themes of technical interest.

- The third module is devoted to seminars on international politics and economics.

The Advanced Training Course ends with the awarding of diplomas and badges, during the closing

ceremony of the 9-month academic year.

Lessons are taught by university professors and leading experts using an interdisciplinary and interactive approach. The trainees are required to prepare both individually written and group dissertations.

The course curriculum is complemented by lectures delivered by key figures in politics, economics and academia. Seminars and visits to institutions and to places of cultural interest are also conducted.

Budget permitting, a short trip to Brussels is arranged, to further familiarize course attendees with the institutions and agencies of the European Union.

Other training courses available

The Interagency Law-Enforcement College of Advanced Studies organizes and conducts numerous other training initiatives. Over the years, many of them have become a well-established feature of the College's curriculum. They aim to offer a training programme geared towards fostering and sharing a "culture of security" revolving around the notion of a shared responsibility to ensure public safety through the involvement of all stakeholders.

Alongside the advanced training course, the first refresher course on coordination between police forces was held in June 1998, thus opening the way for experimental teaching models.

Today, The College organizes and plans:

- refresher courses on interagency coordination and international cooperation;
- crime analysis courses;
- meetings and colloquia, in collaboration with Italian and foreign universities, cultural institutes and specialized bodies;
- courses on the use of an interagency law-enforcement crime database (SDI), in concert with Direzione Centrale Polizia Criminale (Criminal Police Directorate);

Additionally, it hosts other interagency training initiatives, such as seminars for the heads of specialist anti-drug units and refresher courses for senior officers from the witness protection service of the Criminal Police Directorate. Last but not least, courses on how to deal with victims of crime have also been staged at the College.

Moreover, the College is entrusted with the planning of the specialist training courses for mounted police officers held at the Foresta Burgos (province of Sassari) Interagency Mounted Police Academy.

Crime Analysis Courses

Courses in crime analysis extend over a period of four weeks and are organized into two levels: basic and advanced.

The subjects taught in the basic level module are "Operational crime analysis" and "Criminal economy and economic intelligence", whereas the advanced level module focuses on "Contextual analysis of crime" and "Strategic and scenario-related crime analysis". Access to this latter module is limited to basic-module attendees who have particularly distinguished themselves.

At the end of the course, the attendees take an end-of-course examination in the subjects studied before an interagency board of examiners. The course is open to senior officers from the five Italian police forces up to the rank of lieutenant-colonel (or equivalent police title). The course is conducted four times during the academic year.

SDI Courses

Courses on how to use of the “Enquiry System” – an interagency law-enforcement crime database also known by its Italian acronym, S.D.I. – are conducted four times during the academic year. The courses aim to spread knowledge of this major investigative tool, which is indispensable for preventing and fighting crime. S.D.I. courses are of one week’s duration. They consist of both lecture lessons and practical work. They are held at the Criminal Police Directorate Sistema Informativo Interforze (Interagency Information System), based at the “Federico di Savoia” police barracks, Via Castro Pretorio 5, Rome).

"A.Vi.Cri." (Attention for Victims of Crime) Courses

The aim of these courses, which form part of the Daphne II EU project, is to provide specialized professional training for senior National Police, Carabinieri and Guardia di Finanza officers dealing with victims of crime. The courses are organized by the Direzione Centrale della Polizia Criminale (Central Directorate for Criminal Police), in concert with the Faculty of Psychology 2 of the La Sapienza Rome University. Two-week courses for police officers are run six times a year. A 2-week course for police psychologists is held once a year.

Courses for heads of specialist anti-drug units

These courses provide specialist qualification and refresher training for Italian and foreign counter-narcotics law-enforcement officers. They are conducted by the Direzione Centrale per i Servizi Antidroga (Central Directorate for Anti-Drug Services), in concert with the interagency Law-Enforcement College of Advanced Studies. They extend over two weeks.

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