

## Press Release

Vienna, 30 April 2020

# CHALLENGES IN THE POLICE'S DAILY CORONA MANAGEMENT

AIT, BMI and Heidelberg University launch international study to investigate police crisis management during the COVID19 crisis

Dynamic governmental measures, the constant risk of infection as well as staff shortages due to pandemic-related absences lead to unknown and uncertain situations in which police officers have to react appropriately despite high stress. Within the scope of the Horizon 2020 research project SHOTPROS, the study "SHOT-COVID19" was launched to investigate the current work demands and stress levels of European police officers in the Corona crisis.

Dr. Sebastian Egger-Lampl, project manager at the AIT Center for Technology Experience, explains: "The SHOT-COVID19 study gives us the opportunity to quantify and understand current stress situations. From this, we can derive how training for crisis scenarios should be optimised in order to better manage stress and increased strain in the future." In the SHOT-COVID19 study, participating police officers are surveyed about their work demands and stress levels during the Corona crisis at three measurement points from late March to mid-June. Thanks to the close cooperation of police authorities from Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland and Spain, data from more than 1,400 participants from the executive branch could already be collected within a short time. International cooperation in research and security is especially important in times like these. The SHOT-COVID19 study shows that meaningful and application-oriented research is possible, despite the difficult circumstances. The main goal is to support European police officers in their daily challenges - today and in the future.

### Background and aims of the SHOT-COVID19 study

The data collected provides an insight into the challenges, stresses and coping strategies related to the crisis. The findings will help to further improve crisis management and to draw potential conclusions for future training priorities in the police sector. The study results therefore also provide interesting information for the police training programme that will be developed in the SHOTPROS project over the next two years. This programme includes a virtual reality solution in order to be able to train better and more efficiently in dealing with critical and risky operational scenarios in the future.

### Planning and implementation

The study was initiated by Dr Marie Otilie Frenkel from the University of Heidelberg as part of the SHOTPROS project. "The current exceptional situation places particular demands on the crisis management of the police. It is a unique opportunity to gain information on how police officers deal with acute, real-life stress situations," says Frenkel.

The research partners are now working together on the successful implementation and execution of the SHOT-COVID19 study. The AIT Center for Technology Experience is responsible, among

other things, for supporting the recruitment of study participants, in the course of which the Federal Ministry of the Interior (BMI) was also won over to participate. Furthermore, the AIT is working on the qualitative evaluation of the study and, together with the Security Academy of the BMI, is accompanying it with scientific publications. The first results of the study will be published in about 3 months.

### About SHOTPROS



This project is funded under the Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme of the European Union (grant agreement no. 833672).

Total cost: 5.1 million Euros; Duration: 36 months

### Project partner

- USECON - The Usability Consultants GmbH / Austria (project coordinator)
- AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH - Center for Technology Experience / Austria
- KU Leuven - Department of Criminal Law and Criminology / Belgium
- Stichting VU - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam / Netherlands
- Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg - Institute of Sport and Sport Sciences / Germany
- Campus Vesta APB / Belgium
- RE-liON Group B.V. / Belgium
- Ministry of Internal Affairs Romania - Directorate General Logistics / Romania
- Swedish Police Authority / Sweden
- Berlin Police - Police Academy / Germany
- National Politie Nederland / Netherlands
- Directorate General Crisis Centre of the Belgian Federal Public Service, Home Affairs / Belgium
- Police North Rhine-Westphalia - State Office for Training, Further Training and Personnel Affairs / Germany

### Further information:

[AIT Austrian Institute of Technology](#)

[Center for Technology Experience](#)

[Project website SHOTPROS](#)

### Photo material:

<https://shotpros.eu/press/>

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