

IPA C NNECT



YPOS 2026 Germany – Future Meets Friendship

When fifty two young police officers from thirty one nations gathered in the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia for a week, it was never just about the training content. It was about what happens when people from five continents meet – and realise just how much they have in common. See Page 14.

Albania – Information on the 31st IPA Mediterranean Meeting Held in Berat

From 4–7 June 2026, the 31st Meeting of the IPA Mediterranean Sections was successfully held in Albania, specifically in the city of Berat. See Page 30.



IPA Video Competition



IPA Video Competition 2026

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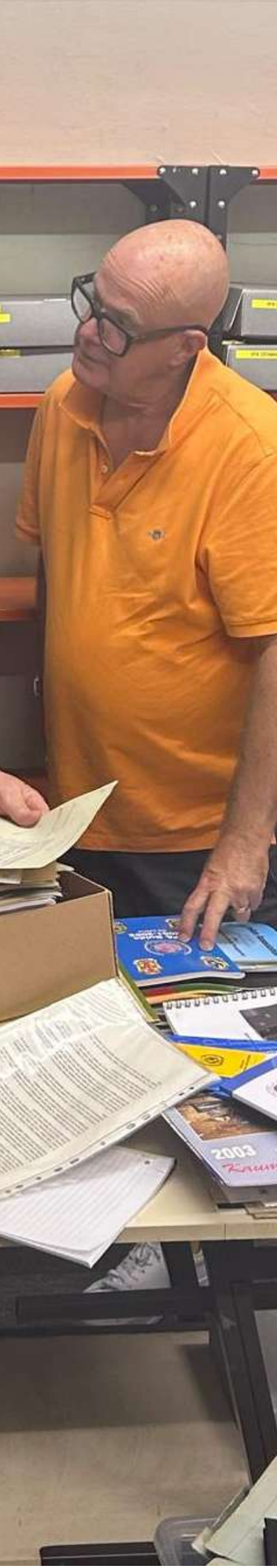
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Foreward

Dear IPA Members, Dear Friends!

As we approach another World Congress, I am reminded just how much can be achieved when people work together with a shared vision. It continues to be a privilege to work alongside my friends and colleagues on the International Executive Board. There is an enormous amount happening across the Association, and the dedication, professionalism and enthusiasm of everyone involved are truly inspiring. Here in the United Kingdom, we have enjoyed a wonderful summer, although I know that many of our friends around the world have experienced far more challenging weather conditions, from extreme heat to severe storms and flooding. Wherever you are, I hope you and your families remain safe and well. As I write this foreword, the International Administration Centre is exceptionally busy with the final preparations for the World Congress. Hana and Lisa have been working tirelessly to ensure everything is in place for what promises to be another successful and memorable event. Their commitment behind the scenes deserves enormous recognition, and I would like to thank them for everything they continue to do on behalf of the Association. One of the most significant topics to be discussed at this year's World Congress is the continued evolution of the International Executive Board. As our Association grows and embraces new opportunities, it is essential that our governance evolves with it. The importance of ensuring that the International Executive Board remains fit for purpose in an increasingly digital and interconnected environment has become increasingly evident. In response, the Board has been discussing the proposal to rename the position of Head of Administration to Head of Technology, Marketing and Sponsorship. This proposed change reflects the growing importance of digital transformation, strategic communication, technology, artificial intelligence, marketing and external partnerships within the IPA. More importantly, it demonstrates our determination to continually review our governance structures so that the International Executive Board is equipped to meet both the challenges and opportunities of the future.





I firmly believe this represents an exciting step forward for our Association. If you would like to know more about the proposed changes, please do not hesitate to speak with me or our International President. We would be delighted to discuss the proposals with you. Our international website continues to evolve, with new features and improvements being introduced on a regular basis. Recent enhancements include further development of the online Hosting Book, with all accommodation options now available alongside our IPA Houses, making it an even more comprehensive resource for members around the world. Digital development remains one of our key priorities, and there is much more to come as we continue to enhance the services and resources available to our global IPA community. I am also delighted to confirm that Joel, the developer of the IPA mobile application, will be attending the World Congress. He will be presenting the latest developments, demonstrating future enhancements and, importantly, answering questions directly from delegates. This is an excellent opportunity for Sections to learn more about how the app can continue to support communication and engagement across our international family.

Another project that continues to make excellent progress is the digitisation of the International Archive. Our aim is to preserve the rich history of the IPA by making historical documents and records available digitally through the website. This initiative will not only safeguard our heritage for future generations but will also provide a valuable resource for Sections, researchers and those with an interest in the remarkable history of our Association. We look forward to sharing further updates during the World Congress.

Finally, I would like to thank every Section for your continued support, cooperation and willingness to assist. The success of the International Police Association has always been built upon friendship, collaboration and mutual support, and I remain grateful for the encouragement and assistance I receive from so many of you. As always, I remain at your disposal should you require any assistance or wish to discuss any aspect of our work. For those travelling to Sri Lanka, I wish you a safe journey. I look forward to seeing many of you there as we come together once again in the spirit of Servo per Amikeco. See you in Sri Lanka!

Clive Wood - Head of Administration





Letter of Appreciation to the IPA for the 2026 Arthur Troop Scholarship

I was honored to be awarded the Arthur Troop Scholarship (ATS) 2026 by the International Police Association (IPA), an opportunity that enabled me to participate in the Hostile Environment Awareness Training (HEAT) Course, conducted by the Hellenic Multinational Peace Support Operations Training Centre (MPSOTC) in Greece, from the period of 5 days. The scholarship provided an excellent opportunity for professional development and international cooperation, bringing together participants from different backgrounds and places around the world with a common objective: enhancing their ability to operate safely and effectively in hostile and high-risk environments.



From the very beginning, the training combined theoretical instruction with practical exercises, creating an intensive and highly interactive learning environment. Throughout the week, all participants were introduced to a broad range of topics related to personal security, field communications, navigation and orientation, emergency medical response, convoy security procedures, threat awareness, and survival techniques in challenging operational conditions. A significant part of the programme focused on understanding and recognizing threats that personnel may encounter during international deployments/mission. Through presentations, discussions and scenario-based training,



I developed a greater awareness of personal security measures, risk assessment processes and decision-making under pressure. The course also addressed issues such as checkpoint procedures, vehicle movement in hostile environments, hostage survival, and the identification of explosive threats and other security hazards.



One of the most valuable aspects of the training was the extensive practical component. Realistic field exercises challenged participants to apply the knowledge acquired in the classroom while operating as part of a team. These scenarios required effective communication, situational awareness, adaptability and leadership, while reinforcing the importance of preparation and cooperation in complex environments. The practical nature of the course, created a realistic learning experience and highlighted the value of maintaining composure and professionalism under stressful conditions. In addition to the operational and security-related modules, the course provided valuable medical training, including emergency lifesaving interventions and casualty management. I was given the opportunity to practice essential first-response skills and gain confidence in providing immediate assistance during critical incidents. These skills are not only relevant for international missions but are equally valuable in everyday professional duties.

Equally important was the opportunity to meet and exchange experiences with participants from different professional and cultural backgrounds. The international nature of the course encouraged open discussion, the sharing of best practices and the development of professional networks. Learning from the experiences of others broadened my perspective and reinforced the importance of cooperation in addressing contemporary security challenges.

The HEAT course was both demanding and rewarding. It strengthened my confidence, enhanced my understanding of risk management and improved my ability to respond effectively in uncertain and potentially dangerous situations. The combination of theoretical knowledge, practical application and international cooperation made this training an exceptionally valuable professional experience. I return from this experience with new skills, greater awareness, and a deeper appreciation of the importance of preparation, resilience and teamwork. The knowledge and practical lessons gained during the course will undoubtedly contribute to my future professional responsibilities and operational effectiveness.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the IPA and the Arthur Troop Scholarship Programme 2026, for making this opportunity possible. Beyond the professional benefits, the scholarship provided the chance to build new friendships, exchange knowledge with colleagues from different backgrounds and strengthen the spirit of international cooperation that lies at the heart of IPA. It was a memorable and enriching experience that I will carry forward throughout my professional career, truly reflecting the IPA motto

"Servo per Amikeco-Service Through Friendship".

Building Professional Development Through International Cooperation

The Professional Commission – Education Team is a dedicated team of experienced law enforcement professionals committed to expanding education, training opportunities, and international collaboration throughout the International Police Association makes up the IPA Professional Commission – Education Team. Meet the team members of this commission group:

Meet the IPA Professional Commission – Education Team



Joe Johnson

Education Team – Team Leader
IPA United States Section

Areas of Expertise

- **International Training Programs**
- **Defensive Tactics / Emergency Vehicle Operations**
- **Community Policing**
- **Instructor Development**

Biography

My name is Joe Johnson and I am a Police Officer with the De Pere Police Department in the State of Wisconsin in the USA. I have been a Police Officer for the last 27 years working a variety of positions including training, K-9 Unit, and community policing. I have been involved in police training since 2003 and teach in my agency, within our regional police academy and college degree program, and through the IPA's Defensive Tactics Group (DTG). I currently serve as the National President of the IPA United States Section and have been an IPA member since 2002.

I love to travel and meet IPA members around the world. I think the IPA is the best organization in the policing world!

A fun fact about me is that I grew up in Nurnberg, Germany as a child because my father was in the US Army and was stationed there for many years.



Wesley Miljoen

**Education Team Member –
Education Team Liaison to
IBZ Gimborn
IPA Netherlands Section**

Areas of Expertise

- **International Training Coordination**
- **IBZ Gimborn Liaison**
- **European Police Cooperation**

Biography

My name is Wesley Miljoen, from the Netherlands. I started my career in 2009 with the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee at Amsterdam Schiphol Airport and now work as a specialist in organised crime, focusing on human trafficking, document fraud and drug-related crime.

Within the International Police Association I am the Education Manager of IPA Netherlands, responsible for international seminars and exchange programmes, including at IBZ Gimborn in Germany. Through the IPA I have visited several countries and taken part in seminars such as YPOS.

An interesting fact: IPA colleagues even helped me organise my honeymoon.



Richard Kadnar

**Education Team Member
IPA Slovakia Section**

Areas of Expertise

- **Police Education**
- **International Cooperation**
- **Specialized Training**

Biography

My name is Richard Kadnár. Since May 2025, I have been serving as the President of the Slovak Section of IPA. Between 2021 and 2025, I served as the National Treasurer of the Slovak Section.

I have been working in the security services since 1995. Throughout my career, I have served as a police dog handler, an investigator with the Criminal Police within the Railway Police, and as a traffic police officer specializing in traffic engineering. I currently work as a Shift Supervisor at the Operations Centre of the Traffic Police in Bratislava.

In 2012, I graduated from the Police Academy of the Slovak Republic with a degree in Criminal Investigation. My wife, Adriana, is also a police officer and serves as the Travel Assistant of the Slovak Section.



Marius Mureșan
Education Team Member
IPA Romania Section

Areas of Expertise

- **International Police Cooperation**
- **Training Development**
- **Cross-Border Collaboration**

Biography

My name is Marius Mureșan, and I am from Târgu Mureș, Romania. I joined the police in 1991 and spent most of my career in criminal investigations, working on vehicle theft, robbery, rape, and homicide cases. Later, I served in Internal Affairs and held leadership positions until my retirement in 2018.

Since 2021, I have been Vice President of IPA Romania, responsible for international relations, organizing conferences, workshops, and seminars, including at IBZ Gimborn.

A memorable fact about me is that, at eighteen, I wrote I wanted to become a police officer—and I achieved that dream.

Working Together Across Borders

The Education Team is hard at work to generate a common vision: expanding access to high-quality police education, strengthening international partnerships, promoting instructor development, and encouraging lifelong learning for IPA members worldwide.

Contact the Education Team Lead with questions or ideas: president@ipa-usa.org

IPA Professional Commission – Education Team

Developing Education • Sharing Experience • Building International Partnerships





hero
#SHEisIPA

Tatjana Arsoba
Seminar Reflections from, IBZ
Gimborn
A family Perspective
12-17 April 2026

A Family Experience at Gimborn

When my wife Kathryn and I were selected to attend the Empowering Women in Policing seminar at IBZ Schloss Gimborn in Germany, we were excited by the opportunity. As two women working within policing, the chance to spend a week learning alongside colleagues from twenty-five different countries was not something that comes around often.



There was just one challenge: our now two-year-old son, Nikolai.

Like many working parents, particularly those working in policing, attending conferences and development opportunities often involves far more planning than simply booking a flight. Childcare, routines, family commitments, and the logistics of being away from home all have to be carefully considered. In our case, the solution came in the form of an extra travelling companion: my mum, Nikolai's grandmother.

Together, the four of us travelled to Germany, with my mum taking on childcare responsibilities during the day while my wife and I attended the seminar. It was a decision that allowed us both to take part in a valuable professional development opportunity whilst also ensuring that Nikolai remained close by and cared for by someone he knew and trusted.

What we quickly discovered was that Gimborn was far more accommodating to families than we had expected.

Although Gimborn is first and foremost a professional learning environment, we never felt that our family was an inconvenience. Before we even arrived, staff worked with us to arrange suitable family accommodation, ensuring that all four of us could stay comfortably on site



Seminar Reflections from, IBZ Gimborn – A family Perspective 12–17 April 2026

Throughout the week, my mum was welcomed as part of the wider Gimborn community, and Nikolai quickly became a familiar face at mealtimes, where staff and delegates alike greeted him with smiles and conversation.

What stood out was not simply that these arrangements were possible, but the attitude with which they were made. Nothing ever felt like a burden or a special request. Instead, there was a genuine understanding that supporting delegates sometimes means supporting the people who support them. In particular, we would like to thank Ulrike, whose kindness, flexibility, and willingness to help made a real difference to our experience. By making space for our family, Gimborn enabled both my wife and I to participate fully in the seminar whilst knowing that our son and his grandmother were comfortable, included, and nearby.

Their kindness reflected many of the values discussed throughout the seminar itself: inclusion, support, and recognising the whole person behind the professional role.



Nestled amongst forests and rolling countryside, Schloss Gimborn is an impressive setting in its own right. The historic castle provides a unique backdrop for international learning, bringing together police officers and staff from across the world. Yet despite hosting professional seminars, there was warmth and informality to the environment that made our family feel welcome from the moment we arrived.

Whilst we attended workshops and discussions during the day, my mum and Nikolai spent their time exploring the castle grounds and surrounding area. The extensive outdoor space, wildlife, and woodland walks provided plenty of opportunities for a curious toddler to burn off energy and discover new things. The setting felt safe, peaceful, and far removed from the pressures of everyday life.

One of the unexpected joys of the week was how quickly Nikolai became known to delegates and staff. Whether it was a wave across the dining hall, a smile from someone passing in the corridor, or conversations sparked over mealtimes, he seemed to bring people together in a way that transcended language and nationality.

For us, this reflected one of the strongest themes of the seminar itself.

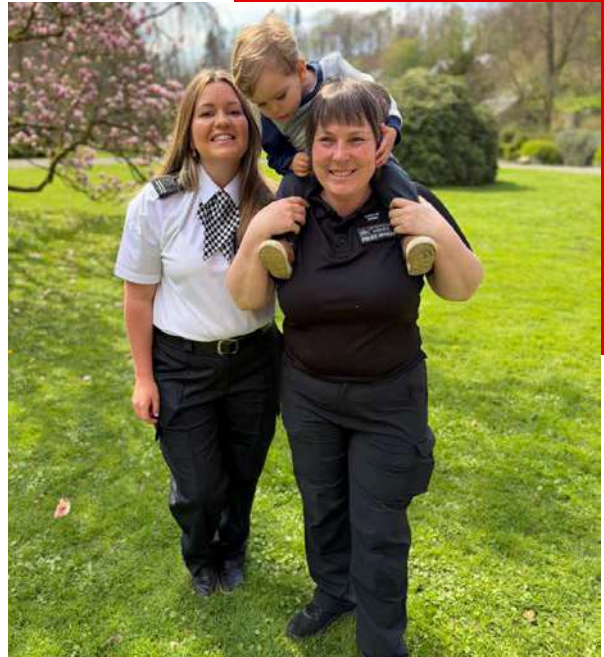
Throughout the week, women shared honest conversations about leadership, career progression, confidence, family responsibilities, and the realities of balancing demanding careers with life outside work. While the seminar focused on empowering women in policing, many discussions inevitably returned to the challenge of managing both professional ambition and family life.

Having three generations of our family present at Gimborn brought those conversations to life in a very practical way.

ISeminar Reflections from, IBZ Gimborn – A family Perspective 12-17 April 2026

Looking back, some of our favourite memories are not of any single seminar session but of the experience as a whole. They are the conversations that continued long after the formal programme had ended, the sharing of ideas and experiences with colleagues from around the world, and the friendships formed during meals and evening events. Perhaps most importantly, they are the memories of knowing that whilst we were investing in our professional development, our family was able to be part of the journey too.

Gimborn gave us the opportunity to learn, network, and build international friendships. It also demonstrated that, with the right support, professional development and family life do not always have to exist in separate worlds. For our family, it became much more



than a conference. It became a shared experience and a reminder that behind every professional achievement is often a network of support that deserves recognition, too.



Community Empowerment

At SHEisIPA, our community stands at the heart of meaningful change. Through our empowerment projects, we unite purpose-driven women to lead and support humanitarian initiatives that uplift vulnerable communities, respond to real-world challenges, and inspire collective action. We are more than a community. We are a movement for good.

Charities that have received support



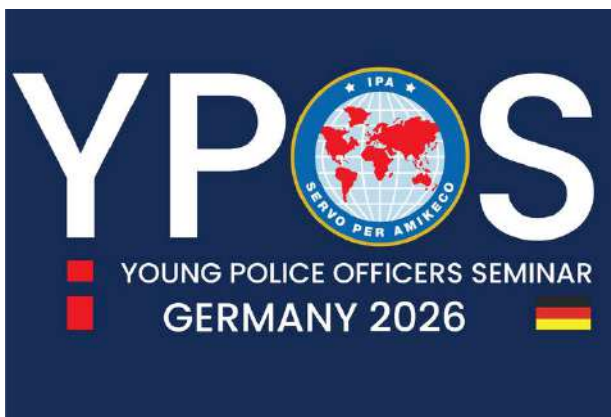
www.littleblueheroes.org



www.marijanasanada.com



YPOS – Young Police Officers Seminar , Germany 2026



Future Meets Friendship

When fifty-two young police officers from thirty-one nations gathered in the German federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia for a week, it was never just about the training content. It was about what happens when people from five continents meet – and realize just how much they have in common.

Fifteen years ago, Philipp Kurz himself sat in that very circle – young, curious, and full of expectations. In 2011, he took part in the very first IPA YPOS in Amsterdam. What he experienced there shaped him: encounters with colleagues from countries his official duties would never have otherwise taken him to. Friendships that lasted. In August 2026, he stood on the other side. Not as a participant, but as a host. As President of IPA Germany, he welcomed fifty-two young police officers from thirty-one nations to the Selm-Bork Education Center. The circle had closed.



Arriving in Selm-Bork

The week began with a feeling many of the arrivals knew well: that mix of excitement and anticipation when you step into a place you have never been before, yet meet people you will soon call friends. Markus Henkel, Head of the LAFP NRW, and Philipp Kurz, President of IPA Germany, welcomed the group – and immediately sensed: the chemistry here is right.

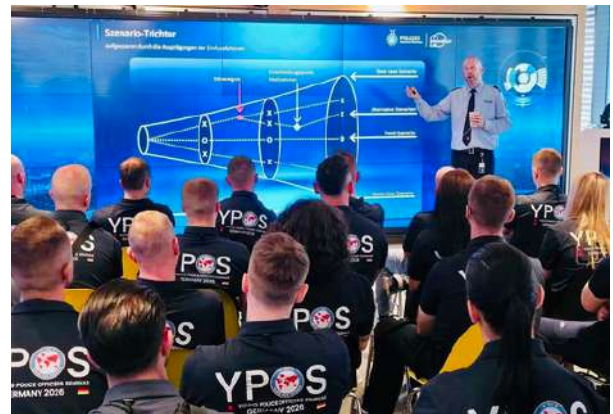
A guided tour of the LAFP NRW grounds provided initial insights into the training and exercise areas, including the shooting range. Afterwards, the focus shifted to the IPA itself: national and international structures, commissions, projects, and the international strategy of the association. Those who were new quickly understood: the IPA is more than just a network. It is an infrastructure for connection.

The formal part of the day concluded with a joint sports activity. During the evening BBQ at the IPA House Selm-Bork, conversations flowed freely – about home countries, about the path to joining the police, and about expectations for the week ahead.



When the Future Enters Training

"Future Meets Training – Digitalisation in Police Operational Training" was the guiding theme. Not an abstract buzzword, but a promise that ran through the entire week. The question hanging in the air was: How are digitalization, new technologies, and innovative training methods changing police work – and above all, the way the next generation is trained?



Answers were provided at the Innovation Lab of the LZPD NRW in Duisburg. The digital strategy of the NRW Police was presented in a way that made the topic itself experiential: the lecture was translated live by a self-developed artificial intelligence. A robot dog demonstrated where technical systems can already provide operational support today.

That looking to the future does not mean throwing proven methods overboard was shown elsewhere. In the practical workshop on tactical handcuffing, instructors taught modern techniques step by step. In the VR workshop, participants tried out the use of Tasers and firearms in a virtual environment – realistic enough to learn from, yet safe enough to allow for mistakes. This was exactly the point: experiencing innovation without losing sight of practical reality.

Police Work Up Close

Anyone who spent the week in Selm-Bork didn't just have police work explained to them; they experienced it with all their senses. At the Bochum Police Headquarters, the focus was on the Riot Police, the Technical Operations Unit, and the Water Cannon Unit. The international guests were invited to get actively involved: acting as "disruptors" in a riot police exercise, they experienced first-hand what operational dynamics truly mean. They also experienced the water cannon first-hand: one group got to sit in front of the vehicle and was thoroughly soaked. The State Mounted Police Unit also demonstrated how tradition and modernity work together, allowing participants to act as disruptors in one of their exercises.

At the Federal Police Directorate in Sankt Augustin, the group visited specialized operational areas including the Evidence and Arrest Unit. The actual highlight, however, literally came from above: a Federal Police helicopter landed – and the group was allowed not only to inspect it but also to climb inside.



In Düsseldorf, the focus was finally on operational reality in an urban environment. The exchange on the specific challenges and concepts for managing police operations in the Düsseldorf Old Town provided ample material for lively discussions – the colleagues from their home countries knew all too well the similar problems they face. In the evening, the day wound down in a traditional brewery, where conversations relaxed over discussions of operations, families, and the future of the IPA.

Europe in Dialogue

That police work no longer ends at national borders was demonstrated in the dialogue with Member of the European Parliament Lena Düpont. Under the guiding theme "Future Policing in Europe – Opportunities and Challenges for the Next Generation of Police Officers," the young police officers actively joined the discussion. It was an exchange on equal footing – and a sign that the next generation of European policing is already thinking across borders today.

When Colleagues Become Friends

What truly makes a YPOS cannot be measured in agenda items. It is the moments in between.

The International Evening, for example: an evening where each nation presented its culinary specialties and cultural quirks. And then there was that one moment when the patch trading began – an exchange of badges as a sign of solidarity, as a memento of encounters that will last. These patches now adorn the memory walls of colleagues around the globe.



A very unique, almost symbolic highlight was the tree-planting event. IPA Selm-Bork has always invited every nation visiting the LAFP Selm-Bork for the first time to plant their own tree – permanently marked with the flag of the respective country. And so, a small, colorful forest of flags grew that day, each one a quiet testament: We were here, and we belong. While planting, the participants encountered another group of IPA members who were visiting Selm-Bork for Friendship Week. Among them, some of the young police officers suddenly recognized their own compatriots – and within minutes, casual glances turned into conversations, and conversations into connections.

Encounters like these resonated far beyond the week. Even before departing, some participants had already made concrete plans to visit each other in their home countries in the coming weeks. What started as a week in North Rhine-Westphalia became the next chapters of a friendship that continues to be written across borders.

The day in Münster also belonged to those moments that matter, even if they aren't on the training schedule: a reception in the Historical Peace Hall of the Town Hall by the Deputy Mayor, a double-decker bus city tour, free time to explore independently, and a shared inner. Conversations that drifted away from duty and the official program.

It was exactly these moments that made YPOS 2026 so much more than a standard training event.

What Remains

At the official closing ceremony, certificates of participation were handed out. But what truly mattered was not written on any certificate.

Hanna from Finland summed it up perfectly: "Thank you all for this amazing week. Honestly, this has been the best trip abroad of my entire life, because everything was organized so well – the food, the activities and especially this community. There is no other work environment where you get the chance to meet new people from such a wide range of cultures."

Muhammad from Pakistan added: "I learned a lot from each of you, not only professionally but also through the friendships, experiences, and connections we shared." Brian from the USA was certain: "I know we all made memories we will never forget and friends that will last a lifetime." And Laura from Germany summarized what everyone was likely feeling: "It was such a wonderful time, filled with great conversations, valuable exchanges, and most importantly, new friendships." Fifty-two participants. Thirty-one nations. Five continents. One police family.



YPOS 2026 has shown that international friendship and professional exchange are not abstract goals of the IPA. They are actively lived by the next generation – in every encounter, in every conversation held across borders. The personal contacts formed this week can endure for many years and form a vital foundation for trust and cross-border cooperation.

What Philipp Kurz began in Amsterdam in 2011 was continued in Selm-Bork in 2026. Not as a repetition, but as a confirmation: when you bring young people together, when you give them space for professional exchange and personal encounters, something is created that carries on long after the week is over. Trust. Understanding. Friendship. *Servo per amikeco. Serve through friendship.* In Selm-Bork, this phrase was not just thought about for a week. It was lived.



International Hosting Sections' Meeting Takes Place in Lisbon



Hosting Sections Meeting

The International Hosting Sections' Meeting (HSM) takes place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 4–7 September 2026, hosted by the IPA Portuguese Section. Held every two years, the HSM brings together representatives from IPA Sections to discuss matters relating to official IPA Houses and other IPA accommodation. It provides an opportunity to share experiences, address practical challenges, improve hosting services and strengthen cooperation between Sections supporting IPA members travelling internationally.

Visit our website to discover the full list of IPA Houses available to members around the world, including contact details for reservations and enquiries.

[Click Here](#)

Key Activities

- **Hosting Sections Meeting:** Discussion of accommodation, hosting and administrative matters.
- **Sharing Best Practice:** Exchange of experiences and ideas between Sections.
- **IPA Houses:** Discussion of management, reservations, facilities and promotion.
- **Future Development:** Identifying opportunities to improve and strengthen the international accommodation network.
- **Social Programme:** Delegates will experience Lisbon and the surrounding region as part of the programme.
- **Meeting Outcomes:** Review of discussions and agreed actions to support future hosting activities.



The Art of Writing

IPA Members demonstrate their passion for literature through their participation in a new competition

It is impossible to conceive of culture without one of the fundamental pillars that has made it necessary and essential in the history of humanity. We are talking about literature. An activity that for centuries has contributed to people's knowledge and enjoyment. At IPA, we cannot remain on the sidelines of any cultural phenomenon, especially since, as has been demonstrated, we have many members who are passionate about writing and, moreover, about doing it well.

As all members of our association who are passionate about cultural matters know, for several years we have been organizing competitions in different areas of this field, such as photography, children's drawings, videos, and occasionally painting. But until now, none related to literature had been organized. This year, for the first time, it has been done. At the beginning of the year, the call for entries with the rules was sent out, and at the end of July, the deadline for submitting works was reached.

And we can announce with satisfaction that we have received a fantastic response. Twenty authors participated, submitting a total of 25 works across the four categories of the competition: professional short stories, open short stories, professional poems, and open poems. The authors come from 12 different countries across 5 continents: Belgium, Botswana, Colombia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

All the works, most of which are of a high literary standard, have been evaluated by a jury chaired by the Arts and Culture project leader, author of this article, and are being compiled for publication as an anthology. The results of the competition will be announced during the next world congress, and the published book will be distributed to all delegates from the sections attending the congress. Copies will also be given to the winning authors from their respective countries, along with a diploma and a commemorative gift. We hope that this initiative, so important to the culture of our association, will continue and that in the coming years the competition will be repeated and we will have even greater participation.

Antonio Gomez Montejano
Arts & Culture Project Lead, S.C.C.



IPA Green

- Together for a greener future

Environmental protection is one of the biggest challenges of modern society, but also the responsibility of every individual. Guided by this principle, the members of the Socio-cultural commission and the IPA Green team continue with the recognizable project of planting trees and cleaning beaches.



Numerous IPA members from all over the world contribute to our common goal - the preservation of nature and the improvement of the quality of the environment and show that social responsibility does not end with the end of official duty.



The special value of this project is the fact that not only police officers participate in its implementation, but also their family members, children, students, non-governmental organizations, representatives of local organizations and citizens. In this way, IPA Green becomes a bridge that connects the police and the social community through a common goal - preserving nature for future generations.

Year after year, the project records an increasing number of participants and realized activities, which confirms that environmental awareness and international cooperation can produce concrete results. Every planted tree and every cleaned beach is a symbol of community, responsibility and permanent contribution to environmental protection.

Guided by the motto *Servo per Amikeco*, IPA members from all over the world show that friendship, solidarity and joint work can be a powerful driver of positive change. IPA Green is not just an environmental action - it is an international movement that confirms that responsibility towards nature and society is one of the most important values of the contemporary IPA community.



The IPA World Football Tournament is back!

Following the success of its inaugural edition, the tournament will return for its second edition from 7 to 11 April 2027, bringing IPA members together in Cambrils, Spain, for several days of football, friendship, fellowship and unforgettable experiences.

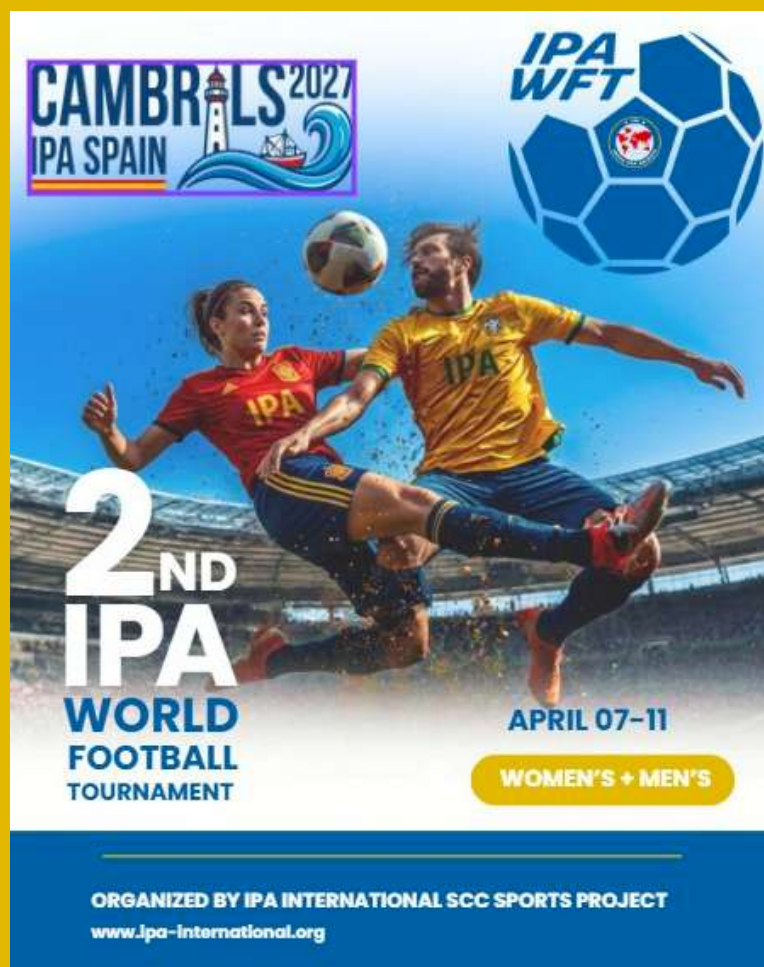
The preparations are already well underway. The main details of the tournament have been carefully coordinated within the IPA Socio-Cultural Commission, under the coordination of IEB Member Christos Parginos, together with the members of the Sports Project and the dedicated Spanish organising team. Their joint efforts are ensuring that participants will enjoy not only a high-level sporting experience, but also the warm and welcoming atmosphere that has always been at the heart of IPA events.

And what better place to celebrate football than Spain? In Spain, football is much more than a tradition. It is a passion, a way of life and, for many, almost a matter of faith.



A country that has turned football into a true cultural phenomenon will now open its doors to IPA members from around the world, offering them the opportunity to play the beautiful game in excellent facilities while discovering the charm of Cambrils and its surroundings.

Beyond the matches, participants will have the chance to explore the region, enjoy the Mediterranean coast, relax, and share memorable moments with fellow IPA members and their families.





The tournament regulations provide for one team from each IPA National Section. But the invitation to be part of this experience is certainly not limited to the players. IPA members are warmly encouraged to come with their families as visitors, supporters and friends.

Because what is IPA, if not a way of feeling and living friendship, bringing people together, socialising, discovering and sharing experiences – beyond the competition itself?

On the football pitch, we may compete. Off the pitch, we remain colleagues, friends and members of one international family.

So, mark your calendars: 7–11 April 2027, Cambrils, Spain.

Come with your IPA football team, come as a supporter, or simply come as a visitor with your family. Bring your passion for football, your friendship and your curiosity for new places and new people.

Spain is ready to welcome you – and we are confident that Cambrils will reward your trust, exceed your expectations and give you memories that will last long after the final whistle.



See you in Spain!

**IPA Football Tournament
Cambrils, Spain
7–11 April 2027**

2nd World Football Tournament – Spain

More information coming soon!
Start getting your teams together and register your interest with your National Section. We look forward to seeing teams from across the IPA taking part in this exciting international tournament.

FOOTBALL – FRIENDSHIP – FELLOWSHIP – IPA



Image from the IPA World Football Tournament 2025

ROMANIA

Romania is one of the most amazing destinations in Europe. With historic cities, medieval castles, monasteries, towering mountains, spa resorts, and a gastronomy rich in traditions, this country offers an authentic experience for those looking to discover a destination that is still little explored.

For members of the International Police Association (IPA), Romania offers an excellent network of accommodation, allowing you to get to know different regions of the country in comfort and at very affordable prices.

Casa IPA Giarmata

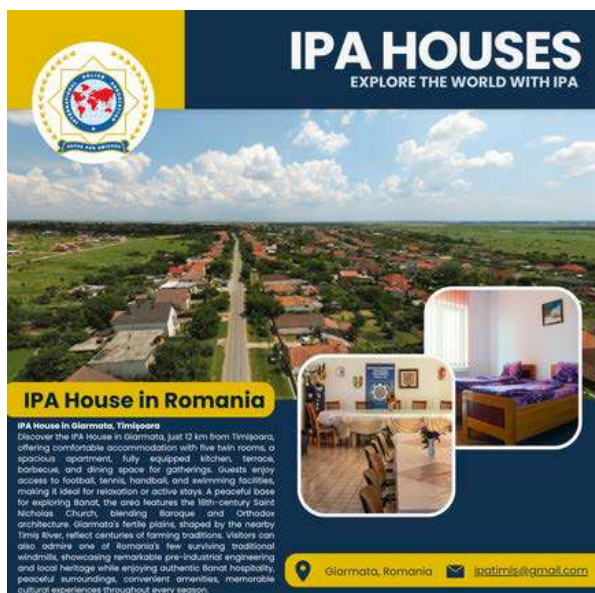
Situated just a few minutes from Timișoara, this house makes a great base for exploring western Romania.

Get to know Romania and its IPA Houses

A journey through the history, culture and nature of the Carpathians

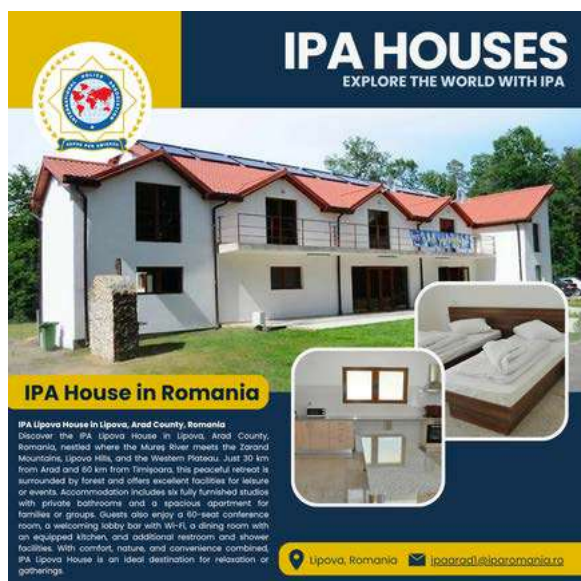
IPA Houses in Romania

The National Section of IPA Romania offers several IPA Houses, highlighting three ideal locations for a journey of discovery through the country.



Nearby you can visit:

- The historic center of Timișoara, European Capital of Culture 2023;
- Victoriei Square and Unirii Square;
- The Metropolitan Cathedral;
- The Banat Village Museum;
- Walks along the Bega River.



Casa IPA Băile Lipova

Located in a quiet spa, it allows you to combine rest with cultural visits.

Places of interest:

- Lipova and its historic center;
- Monastery of Maria Radna;
- Șoimoș Fortress;
- Mureș River;
- Arad city, known for its Austro-Hungarian architecture and elegant boulevards.

House IPA Greșu

Inserted in the mountainous region of Vrancea, it is the ideal starting point for nature lovers.

The following stand out:

- Putna-Vrancea Natural Park;
- Putna Waterfall;
- Cheile Tișitei Gorge;
- Lepșa Village;
- Lepșa Monastery;
- Hiking trails in the Eastern Carpathians.



Why visit Romania?

- **Historical and cultural heritage of enormous richness.**
- **Elegant cities with a strong Central European influence.**
- **Castles, fortresses and monasteries.**
- **Preserved natural landscapes.**
- **Traditional gastronomy and excellent value for money.**
- **IPA houses strategically located for easy discovery of the country.**

Suggested Itinerary – 8 Days

An excellent way to get to know these three IPA Houses is to take a circuit arriving in Timișoara and departing from Bucharest, avoiding unnecessary returns.

Days 1 and 2 Giarmata

Discovery of Timișoara, considered one of the most beautiful cities in Romania, with a historic center full of baroque buildings, monumental squares and pleasant pedestrian zones.

Days 3 and 4 Băile Lipova

Visit Lipova, the Monastery of Maria Radna, the Fortress of Șoimoș and the town of Arad, ending the day with moments of relaxation in the hot springs.

Days 5 to 7 Gresu

Crossing the center of Romania, passing through Deva and Sibiu, before reaching the natural landscapes of Vrancea, where it is possible to explore waterfalls, trails, monasteries and nature reserves.

Day 8 Bucharest

Before the return flight, take the opportunity to visit some of the main monuments of the Romanian capital:

- **Palace of Parliament;**
- **Romanian Athenaeum;**
- **Historic Center (Lipscani);**
- **Stavropoleos Church;**
- **Arc de Triomphe;**
- **Herăstrău Park.**



Travel with IPA

The IPA Houses represent a unique opportunity to get to know Romania in an economical, comfortable and friendly atmosphere among members of the International Police Association

**If you are looking for a different destination, safe and full of history, nature and hospitality, Romania is an excellent choice.
"Servo per Amikeco"**

**Paula Borralho
Leader of the Travel Project**



Bouillabaisse (pronounced "BOO-ya-bess")

is a classic, traditional Provençal fish stew originating from the port city of Marseille,



Ingredients:

Serves 6.

SAUCE

Rock fish: 1.0 kg, Onion: 1 piece, Head of garlic: 2 pieces, Olive oil: 10 cl,

Saffron pistils: 2.0 pinches, Olive oil: 25 cl, Strong mustard: 1 tablespoon

Leek: 2 pieces, Tomato: 4 pieces, Laurier: 2 f, Dried fennel branch: 1 piece

Cayenne pepper: 0.2 g, Egg yolk: 2 pieces, Garlic cloves: 2 cloves

FOR THE REST OF THE RECIPE

Ground apples with melting flesh: 6 pieces,

Living: 4 pieces, Congress: 800 g, Salt: 0.5 g,

Saint Pierre: 1.2 kg, Collared Fish: 800g, Fine salt: 6 pinches, Pepper mill: 3 turns

Method:

Fish Soup Base

Do not remove the skin from the rock fish. Clean them carefully, gut the larger fish and rinse well.

Clean the leeks and cut them into large pieces. Peel and roughly chop the onions. Peel and lightly crush the garlic cloves. Wash the parsley and fennel thoroughly and let them drain. Crush the tomatoes by hand or with a utensil.

Heat olive oil gently in a large pot. Add the prepared vegetables together with the bay leaf, orange zest and chilli. Cook slowly over low heat for about 15 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add the rock fish to the pot, season with salt and pepper, and let everything simmer gently so the flavours can develop. After about 15 minutes, pour in approximately 3 litres of boiling water.

Continue cooking over low heat for another 10 minutes.

Remove the fennel stalks and the orange peel. Mash the remaining contents using a coarse masher, then strain the mixture through a fine sieve or chinois to obtain a smooth soup base.

Add saffron, adjust seasoning if needed, and set the soup aside.

Sauce & Croutons

Peel two garlic cloves, remove the germ and finely chop them.

Place the mustard and egg yolks in a bowl and mix until smooth. Add the garlic, then slowly whisk in about 25 cl of olive oil until a thick sauce forms. Keep refrigerated until serving.

Preheat the oven grill. Slice the bread thinly and brush lightly with olive oil. Toast the slices on both sides until golden. Once removed from the oven, rub the warm croutons with a peeled garlic clove.

Final Steps

Clean and gut the remaining fish, then cut them into evenly sized pieces.

Peel the potatoes, wash them and cut into cubes. Cook them in a pot for about 30 minutes, covered with an equal mix of fish stock and water. Season with salt, then set aside.

Bring the remaining fish stock to a gentle boil. Add the fish pieces, starting with those that have firmer flesh, and poach over low heat for 6–10 minutes.

Arrange the cooked potatoes on a large serving dish and place the fish pieces on top. Place the garlic croutons in a soup bowl and pour the hot bouillabaisse over them. Serve the soup alongside the fish and potatoes.

You can find all PolicemenU

Recipes on the International Website

<https://tinyurl.com/ipamenus>



**IPA Video Competition 2026 –
Time Is Running Out!**
**The 20 September 2026 deadline
for the IPA Video Competition is
fast approaching, and there's still
time to get involved!**

We're inviting all IPA Sections and members to create a short promotional video (maximum two minutes) showcasing the IPA from either a national or international perspective. The competition aims to harness the creativity, experience and diversity of our global IPA family while creating engaging content that reflects the true spirit of the Association. With today's AI technology, producing professional-quality videos has never been easier.

Prizes include:

- **Official recognition at the 69th IPA World Congress 2026**
- **The opportunity for your video to become part of the official IPA promotional campaign**
- **A special expenses-paid invitation to an International IPA event (to be agreed with the winner)**

**IPA Video
Competition**



- **Showcase your creativity and celebrate IPA values globally**
- **Open to all IPA Sections and members worldwide**
- **All details on the events page of International website**
<https://ipa-international.org/events/>

Submission deadline: September 20, 2026

Online submission via link
any technical issues contact
marketing@ieb-ipa.org

Submit your video now!

Why not give it a go? Your video could help inspire future members and showcase everything that makes the IPA unique.

How We Created an AI Promotional Video

Not sure where to start? Konstantinos (Kostas) Bouklis from the International Marketing Team recently created a professional 60-second IPA promotional video using Gemini, Google Veo and Google Vids—and the process was simpler than many people might think.



IPA Marketing

How to create a promotional Video

1. Plan Your Message

Start by identifying your audience and deciding what you want to communicate.

Our video targeted serving police officers who are not yet IPA members, focusing on the benefits of joining the world's largest police association.

2. Divide the Video into Short Scenes

Instead of producing one continuous video, we broke the project into twelve 5-second scenes.

Each scene communicated a single message, creating a fast-paced, engaging video while making production much easier to manage.

3. Create the Video in Google Vids

After developing the script and detailed prompts with Gemini, all video clips were generated directly within Google Vids, which uses Google Veo to create AI-generated video.

The prompts described exactly what we wanted to show, including police officers from different countries, IPA Houses, social activities, professional seminars and digital membership features. Refining the prompts quickly produced high-quality results that closely matched our vision.

4. Assemble the Story

The generated clips were then arranged in the correct sequence within Google Vids to create a clear and engaging story.

5. Generate the AI Voiceover

Using the prepared script, Google Vids generated an AI voiceover for each 5-second scene.

This ensured the narration aligned perfectly with each visual while maintaining a professional, friendly and consistent tone throughout the video.

6. Add Captions and On-Screen Text

Captions and text overlays were also generated and refined within Google Vids, improving accessibility and making the video easier to follow—particularly for viewers watching on social media with the sound turned off.

7. Finish with Background Music

Finally, a subtle mid-tempo music track was added to provide energy and pace without distracting from the narration.

AI Helps Bring Great Ideas to Life

By combining Gemini to develop the concept, script and prompts with Google Vids to generate the video, voiceover and captions, we were able to create a modern, professional promotional video quickly and efficiently.

AI doesn't replace creativity—it enhances it, providing another powerful tool to help turn great ideas into engaging content.

We look forward to seeing your entries and discovering the creativity of our global IPA family. Good luck!



Albania

31st IPA Mediterranean Meeting Held in Berat



from 4–7 June 2026, the 31st Meeting of the IPA Mediterranean Sections was successfully held in Albania, specifically in the city of Berat.

The Mediterranean region is one of the most visited tourist destinations in the world. Millions of citizens travel between our countries every year, contributing to economic development, cultural exchange, and international friendship. However, alongside this movement, real security challenges arise, including the loss of travel documents, incidents, language barriers, emergency situations, and difficulties in accessing local support structures. Therefore, an event focused on “Security and Tourism” contributes significantly to strengthening inter-institutional cooperation and promoting the image of IPA as a key factor in the development of efficient and safe tourism.

The IPA Albania Section attached great importance to this event and, starting in January 2026, held a series of meetings with IPA structures, senior representatives of the State Police, the local police authorities of Berat and Fier, as well as representatives of the hospitality and tourism business sector.

Regular communication was maintained with all delegations through e-mail correspondence and telephone contacts. We also carefully defined responsibilities concerning reception at Tirana International Airport, facilitation of expedited border-crossing procedures, accommodation arrangements, and the successful organization of tourist tours for all participants.

Representatives from the IPA Sections of Albania, Montenegro, Greece, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Gibraltar, Italy, Romania, Israel, Portugal, Cyprus, Moldova, Ukraine, Türkiye, Malta, and .



Albania cont

Switzerland participated in the meeting. Mr. Christo Parginos attended on behalf of the IEB. Despite prior communications, the Spanish Section, contrary to our expectations, did not attend the meeting

The official assembly was held at the "Colombo" Hotel, where all delegates were accommodated. The meeting was attended by and included contributions from the Deputy Minister of Tourism, representatives of the Municipality of Berat, and the Director of the Berat Regional Police Directorate.

During the meeting, several ideas were presented regarding support for tourism through the concept of the IPA Alert Number 24/7.

This number would not replace national emergency numbers but would complement existing services by providing guidance, mediation, and initial assistance, while ensuring a reliable point of contact for tourists.

The service would be managed by IPA Sections and would operate through communication channels with local and national police authorities, as well as a support structure for administrative and non-emergency situations, particularly cases involving the loss or theft of travel documents, one of the most common and stressful problems faced by tourists

Organizational Structure

Each IPA Section would establish an IPA Alert National Unit, composed of trained IPA volunteer members operating on a 24/7 basis as national or regional coordinators.

31st IPA Mediterranean Meeting Held in Berat

The technical infrastructure would be simple and consist of:

A dedicated national or regional telephone number;

- A digital communication platform;

- An electronic case-reporting register.

For this purpose, a common IPA standard for data protection would be established.

Basic Operating Procedure

1. The tourist contacts the IPA Alert Number;

2. The IPA operator identifies the case and provides immediate assistance (information and guidance);

3. The operator mediates contact with the local police and, in cases involving lost documents, directs the tourist to the relevant embassy or consulate while facilitating communication with border authorities where necessary.

Funding, Self-Financing and the Role of Insurance Companies

A key element for the long-term operation of the IPA Alert 24/7 Number is financial sustainability and the involvement of insurance companies as strategic partners.

This model creates a functional security chain: Tourist – IPA – Police – Insurance Company thereby ensuring efficiency, rapid response, and reliability.

This project, briefly presented here, forms part of a broader vision aimed at increasing trust, strengthening the image of our countries, and placing IPA at the centre of police and tourism diplomacy.

During their stay, delegates participated in highly successful guided tours in the cities of Berat and Lushnjë.

Several photographs from the event are attached.

Servo per Amikeco

President of IPA Albania Section Director (Ret.) Skënder DODA



Austria

The International Police Association (IPA), Carinthia Chapter, hosted an international IPA Hiking Week from June 14 to 21, 2026, at the Hotel Gartnerkofel on the Sonnenalpe in Nassfeld. Around 110 participants from eight countries accepted the invitation and enjoyed a varied week featuring guided hikes, cultural activities, social evenings, and an international friendship gathering as the highlight.

Diverse Program in the Alps-Adriatic Region

The hiking week offered guests a varied program in Carinthia and the neighboring Alps-Adriatic region. After arriving on Sunday, the program included information about the hikes, a welcome from hosts Martin Waldner of the Hotel Gartnerkofel and Ewald Grollitsch of IPA Carinthia, and a group dinner.

Over the following days, several hikes led by experienced local IPA members and mountain-eers from the region—took participants through the impressive mountain landscape of Nassfeld, to the Winkelalm, up to the Gerlitzenalpe, and into the Rattendorf Alm area.

IPA Hiking Week 2026 in Nassfeld

International Encounters, Nature Experiences, and True Friendship

Participants were able to choose from a variety of routes depending on their fitness level and interests—ranging from leisurely hikes to more challenging tours with several hundred meters of elevation gain.



Community, Culture, and Interaction

In addition to the hikes, the program also focused on cultural and social activities. These included, among other things, a bus trip to Bordano (Italy) with a visit to the butterfly house; a tour of the “Bagatto” ham factory and a tasting of excellent ham products in San Daniele; The traditional picnic at the Winkelalm, a casino night, and a presentation on the Rattendorfer Alm area accompanied by singing.





Austria cont

The social highlight of the week was the International IPA Friendship Gathering on Saturday, June 20, 2026. After a photo session in front of the hotel, a lunchtime get-together with mu-sical entertainment took place. In a relaxed atmosphere, participants exchanged experiences, nurtured existing contacts, and forged new international friendships –entirely in keeping with the IPA motto “Servo per Amikeco”–“Service through Friendship.” As part of this friendship gathering, a meeting organized by Ewald Grollitsch also took place between the mayor of Her-magor, DI Leopod ASTNER, and the mayor of Bohinj (SLO), Joze SODJA.



International Cooperation Strengthened

“Especially in an increasingly interconnected world, personal contacts and mutual under-standing are invaluable for international cooperation in the field of policing,” emphasized Ewald Grollitsch, Honorary Chairman of IPA Carinthia. Events like these make an important contribution to strengthening mutual trust and promote informal exchanges across national borders.

IPA Hiking Week 2026 in Nassfeld



With the hiking week and the friendship gathering, IPA Carinthia once again demonstrated its role as a dedicated host of international encounters. Carinthia’s geographical location in the Alps-Adriatic region offers ideal conditions for cross-border cooperation, personal encoun-ters, and sustainable networking.



Positive Outcome

The 2026 International IPA Hiking Week was deemed a complete success by the participants. It left them with wonderful, unforgettable memories, strengthened existing bonds, and led to numerous new connections. There is already great interest in further joint activities within the framework of the IPA.

Thanks to Jean Marie for the film clips from the IPA Hiking Week 2026

Watch at <https://youtu.be/XTijSgo9Rrg?si=HC-cSqFra9qpmnWC>

Save the date – 20-27.06.2027

IPA Corinthia

Ewald Grollitsch – Honorary Chairman

E-Mail: ewald.grollitsch@ipa.at

Mobile: + 43 (0) 650 4001386



Belgium

European Police Shooting Competition

From one IPA event to the next — off to Aix-en-Provence!

Following a particularly successful friendship week, organised by IPA Département 30 Gard in Villeneuve-lès-Avignon, I continued my journey on 1 June. I took the TGV to Aix-en-Provence, where the European Police Shooting Contest for police and customs personnel was being held for the second time on 3 and 4 June 2026.

On arrival, I was met at the station by Fabrice Couplet, vice-chairman of IPA France and the driving force behind the organisation. He took me straight to the Provence Shooting Club. The entrance to the grounds is situated almost directly opposite the Aix-en-Provence TGV station, but is surprisingly well hidden within a vast nature reserve.

This year, there were set to be more Belgian participants than at the first edition. I had therefore decided to follow our compatriots during their shooting sessions, take photographs and, of course, get to know them better.



An impressive shooting range

The Provence Shooting Club boasts a site covering no less than fourteen hectares, with more than fifteen very diverse outdoor shooting ranges. One of these offers shooting distances of up to 250 metres. Various police and customs services also come here to carry out their regular and compulsory training.

The site also features a cosily furnished clubhouse with a particularly lovely bar which, to be honest, I was immediately a little envious of, and a small shop selling T-shirts and other accessories, amongst other things. The facilities are also set to be expanded further. For instance, there are plans to construct a shooting range measuring no less than 1,200 metres.

After meeting the instructors, who came from both the police and customs services, I was welcomed with a delicious pizza. We then drove to the campsite, where I shared a bungalow with Stéphanie: an energetic, warm-hearted and down-to-earth customs officer with a wealth of fascinating work experience. As is often the case amongst colleagues, it didn't take long, of course, before we were swapping stories and experiences from our respective workplaces. We spent the first evening exclusively with the instructors. Everyone had brought a little something to eat, which quickly resulted in a varied and convivial buffet. After a long day's travel and the initial introductions, a good night's sleep was more than welcome.



Belgium Cont

European Police Shooting Competition

The preparations

On 2 June, we set off early for the shooting range. There wasn't time for a proper breakfast, but croissants, chocolate rolls and strong coffee were waiting for us at the club. This was followed by a technical tour of all the shooting ranges. The briefing was given by Michael, Mika for short, who acted as head monitor during the event. Using tablets and specially developed apps, the participants' results could be recorded immediately. Each station had its own layout and level of difficulty. Some courses featured small metal targets, whilst others had moving targets. Not only precision, but also speed, strategy and a good assessment of the time available were of great importance.

Once each station had been carefully explained and all the monitors knew their positions and tasks, they tested various courses. Around midday, we returned to the campsite for a group barbecue.

At around 5.00 pm, we gathered again at the venue, where the first participants were arriving. Following the group welcome, the opening speech and the introduction of the instructors, the day concluded with a convivial evening meal at the campsite.



The competition can begin

On 3 June, we were once again expected at the shooting range early. Upon our arrival, the participants were walking around, visibly nervous. Some still had to hire a gun, whilst others needed to buy ammunition. After a group tour of the various stands, the moment had finally arrived: the competition could begin.

The participants had been divided into groups beforehand. The Belgian delegation was in Group 11 and consisted of four colleagues from Brussels and two from Antwerp. They formed a team with two participants from Montenegro and two colleagues from the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The organisers provided generously filled packed lunches in the afternoon and another barbecue in the evening. What stuck with me most was the friendly rivalry that developed almost immediately among the participants. Strategies were discussed, experiences shared, and colleagues enthusiastically congratulated one another after a strong run. Lots of photos and videos were taken and shared.

Amidst the serious discussions, there was also an awful lot of laughter.

By the end of the first day of competition, the groups had completed eight of the eleven shooting ranges. However, all the walking through the dust, combined with the high temperatures, was starting to take its toll. Tired but satisfied, everyone returned to the campsite. Fortunately, I was able to get a lift each time from my bungalow mate, who had a service vehicle.





Belgium Cont

European Police Shooting Competition

D-Day

On 4 June, the final three shooting ranges had to be completed. In the afternoon, there were also a few extra rounds. The participants had only a limited number of cartridges at their disposal and had to hit all the targets in the shortest possible time. It was a nerve-racking task in which every mistake could prove costly.

Afterwards, everyone headed back to the campsite to freshen up for the prize-giving ceremony. That evening, the winners in the various categories were to be announced and the medals awarded. Unfortunately, shortly before the event, the heavens opened completely and the closing night was in danger of literally being washed out. Thanks to the swift and creative action of the organisers, the tents that had previously been set up at the shooting ranges were brought together. This meant that the more than one hundred participants and instructors were still able to enjoy dinner together. After all, there wasn't enough space for that in the clubhouse itself.



An event with a bright future

Over the course of these days, I've had some particularly enjoyable moments, met lots of interesting people, had lovely conversations and, above all, laughed a great deal. This event not only offers a sporting challenge but also perfectly embodies what the IPA stands for: international friendship, professional networking and camaraderie across borders. Moreover, the European Police Shooting Contest appears to be on the cusp of significant growth. During the first edition in 2025, there were around forty participants. By 2026, that number had already risen to over a hundred. Whereas Belgium was represented by three colleagues last year, this year we were present with seven participants and observers. For the 2027 edition, I therefore hope to put together an even larger Belgian delegation, comprising colleagues from the police and armed customs services. Anyone who enjoys shooting sports, professional challenges, international contacts and a good dose of camaraderie should definitely not miss this event.

Aix-en-Provence 2027: who's coming along?



Germany

IPARC Germany held its 45th annual meeting from 23–26 April 2026 in Warburg, bringing together about 30 members and their partners for a mix of assembly, technology and culture. The programme combined the formal handover of the office of Chairman IPARC-DL / Liaison Officer to IPA Germany from Horst Römer, DL1GBP, to Kalle Gehlhaus, DGIYDX, with technical talks on resilient LoRa-based mesh communication and the link between “everybody’s devices” and amateur radio.

Cultural highlights included a guided city tour of Warburg, a jubilee evening at the traditional restaurant “Zur Alm”, a visit to the FunkTag Kassel with its large flea market and a tour of the historic “Am Weinberg” bunker.

, DGIYDX.

Radio Club



IPA President (German Section) Philip Kurz attended the meeting, conveyed greetings from International IPA President Martin Hoffmann, who was on private holiday in Egypt, and – together with District Administrator Michael Stickeln and Police Department Head, Police Director Karsten Koutsky – underlined the importance of IPARC’s work for international understanding. Licensed police employees and IPA members interested in radio are warmly invited to get in touch with the IPA Radio Club or directly with the current chairman, Kalle Gehlhaus





Israel

Promoting Women's Sports in IPA

The promotion of women's sports in IPA Israel has received a great boost in the past year.

It was started by Adv. Gal Sharon, President of IPA Israel, while she was still international Vice President and Chairperson of the Social and Cultural Commission, mainly in the IPA Games that she initiated and led.

Every police force has plans to promote women and even has rules for retaining women in the police force.

Last year at the World Congress in Krakow I met Phyllis Nolan, who was a member of the PEB and the first female officer in the Irish Police.

Rules are one thing, reality is another. The situation is similar in IPA as well; today there are very few women serving as president of a national section.

It is naive to think that the IPA could have influenced the place of women in the police, but the IPA has a great influence on social activity and sports.

In Israel, the IPA is a partner in all sports events of the police and the prison service, including activities of retirees.

Either as a supporter and assistant or as an initiator.

IPA Israel national board has a sports coordinator who is a member of the presidency.

In his role, he is the coordinator with the police commanders and the prison service, liaison with the training officers in the units, and the initiator of the national activities initiated by IPA. The emphasis on women is on encouraging and supporting the participation of women's groups in sports activities, within the framework of associations, competitions and tournaments in Israel. In all assessments for participation in international IPA activities, preference is given to women's teams. Unfortunately, there are fewer women's teams than men's, and not in all disciplines. There is much more success in individual sports, such as shooting and running.





Israel Cont

Promoting Women's Sports in IPA

It is in the individual disciplines that retired female athletes have had great success. In all IPA games to date, the main winners in the races in the older age group have been retired female police officers from Israel.

At the end of July 2026, history was made, a tournament was held only for women's teams in a relatively new field, netball.

The competition was held in northern Israel with the participation of all the district teams of all the Israel Police and Border Guard districts.

The tournament was initiated by member of the national board, Nazia Halavi, who in his police role is the assistant to the Border Guard commander.

For the first time, all the districts, all the training officers, the commanders were mobilized for the mission and for the first time a professional tournament was held exclusively for women

women's teams today have a place of honor,

But the main problem is that there need to be enough women's teams to hold a competition. The games are run according to international rules and procedures, and there are still no mixed teams of men and women. There may be some at the local level, but for international competition, more women's teams are needed.

The Border Guard women's team won first place in the tournament in Israel. Anyone who thinks you have to be a super athlete to participate in these teams is mistaken. All the teams that participated in the tournament included young policewomen, alongside older policewomen. The advantage of IPA is its friendship and partnership, and therefore the promotion of women in sports does not have to be based on talented athletes, but also IPA members who are interested in participating.

In the IPA games, as well as in other IPA championships around the world

Dr. Eran Israel
Secretary general IPA Israel





Japan

When Alex Williams, an IPA member from the United Kingdom, arrived in Sapporo, northern Japan, on 3 June, Japan became the 32nd country on his round-the-world cycling journey. Having set off from London in September last year, he had travelled through Europe, the Middle East and South Asia before reaching Japan.

During his 48-day journey across Japan, Alex cycled almost 2,000 kilometers from Hokkaido to Yamaguchi before departing from Shimonoseki for Busan, South Korea, on 20 July. His journey was not simply about covering distance. It was also about the friendships he built with IPA Japan members, who welcomed him into their communities and shared their lives and experiences with him.

He also took on one of the toughest physical challenges of his journey in Japan. On 26 June,

Cycling Across Japan: A Journey of Friendship Through the IPA Network



as a typhoon approached, he climbed Mount Kita, Japan's second-highest mountain (3,193 meters), despite strong winds and heavy rain, demonstrating the determination that had carried him throughout his journey.

After cycling approximately 1,100 kilometers from Sapporo over two weeks, Alex arrived in Tokyo, an important milestone in his two-year adventure. He prepared for the next stage of his journey by arranging bicycle repairs, purchasing supplies and clothing, and visiting famous landmarks including the Imperial Palace, Tokyo Station and Shinjuku.





Japan Cont



Although Alex and I had first met four years earlier during an online IPA seminar, Tokyo was the first place we met in person. Over the years, we have remained in regular contact, sharing our interests in policing, travel and culture, making our meeting in Tokyo particularly memorable.

His first IPA stop after Tokyo was Kanagawa, where Shintaro Mizuno of IPA Kanagawa welcomed Alex into his home. Spending time together gave Alex an opportunity to experience everyday Japanese family life. They shared stories and experiences, strengthening their friendship through their time together.

Continuing west, Alex was warmly welcomed in Shizuoka by Junji Asaba of IPA Shizuoka and another IPA member from the branch. Over dinner, they exchanged stories about policing and discovered many similarities between British and Japanese police officers despite differences in their societies and working environments.

Another memorable chapter of Alex's journey unfolded in Mie. Risa Abe of IPA Mie and her family welcomed him into their home, where he quickly became part of family life

Cycling Across Japan: A Journey of Friendship Through the IPA Network

Satoru Hirose of IPA Mie and his wife also welcomed Alex and introduced him to another side of Japanese culture by taking him to a traditional onsen. Although it was new to him, he soon shared the relaxing experience of a Japanese hot spring with other guests, enjoying its benefits after his long cycling journey.

During his stay in Mie, Alex also visited Ise Grand Shrine and enjoyed local food. These experiences showed him that travelling by bicycle was not only about seeing famous places, but also about connecting with local people.

Following a valuable rest day in Mie, Alex continued his journey to Nara, where Toshiro Nakatani of IPA Kyoto welcomed him into his home. He visited Nara Police Station and took part in an English conversation club activity, another example of how friendship and a willingness to communicate can bring people together.



His journey then continued to Tokushima on Shikoku Island, where he was welcomed by Kengo Shimotori, the first IPA member in Shikoku. Their meeting extended the network of IPA friendship to another part of Japan.



Japan Cont



Cycling Across Japan: A Journey of Friendship Through the IPA Network

Looking back, Alex's journey across Japan was measured not only by distance, but by the friendships that grew through his encounters with IPA members across Japan. His journey showed how the IPA spirit of friendship, trust and mutual understanding can be shared across borders.

Alex, thank you for sharing this wonderful journey with us. We wish you safe travels and many more wonderful encounters as you continue towards New Zealand, the final destination of your remarkable two-year journey. We hope to see you again in Japan someday.

Toru Uto
IPA Japan Secretariat



Romania

JUPITER CUP 2026 15 Years of Growth, Friendship and the IPA Spirit



The 2026 edition of the Jupiter Cup marked a remarkable milestone—the 15th anniversary of what has become the largest IPA sporting event in Romania and one of the most dynamic projects within the IPA community.

What began as a modest initiative fifteen years ago has evolved into a flagship IPA event that continues to grow every year, bringing together more than 3,000 participants, family members and supporters. This year's edition welcomed an impressive 633 children under 12 years highlighting the family-oriented spirit of the event. Their presence reminds us that children are our future and encouraging them to embrace sport, friendship and fair play is an investment in the next generation.

Today, the Jupiter Cup is far more than a sports tournament, it is a celebration

of friendship, teamwork and the values that unite the International Police Association.

This continuous growth is the result of the dedication of organizers, volunteers and IPA members who have transformed the Jupiter Cup into a landmark annual event. It perfectly reflects our motto, “Servo per Amikeco” – Service Through Friendship, by creating an environment where sport strengthens professional relationships and lifelong friendships.

To mark the anniversary edition, the sporting programme was enriched with the introduction of a beach tennis competition and a beach soccer tournament for children under the age of 12, complementing the traditional beach



IPA Romania extends its sincere appreciation to the outstanding organizing team whose professionalism, commitment and passion have made this success possible:

- * Cătălin-Ștefan Bălțeanu – Secretary general of IPA Romanian Section
- * Gabriel-Alexandru Ștefan – President of IPA Region 12 Bucharest
- * Mircea Boariu – Treasurer of IPA Region 12 Bucharest
- * Remus Tudorache – Vicepresident of IPA Region 12 Bucharest
- * Adrian Ispas – Vicepresident of IPA Region 12 Bucharest
- * Alexandra Rusu – Member of IPA Romanian Section
- * Paul Enache – volunteer

We also warmly thank our partners—CoHotels, Vodafone, Diversitas Group Romania (DGR) and Kiss FM—for their valuable support in making this jubilee edition a memorable success.



Romania cont

JUPITER CUP 2026 15 Years of Growth, Friendship and the IPA Spirit



soccer and beach volleyball competitions. Together, these competitions offer participants not only a healthy sporting challenge but also the opportunity to enjoy an unforgettable summer holiday with colleagues, friends and families on the beautiful Romanian Black Sea coast.



As the Jupiter Cup continues to expand and gain increasing international visibility, we warmly invite IPA members from around the world to become part of this unique experience. Whether you come to compete, support your colleagues or simply enjoy the exceptional atmosphere, you will discover an event where sport, friendship and hospitality come together in the true spirit of the IPA.

We look forward to welcoming you to the next edition of the Jupiter Cup and to sharing with you an experience that has become a true phenomenon within IPA Romania—and one that we are proud to promote across the international IPA family.

Servo per Amikeco!

**Mihai Liviu Tărtăreanu, President of IPA
ROMANIA**



Sri Lanka

The devastating impact of Cyclone Ditwa, which swept across several regions of Sri Lanka during November 2025, resulted in widespread destruction and created an unprecedented humanitarian crisis affecting numerous communities, including many members of the International Police Association (IPA) Sri Lanka Section.

In response to this emergency, the IPA Sri Lanka Section launched a special appeal seeking financial assistance to support members whose homes and properties had been severely affected by the disaster. The appeal received an overwhelming response from the international IPA family, with generous financial contributions received from ten IPA member Sections and bodies: Slovenia, Spain, Montenegro, Japan, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, Denmark, and the International Executive Board (IEB).



In addition, another IPA Section made a generous donation towards this humanitarian initiative; however, despite every effort, its identity could not be confirmed due to the unavailability of the relevant records. The IPA Sri Lanka Section places on record its deepest appreciation and heartfelt gratitude to all the contributing IPA Sections and the

2025 Cyclone Ditwa Relief Assistance Programme – IPA Sri Lanka Section

International Executive Board for their remarkable generosity, solidarity, and unwavering support during this challenging period.



Their invaluable assistance truly embodied the spirit of Servo per Amikeco—Service Through Friendship—and reflected the enduring values of international cooperation and mutual assistance that define the International Police Association.

To ensure transparency, fairness, and equitable distribution of the donated funds, beneficiaries were carefully assessed and classified into four categories according to the extent of the damage sustained to their residences and surrounding property: High-Level Damage, Medium-Level Damage, Minor Damage, and Minimal Damage. Financial assistance was then allocated proportionately based on the severity of the losses incurred.





Sri Lanka cont

2025 Cyclone Ditwa Relief Assistance Programme – IPA Sri Lanka Section

The official donation ceremony was held on 22 May 2026 at Police Headquarters, Colombo, under the patronage of Mr. Priyantha Weerasooriya, Inspector General of Police and President of the IPA Sri Lanka Section, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The ceremony was attended by senior police officers and members of the National Executive Council of the IPA Sri Lanka Section, highlighting the significance of this humanitarian initiative.

This relief programme stands as a testament to the International Police Association's unwavering commitment to supporting its members in times of

need. It demonstrated the strength of international friendship, compassion, and solidarity while reinforcing the Association's enduring commitment to standing beside its members during adversity. The success of this initiative further strengthened the bonds of fellowship within the global IPA family and exemplified the true spirit upon which the Association was founded.

Dr. Sunethra Senevirathne
National Secretary General
IPA Sri Lanka Section





2025 Strategic Young Members Conference Member report

Last September, Section UK was proudly represented by Aaron Seeley at the International Police Association's Strategic Young Members' Conference (SYMCM), held at the historic Gimborn Castle in Germany.

The conference brought together younger serving police officers from across the IPA family, with delegates travelling from Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Spain, Ireland, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, Denmark, Greece and Japan. The event provided a unique opportunity to share ideas, build international friendships and discuss how the IPA can remain relevant and engaging for future generations of police officers.

The primary aim of the conference was to encourage greater participation from younger serving members and to explore innovative ways of ensuring the Association continues to thrive for many years to come.



Over two days, delegates participated in a series of workshops, presentations and discussions focusing on some of the key challenges and opportunities facing the IPA.

One workshop explored how modern digital communication can better engage younger audiences. Delegates discussed the effective use of social media platforms and emerging technologies, including AI tools such as ChatGPT, to help create engaging content capable of reaching the next generation of IPA members.

Another highlight was learning about IPA Ireland's highly successful mentoring programme. Young officers undertake leadership training and gain recognised qualifications before returning to their regions as mentors for newer members. The scheme has already demonstrated significant success in developing future leaders while increasing engagement among younger serving officers.

Delegates also examined ways of expanding the IPA's popular On Patrol programme, providing more opportunities for officers to experience policing in different countries, alongside discussions about professional study visits and international exchanges that continue to strengthen both operational learning and international friendship.

Inspired by the approaches adopted in other countries, Aaron returned to the UK with ideas that could help strengthen engagement with younger members across Section UK. These included the potential development of regional young member representatives feeding into a national liaison structure, improving communication, promoting



2025 Strategic Young Members Conference Member report

opportunities and encouraging greater participation throughout the Association. Such a model could, in time, evolve into a mentoring programme similar to that already established by our colleagues in Ireland.

While the formal programme was both informative and thought-provoking, delegates agreed that some of the most valuable learning came from the informal discussions that continued long into the evenings. Conversations held in the historic surroundings of Gimborn Castle allowed officers from very different policing environments to share experiences, discuss common challenges and discover that, despite differences in culture and geography, the values and responsibilities of policing remain remarkably similar across the world.

These conversations also reinforced one of the IPA's greatest strengths: building genuine friendships between police officers from different countries. The professional relationships established during the conference will undoubtedly lead to future exchanges, collaborative opportunities and lifelong international friendships.

Reflecting on the conference, Aaron described the experience as both inspiring and motivating. The ideas and learning gained have since been shared within Section UK, helping to shape discussions around future engagement, leadership development and opportunities for younger members.

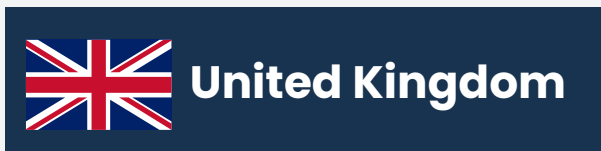
The Strategic Young Members' Conference demonstrated the importance of investing in the next generation of IPA members. By encouraging innovation, embracing new ideas and strengthening international cooperation, the IPA continues to build a vibrant and sustainable future while remaining true to its founding principles of friendship, professional development and international understanding.

Servo per Amikeco – Service Through Friendship

Yours in friendship,

Aaron Seeley





IPA Steyr 40 year Anniversary Motorcycle Meeting 25th to 28th June 2026

In 2025 the IPA branch in Steyr, Austria, announced that they were going to have a motorcycle meeting in June 2026 to celebrate their 40th Anniversary.

The meeting was to be held at a large hotel just outside the town of Kremsmünster and my wife, Louise, and I decided to book our places and travel from our home in Alsace, eastern France to represent the UK IPA Section (and the UK Motorcycle SIG).

We set off from our home on Wednesday 24th June in the heatwave that was affecting the whole of Europe. I was riding my BMW R1250GSA and Louise was on her BMW R1200RS. Fortunately we had invested in summer motorcycle clothing a few years ago and this helped reduce the effects of temperatures in the high 30's centigrade, at least whilst we were on the move. However, as soon as we stopped, even for a short time, you could feel yourself heating up very quickly.



Day 1 was a very enjoyable trip across southern Germany, without touching any Autobahns, on some lovely roads to our overnight stop at a small hotel on the outskirts of Kaufbeuren. We have stayed at the hotel before. It is run by a very friendly father and daughter who are both avid motorcyclists. Safe garaging was kindly provided for the bikes. We enjoyed a very nice evening there, and were joined later by the owner, Michael, after he had finished in the kitchen for a chat and drinks.





United Kingdom

IPA Steyr 40 year Anniversary Motorcycle Meeting 25th to 28th June 2026

Day 2 (Thursday) we were joined on the journey by our German friends who live about an hour from us but had travelled a different route on day 1. However this was not such an enjoyable day as we were bogged down with road closures and traffic jams, especially around Salzburg but we finally arrived at our destination in the late afternoon. After a very welcome cooling shower it was time for a few beers and to meet up with some old friends from the IPA motorcycle meeting in Slovakia in 2025 and some new friends. We also met up with a fellow IPA member from Freiburg, who had travelled a separate route. I regularly attend meetings in Freiburg as it is only about 45 minutes from where we live.

The meeting was attended by about 100 IPA members from Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and France (us!!). Organised rides were organised for the Friday and Saturday covering different areas of this very beautiful area of Austria, with lunch locations pre-booked.

The heatwave continued throughout the weekend with temperatures recorded on the bikes as high as 40 degrees centigrade.

Each evening dinner was arranged at the hotel and a band performed on the Saturday night.

During the weekend various patches and stickers were exchanged as well as contact details and the promise to stay in touch.

After breakfast on Sunday we set off on the return journey, once again using a non Autobahn route through Austria and back into Southern Germany.

Before leaving Austria we stopped at Burg Hohenwerfen where much of the



film *Where Eagles Dare* was filmed ("Broad Sword calling Danny Boy").

An overnight stop was made at Irsee where we had booked into the Klosterbrauerei. For the evening meal I was able to enjoy my favourite German meal, a Schwein Haxen. For those who don't know, this is a roasted pork knuckle served with sauerkraut and dumplings. The joint is covered with beautiful crackling. The Haxen served at this hotel is huge, the largest I have ever had but I was not to be defeated and managed to polish it off, with the help of a beer or two! Monday saw us return home safely. The heatwave was still continuing but on the plus side this was the first trip in memory where the waterproofs did not come out of the pannier!

The total distance covered on the 6 day trip was 1900kms.

We had a great time, met great IPA members and formed new friendships. Thanks to IPA Steyr for organising the event.

We are already looking forward to the next IPA motorcycle event which will hopefully be announced soon, for 2027.

Bob Blake
IPA UK

Upcoming Events



IPA Video Competition

The IPA Video Competition 2026 invites members to showcase the IPA through creative video production, including AI where appropriate.

Deadline 20th September

More Information



IPA Spain Adventure in Morocco 2026

This unique experience has been designed to bring together community life, cultural discovery, and professional exchange, offering members the opportunity to explore Morocco from an authentic and immersive perspective.

22-26 September

More Information

IPA Connect , September 2026

View all events on our website:
<https://ipa-international.org/events/>
Note: The deadline for registration for some events may have passed



IPA Brazil Favela on Duty 2026

Favela on Duty, 19–30 September, is an international police exchange in Rio de Janeiro, combining specialised training, operational experiences, special forces engagement, cultural activities, tourism and Brazilian culture.

19–30 September

More Information



IPA Sports Festival Romania 2026

IPA Sports Festival Romania is not about being a champion. You don't have to be the fastest or the strongest. You simply need to come with a passion for fun, new experiences and great people

23-26 September

More Information

Upcoming Events



IPA North Macedonia XV Annual General Assembly

IPA North Macedonia invites members to Skopje from **24–27 September 2026** for its XV Annual General Assembly, celebrating 15 years since the founding of IPA North Macedonia and IPA Region Skopje.

[More Information](#)



8th IPA Barcelona Trans-Pyrenees Route 2026

IPA Catalunya's 8th Transpirenaica is a challenging motorcycle journey through the French and Spanish Pyrenees, featuring winding roads, mountain landscapes, adventure and camaraderie. **28 – 2 October**

[More Information](#)



First Mallorca Padel Tournament, Mallorca, October 2026

IPA Spain, on behalf of its Balearic Islands Region, invites you to participate in the First Mallorca Padel Tournament, to be held in Palma de Mallorca from **October 8th to 11th, 2026**.

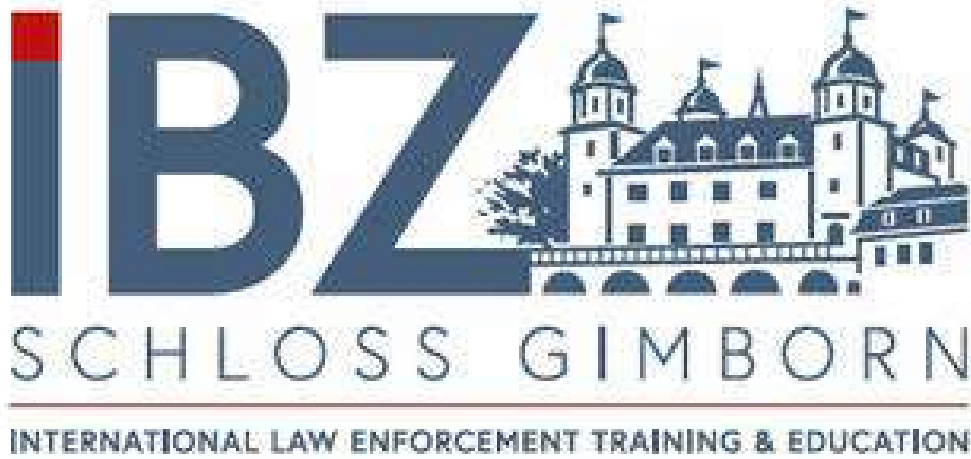
[More Information](#)



IPA Japan Seminar 2026

IPA Japan's 2026 Seminar in Osaka, **11–14 October**, offers participants international perspectives, practical knowledge and skills in cooperation, investigation and working effectively on the global stage.

[More Information](#)



Gimborn Seminars

IBZ Gimborn is the International Police Association's international education and conference centre, offering a wide range of professional seminars, training courses and networking opportunities for law enforcement professionals from across the world. Through its varied programme, IBZ Gimborn promotes lifelong learning, international cooperation and the exchange of knowledge in the spirit of Servo per Amikeco.

The latest programme of seminars and events is now available. Members are encouraged to explore the upcoming opportunities and register for any courses of interest.

2026 Seminar Programme

Upcoming Seminars

OSINT Tools – Application-Oriented Advanced Course (E)

2-4 September, 2026, Germany

[Register Now](#)

Terrorism – Recognising radicalisation, preventing attacks, dismantling networks (D/E)

7-11 September, 2026, Germany

[Register Now](#)

Tactical First Aid – Advanced Basic Course(E)

14-16 September, 2026, Germany

[Register Now](#)



Perth 2027: World Police & Fire Games

Perth 2027 is shaping up to be one of the biggest World Police & Fire Games yet, with registrations from first responders around the world continuing to grow.

With registrations about to pass 6,000 participants, organisers are now tracking towards more than 10,000 competitors, well above the original estimate of around 8,500.

Taking place across 10 days, Perth 2027 will feature an impressive 66 sports, offering something for everyone – from traditional events such as athletics, swimming and cycling, to first responder-specific events and more social competitions.



Whether competing at an elite level, taking part for fun or simply enjoying the experience, there are opportunities for all ages and abilities.

The Games will officially open with the Opening Ceremony at Optus Stadium on 12 March 2027, followed by the Opening Ceremony After Party at The Camfield. Throughout the Games, Supreme Court Gardens will become the Athletes Village and the social heart of the event, bringing competitors together each evening.

For thousands of first responders travelling from across the globe, Perth 2027 promises to be a once-in-a-career opportunity to experience the World Police & Fire Games Down Under.

Importantly, eligibility has also been expanded for Perth 2027. For the first time, unsworn police staff and auxiliary officers are eligible to compete alongside sworn officers. This expansion opens the Games to more members of police agencies than ever before.

The Games will also rely on a huge team of volunteers, with more than 2,500 volunteers needed to help deliver the event. Volunteer registrations are open to anyone who would like to get involved and be part of this international sporting celebration.

Competitors are encouraged to bring friends and family to share the experience. Family and Friends Accreditation costs just US\$35 and includes a Games bag, entry to the Opening Ceremony and Athletes Village, free public transport and access to Games venues. Children under 10 are free.

With registrations open now, there is already plenty of excitement building for Perth 2027.

Find out more and register at www.wpfg2027.com

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POLICE & FIRE
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PERTH 2027



Perth's largest multi-sport event. Join us from 12-21 March 2027.

90+ COUNTRIES | 10 DAYS | 66 SPORTS



REGISTER NOW

IPA Cyprus National Congress 2026

The IPA Cyprus Section is delighted to invite IPA members from around the world to attend its 43rd National Congress, taking place from 5–8 November 2026 in the beautiful Famagusta region of Protaras / Agia Napa, Cyprus.



Participants will enjoy three nights' accommodation at the Kapetanios Bay Hotel, together with a comprehensive social programme including excursions, all meals, transportation, entertainment, gifts and a Gala Dinner.

The registration deadline is 28th September 2026. More information can be found on our website or contact

ipa.cyprus@cytanet.com.cy

[More Information](#)

IPA CONNECT

SEPTEMBER 2026

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