



Servo per Amikeco – Servicii prin Prietenie
International Police Association
Asociația Internațională a Polițiștilor
Secția Republica Moldova



TRAINING REPORT

Police Street Survival Training

Chișinău, Republic of Moldova • 24–27 March 2026

Organised by IPA – Republic of Moldova Section and IBZ Gimborn

1. Background and Context

From 24 to 27 March 2026, the International Police Association (IPA) – Republic of Moldova Section and IBZ Gimborn, with the valued support of the IPA International Executive Board (IEB), successfully conducted the first-ever extraterritorial training event under the title Police Street Survival Training. The seminar took place in Chișinău, Republic of Moldova, and was hosted at the "Ștefan cel Mare" Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

This initiative marked a significant milestone on two fronts. For IBZ Gimborn, it represented a landmark step in the internationalization of its training portfolio, extending its professional law enforcement capacity development beyond its home base for the very first time.

For the IPA – Republic of Moldova Section, it constituted an extraordinary achievement: Moldova became the first country in the world to host an official IBZ Gimborn training seminar on its own soil – a distinction that speaks to the ambition, organizational capability, and dedication of the Moldovan IPA team.

From initial concept to final delivery, the IPA Republic of Moldova Section coordinated all logistical, institutional, and operational aspects of the event with exemplary professionalism, ensuring that the seminar not only met but exceeded the standards expected of an IBZ Gimborn programme. The resounding success of the event stands as a testament to what the IPA Republic of Moldova Section has built, and to its standing as a trusted and capable partner within the international IPA family.

This accomplishment was further reinforced by the institutional support of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova and the General Police Inspectorate, reflecting the high-level national recognition accorded to the initiative.

2. Participants and Countries Represented

A total of 41 law enforcement officers participated in the four-day seminar. Participants were drawn from three countries: the Republic of Moldova, Romania, and Ukraine, underscoring the cross-border dimension of the initiative.

The participation of officers from three countries and distinct national law enforcement agencies created an enriching environment for cross-border exchange of professional experience, tactical perspectives, and best practices. This multinational composition is fully in line with the IPA's core mission of fostering international police cooperation.

3. Training Team and Instructors

The seminar was delivered by a dedicated team of two expert instructors: Robert Stenhouse and Timothy Taylor. Their combined expertise in law enforcement tactics, defensive operations, and training methodology ensured a high standard of instruction throughout all four days.

The instructors were consistently recognized by participants as highly professional, competent, and clear in their delivery. Participants frequently awarded top scores to the instruction team, with multiple evaluations citing a rating of 10 out of 10. Their ability to adapt content to an operationally diverse, multinational audience was identified as a particular strength of the programme.

4. Programme Content and Learning Objectives

The *Street Survival for Police Officers* seminar delivered a comprehensive, reality-based curriculum spanning four intensive days. The programme was structured around five thematic pillars, progressing from foundational theory to full-scale operational simulation.

Participants were first introduced to the philosophy and mission of the IPA Defensive Tactics Group, establishing the guiding principle that effective law enforcement training must be grounded in realism, practical repetition, and scenario-driven experience rather than purely theoretical instruction.

The theoretical foundation continued with two interconnected modules addressing the mental and physiological dimensions of violent confrontations. The first examined the OODA Loop: Observe, Orient, Decide, Act, as a framework for rapid decision-making under pressure, incorporating Cooper's Colour Code for situational awareness. The second explored the psychology and science of combat stress, equipping officers with an understanding of how fear affects the body and mind and providing practical tools - including combat breathing - to maintain cognitive performance during life-threatening encounters.

A dedicated knife awareness module addressed one of the most prevalent threats in front-line policing, covering offender profiling, threat recognition, edged weapon classifications, and a structured tactical response framework.

The practical component formed the core of the programme: daily empty-hand defensive skills sessions built progressively toward a culminating full-scale scenario day, in which participants applied all acquired competencies in realistic, high-pressure simulations. Trauma first aid (Stop the Bleed) and an introduction to combat point shooting were integrated into the practical schedule.

Across all modules, the training achieved a 100% participant recommendation rate, with 85% reporting a full increase in operational confidence and strong relevance to their daily duties.

5. Institutional Partners and Acknowledgements

The successful realization of this seminar was made possible through the contributions and active support of several key institutional partners. IBZ Gimborn and the IPA – Republic of Moldova Section extend their sincere gratitude to:

- The IBZ Gimborn – for the openness to deliver valuable trainings, on the field.
- The Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova – for institutional backing and enabling the event.
- The General Police Inspectorate of the Republic of Moldova – for facilitating participant selection and coordination.
- The "Ștefan cel Mare" Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs – for hosting the event and providing outstanding logistical support.
- The IPA International Executive Board (IEB) – for their valued support of the initiative.
- Mr. Martin Hoffmann, President of the International Police Association – for his full support of the IPA – Republic of Moldova Section's initiative in organizing this seminar.

6. Training Evaluation and Participant Feedback

A comprehensive evaluation was conducted across participants. The results demonstrate a consistently high level of satisfaction, confirming the programme's effectiveness and operational relevance.

6.1 Key Performance Indicators

Indicator	Result
Overall Rating: Very Good	85%
Training Expectations Fully Met	80%
High Relevance to Daily Duties (Very Relevant)	65%
Strong Practical Applicability	65%
Increased Operational Confidence (Fully)	85%
Recommendation Rate	100%

6.2 Quality of Delivery

The quality of instruction was rated at the highest level across all evaluations. Instructors were described as professional, competent, and clear, with participants frequently awarding top scores. The organisation and logistics of the event were rated

predominantly as Very Good, and safety during all practical exercises was consistently rated positively by all participants.

6.3 Core Strengths Identified by Participants

Participants consistently identified the following elements as the primary strengths of the training:

- High-quality and well-structured practical exercises
- Clear, professional, and operationally relevant training materials
- Excellent instructor performance and expertise
- Immediate applicability of acquired skills to daily law enforcement duties
- Modules on first aid, self-defence, firearms training, and restraint techniques received particular commendation

7. Networking, Cultural Exchange, and the IPA Spirit

Beyond its tactical and professional dimensions, the seminar served as an important occasion for building lasting inter-agency relationships and strengthening the bonds of the IPA family. The structured programme was complemented by visits to cultural landmarks and heritage sites across the Republic of Moldova, providing participants from Romania and Ukraine with a unique opportunity to discover Moldovan traditions, history, and culture.

These shared experiences fostered informal dialogue and camaraderie among officers. The gathering thus represented not only a training event but also a meaningful moment of international police friendship, fully embodying the IPA motto *Servo per Amikeco: Service through Friendship*.

8. Conclusion

The Street Survival for Police Officers seminar held in Chişinău from 24 to 27 March 2026 represents a landmark achievement for the IPA – Republic of Moldova Section and IBZ Gimborn. As the first extraterritorial training event of this kind delivered by IBZ Gimborn, it demonstrated the feasibility and impact of bringing high-quality professional training directly to the international IPA community.

The programme was received with exceptional enthusiasm, achieving a 100% recommendation rate and near-universal ratings of Very Good. Participants left the training with enhanced operational skills, greater confidence in handling high-risk situations, and meaningful cross-border professional connections.

The success of this initiative provides a strong foundation for future extraterritorial training events and for the continued deepening of cooperation among law enforcement agencies across Europe.