International Police Association

November 2026

IPA CONNECT



69th IPA World Congress

The 69th IPA World Congress took place from 20–25 October 2026 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, bringing together delegates from across the IPA family to share ideas, discuss key developments and collectively shape the future of our Association. It was a memorable Congress, with important decisions made together by the International Executive Board and National Sections, alongside presentations, celebrations and recognition of the achievements of our members. The results of our international competitions were announced, and the recipients of the Arthur Troop Scholarship were also recognised. See the results on page 6 and 7.

Look out for our full Congress report in next month's IPA Connect.

IPA Hosting Sections Meeting, Lisbon, Portugal

The Hosting Sections' Meeting (HSM) took place in Lisbon from 4–7 September 2026, bringing together IPA representatives from around the world to exchange ideas and discuss the development of hosting opportunities and IPA Houses. Read more about HSM Lisbon 2026 on page 28.



IPA CONNECT

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FOREWORD

A CONGRESS TO REMEMBER

DECISIONS, FRIENDSHIP AND OUR SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Dear IPA friends, dear IPA family
Looking back on the 69th IPA World Congress in Sri Lanka, I feel grateful to have been part of such a remarkable gathering. It was the first time that our World Congress had been held in Asia - a milestone that gave this meeting a special place in the history of our Association.

As a member of the International Executive Board and in my role as Treasurer Social Affairs, I experienced the Congress from a particular perspective. Our discussions and decisions shape the future of the IPA, while the relationships we build give meaning to the work behind them. Both are essential to a strong international association.

The Congress addressed important questions about our organisation and its future. Some decisions prompted strong discussion and reflected the responsibility delegates carry when making choices that affect our international community. Whatever our individual views, the Congress reminded us that decisions must be considered carefully, debated openly and taken in the interests of the Association as a whole.

Our work also involved the practical responsibilities that keep the IPA moving forward.



Sound financial stewardship, clear priorities and responsible use of our resources are essential if we are to support our members, our sections and our international activities. From my perspective as Treasurer Social Affairs, this responsibility is not only about figures. It is about ensuring that our resources serve people, strengthen connections and help the IPA remain active and welcoming for future generations.

Yet the World Congress was much more than a series of meetings and votes. In conversations over a meal, during formal events and in those unplanned moments between sessions, colleagues from different countries discovered how much they share. We exchanged experiences, listened to one another and renewed friendships that cross borders, languages and cultures. Sri Lanka's warmth and hospitality made those encounters especially memorable.

FOREWORD



A CONGRESS TO REMEMBER CONT'

That is the spirit captured in the words of Helen Keller: "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." They speak directly to the IPA. Our strength does not come from one country, one committee or one individual. It comes from members who are willing to contribute, sections that support one another and colleagues who continue to meet each other with respect and friendship.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Sri Lanka Section, its leadership, the organising team and everyone who worked behind the scenes to make the Congress such a success. Their dedication and welcome gave us the opportunity not only to conduct our business, but also to experience the culture and generosity of Sri Lanka.

As we return to our sections and daily responsibilities, let us carry the decisions made in Colombo forward with care and the friendships formed there with gratitude. May we continue to serve our Association and one another in the true spirit of
Servo per Amikeco — Service Through Friendship.

With warm IPA greetings,

Jean-Pierre Allet
Member of the International Executive Board
Treasurer Social Affairs



Arthur Troop Scholarship 2027 Awardees Announced

Applications for the Arthur Troop Scholarship 2027 closed on 31 March, after which all eligible applications were independently reviewed and scored.

Following this assessment process, the successful awardees were announced at this year's IPA World Congress, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 20–25 October.

We are delighted to announce the successful recipients of the Arthur Troop Scholarship 2027, who will each have the opportunity to attend a course of their choice to support their professional development and broaden their knowledge and experience.

The Arthur Troop Scholarship is an important initiative of the International Police Association, providing financial support to IPA members who wish to undertake professional development opportunities. Successful applicants can receive up to €2,500 per individual, which can contribute towards the costs of attending a suitable course, including course fees, travel and accommodation.

The scholarship is designed to help IPA members access learning and development opportunities that may otherwise be difficult to undertake, supporting members in expanding their professional skills, gaining new knowledge and bringing their experiences back to their colleagues and wider IPA community.

Each year, applications are assessed independently following the closing date, ensuring that all submissions are considered fairly and consistently. The successful awardees are then announced at the annual IPA World Congress.

We would like to congratulate all of the Arthur Troop Scholarship 2027 awardees and wish them every success as they undertake their chosen courses. We look forward to hearing about their experiences and the knowledge they gain through these opportunities.

Applications for 2028 are now open

Interested in applying for the Arthur Troop Scholarship 2028? Now is the time to start planning your application.

Applications for the 2028 scholarship will close on 31 March 2027, so members are encouraged to consider the professional development course they would like to undertake and submit their application before the deadline.

To find out more about the Arthur Troop Scholarship and submit your application, visit the IPA website:

https://tinyurl.com/ATS-Application

Arthur Troop Scholarship



Nimesh Ruwantha Wanigasooriya with Salvatore ATS lead and IP Martin Hoffmann

2027 Awardees

Asia	**Nimesh Ruwantha WANIGASOORIYA**	Sri Lanka	2,500.00 €
Europe	**Charilaos VENETIS**	Greece	2,400.00 €
Asia	**Muhammad Amin KHAN**	Pakistan	1,200.00 €
Europe	**Ewa DEBOWSKA**	Poland	2,500.00 €
Oceania	**Aimee EVANS**	New Zealand	2,500.00 €
America	**James AGUIRRE**	Canada	2,100.00 €
Europe	**Dario FIGLIOMENI**	Italy	2,000.00 €
Asia	**Krishna JHUGROO**	Mauritius	2,500.00 €
Europe	**Valentina PAVLOVA**	Latvia	1,800.00 €
America	**Henry ATAUCHI MASIAS**	Peru	2,000.00 €
Africa	**Fortune MODISAKENG**	South Africa	2,500.00 €
			24,000.00 €



Nimesh Ruwantha Wanigasooriya and Valentina Pavlova with Salvatore ATS lead

Education

ASP Instructor Certification at IBZ Gimborn: 50 Years of Training, Innovation and International Partnership

For law enforcement professionals, quality equipment is only as effective as the training behind it. That principle has been at the heart of Armament Systems and Procedures (ASP) since its founding in 1976, and it is equally reflected in the mission of the International Police Association (IPA) and its international education and training center, IBZ Schloss Gimborn in Germany.

In 2026, as ASP celebrates its 50th anniversary, the long-standing relationship between ASP, the IPA and IBZ Gimborn continues to provide police officers and trainers from around the world with access to professional, internationally recognized training.

One of the most significant examples of this cooperation is the ASP Instructor Certification (AIC) Course, a demanding multi-day program designed to develop qualified instructors in the operational use of the ASP Tactical Baton, Tactical Restraints and Tactical Flashlights.

More Than a Product Course

The ASP Instructor Certification program goes well beyond simply learning how to operate equipment. It is an instructor-development program built around practical skills, sound tactics and the ability to effectively transfer those skills to other law enforcement personnel.





Education

Participants receive intensive instruction in the integrated use of ASP's primary duty equipment. The program combines classroom instruction with extensive hands-on training, practical exercises and scenario-based applications.

Successful participants must demonstrate competency in both knowledge and physical performance, as well as the ability to effectively teach the material. ASP certification is competency-based; attendance alone does not guarantee certification. Those who successfully complete the program become ASP Certified Instructors and are qualified to conduct ASP Basic Certification (ABC) training for officers.

The result is a course that challenges participants not only as practitioners, but also as instructors.

An Integrated Approach to Officer Training

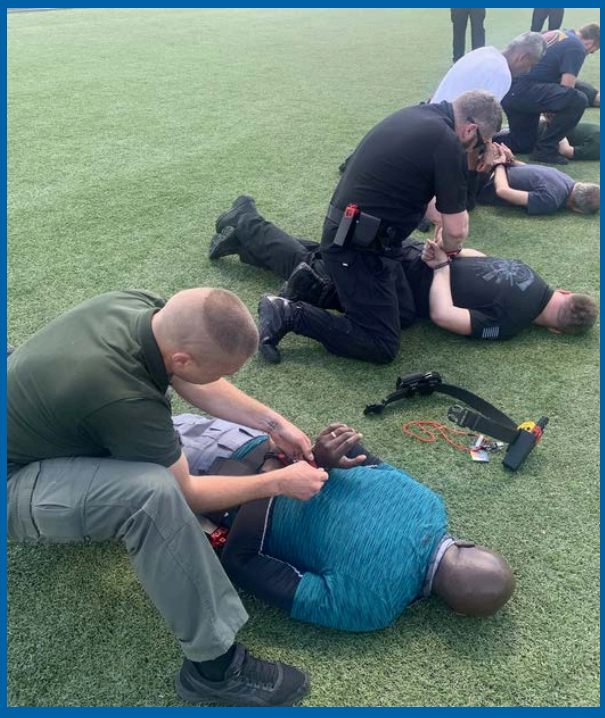
A major strength of the AIC program is its integrated approach.

Rather than viewing the baton, restraints and tactical flashlight as unrelated pieces of equipment, ASP training emphasizes how officers transition between and employ these tools during real-world encounters.

Rather than viewing the baton, restraints and tactical flashlight as unrelated pieces of equipment, ASP training emphasizes how officers transition between and employ these tools during real-world encounters.

The curriculum incorporates techniques designed to be straightforward, repeatable and retained under stress. ASP describes its training philosophy as emphasizing techniques that are tactically sound, operationally practical and legally defensible. The integrated instructor program prepares trainers to bring those concepts back to their own agencies and colleagues.

The physical component is equally important. The AIC is an intensive, hands-on program requiring participants to demonstrate techniques rather than simply observe them. The international ASP Instructor Certification offered through the IPA at Gimborn annually has also incorporated scenario participation, reinforcing the application of skills in realistic circumstances.



Education

50 Year Celebration of ASP

This year, 2026, takes on additional significance as ASP celebrates 50 years of service to the law enforcement profession.
Founded in 1976 by Dr. Kevin Parsons, ASP grew from its roots in police training and use-of-force systems into an internationally recognized manufacturer and training organization. Today, ASP equipment and training are used by law enforcement professionals in more than 100 countries.

Training has remained a central part of the company's identity. ASP launched its formal training program in 1987 with a tactical baton course. Restraint training was subsequently incorporated, followed by the development of an integrated program combining batons, restraints and tactical lighting.



That commitment is substantial: ASP reports providing approximately $2 million (USD) in law enforcement training each year at no cost, reflecting the company's philosophy that professional equipment should be supported by professional instruction.

For five decades, the connection between equipment, training and officer safety has remained fundamental to ASP's mission: “Protecting Those Who Protect.”

ASP, the IPA and IBZ Gimborn

ASP's relationship with the International Police Association and IBZ Schloss Gimborn has helped extend this training philosophy to an international law enforcement audience.

The first ASP Instructor Course at IBZ Gimborn was held from 29 March through 2 April 2016, with support from the IPA’s Professional Commission. From its beginning at Gimborn, the program combined theoretical instruction, demanding practical training and internationally recognized ASP Instructor Certification.

A decade later, that cooperation continues.
IBZ Gimborn occupies a unique position within the IPA's professional-development efforts. Located at Schloss Gimborn in Germany, the center brings together police officers and law enforcement professionals from different countries to learn from subject-matter experts while also exchanging experiences, operational practices and professional perspectives. The IPA describes Gimborn as being at the core of its international educational offering.



That environment makes Gimborn particularly well suited for the ASP Instructor program. Participants do not simply leave with new technical skills; they build professional relationships with fellow trainers and officers from other nations through the many networking opportunities that all courses held at IBZ Gimborn offer to course participants.

Training the Trainers

Perhaps the greatest value of the AIC program is its multiplier effect.

Every participant who successfully earns ASP Instructor Certification has the potential to return home and provide quality instruction to officers within their own agency, region or country. The knowledge developed during several very intensive days at Gimborn can therefore reach far beyond the individuals attending the course.

It represents precisely what international police cooperation should accomplish: bringing professionals together, developing practical skills, exchanging knowledge and then carrying that knowledge back to the officers and communities they serve.

As ASP celebrates its 50th anniversary, its continuing partnership with the International Police Association and IBZ Gimborn demonstrates the value of long-term cooperation between industry, professional police organizations and training institutions.

Technology and equipment will continue to evolve. Police tactics and training methodologies will continue to develop. But one principle remains constant: providing officers with equipment is only the beginning. Ensuring they have the knowledge, skills and qualified instructors necessary to use that equipment safely and effectively is what turns equipment into capability.

Through the ASP Instructor Certification program at IBZ Gimborn, ASP, the International Police Association and IBZ Gimborn continue that mission together —developing instructors, strengthening international professional relationships and investing in the safety and professionalism of law enforcement officers around the world.

Watch for more information coming out soon on the 2027 IBZ Gimborn offerings, and future ASP Instructor program both at IBZ Gimborn, and in IPA member countries under the "Gimborn on the Road" program which helps bring training programs to sections around the globe that may not be able to send members to Gimborn for a course.

Joe Johnson, IPA Professional Commission - Education Team Leader, and IPA US Section National President

69th IPA World Congress 2026, Colombo, Sri Lanka

The much-anticipated 69th IPA World Congress took place in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from 20–25 October 2026, bringing together more than 250 delegates, observers and visitors from around the world. United by friendship and a shared commitment to Servo per Amikeco – Service Through Friendship, participants came together to discuss the future of the International Police Association and the continued development of our global network.

We extend our sincere thanks to IPA Sri Lanka for their warm welcome and excellent hospitality throughout the Congress.

The week provided an opportunity for important discussions and the exchange of ideas, with outcomes that will help shape the Association in the years ahead. Numerous motions submitted by National Sections and the International Executive Board (IEB) were debated in detail, addressing ways to improve the IPA's processes, governance and organisational structure.

The programme began on Tuesday, 20 October, with welcome drinks for delegates, providing an opportunity to reconnect with friends and meet fellow members from across the international IPA family.

The official opening ceremony followed on Wednesday, 21 October, before delegates moved into the working programme, which included regional group meetings, the Treasury meeting and the much-loved cultural event. This special occasion invited Sections to showcase aspects of their national cultures and share traditional delicacies, celebrating the diversity that makes the IPA such a unique international association.





69th IPA World Congress 2026, Colombo, Sri Lanka



Thursday and Friday were dedicated to the main Congress working sessions, featuring presentations from Sections and delegates, alongside discussions and decisions on the motions presented. The week continued with the gala dinner on Friday evening, followed by a social day on Saturday, offering delegates a chance to relax, strengthen friendships and enjoy time together beyond the formal proceedings.



Delegates began their journeys home on Sunday, 25 October, while some remained in Sri Lanka to take part in Friendship Week and continue building international connections.

The World Congress once again demonstrated the value of bringing our international IPA family together to share experiences, exchange ideas and strengthen the friendships at the heart of our Association.

Look out for more information in the December edition of IPA Connect, where we will share further highlights, key outcomes and stories from the 69th IPA World Congress in Sri Lanka.

International Administration Centre (IAC)



Thank You Sri Lanka

IPA Women on a Hiking Trip

For the past three years, #SHEisIPA has been a project under the International Executive Board. The aim is to encourage a women's network within IPA, make women more visible within IPA, and encourage IPA women to take on various roles and responsibilities within the organisation – locally, regionally, nationally or internationally. Several educational seminars have been held at the flagship IBZ Gimborn, and today there are women from most sections participating in the network.

Suzanne and Marie from IPA Ireland took the initiative to invite women from these seminars to #SHEisHiking, held from 17–20 July in the south-eastern part of Ireland, an area known as the "Garden of Ireland" – County Wicklow.

Twelve IPA women from Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, the United Kingdom, Sweden and Germany travelled by car, motorhome, ferry and plane to meet 16 women from Ireland for a long weekend in Newhaven. New contacts were made and old friendships strengthened.
ome of us met in Dublin for a little sightseeing, while others travelled directly to Bray, where we international guests gathered. We dipped our feet in S the Irish Sea, followed by a late lunch. In the evening, we enjoyed dinner and a "get-together", with plenty of chatting and catching up – as always when we meet face to face.



On day two, we boarded a bus with our hiking boots, walking poles and backpacks filled with packed lunches and plenty of water. Temperatures reached just over 28°C in the shade under a clear blue sky – highly unusual for Ireland, which normally greets visitors with rain and wind regardless of the season. We were met by IPA Ireland's Hiking Club – the women's branch. Sixteen experienced hikers were now ready to guide us into the forest and up the mountain to see the remains of a vanished glacier. Plenty of sunscreen was applied, and off we went at a fairly brisk pace, despite several participants being inexperienced hikers.
Our first stop was at Upper Lake, Glendalough (Brockagh – Sevenchurches)
where we enjoyed some shade and coolness. This was followed by approximately one kilometer through dense spruce forest, after which we were exposed to strong sunshine for more than three hours, including our lunch break

hero #SHEisIPA



The first part of the hike followed a wide gravel road, but as soon as the trail began to climb, we encountered boulders and loose stones that we had to carefully balance across. There was a steep climb of approximately two kilometers up to 400 meters, where we stopped for lunch. Water was rushing nearby, and many hikers chose to cool their feet – or even their entire bodies – in the stream flowing down the mountain.
The view was magical. We could see Upper Lake and Lower Lake, as well as large parts of the trail we had already covered and the route still ahead of us. We had not yet reached the highest point of the hike.

Water and lunch were very welcome, and with renewed energy we continued along the still-rocky trail, which eventually turned into narrow wooden boardwalks across the wetlands. Still uphill!



We reached the summit and were now more than 500 meters above sea level, with views in every direction. A quick hydration break and a few shoes needed re-lacing, and then it was time to descend on the other side of the lake. The spectacular views ahead made it difficult to maintain any great speed – we wanted to see everything!

There were two more stops for water and photographs before we gathered by the lake to exchange gifts and give a well-deserved cheer to the less experienced hikers. Everyone completed the hike, despite their lack of experience, fear of heights and the heat.

Back at the hotel, we had a quick shower before gathering for a visit to Wicklow Wolf Brewery. The owner gave us a humorous and entertaining account of his life's work, and those who wanted to have the opportunity to sample several of the brewery's popular beers. When we left, there were glasses and sample cans to pack into our luggage



IPA Ireland then treated everyone to dinner, and naturally we took the opportunity to photograph almost all the participants together for a group photo.
On Sunday morning, #SHEisIPA presented a cheque for €650 to "Little Blue Heroes".
Little Blue Heroes is an Irish non-profit charity founded in 2017. It is run by volunteers, including members of An Garda Síochána, the Irish police service. The organisation provides financial and practical support to families with seriously ill children. The children are made Honorary Gardaí, and the organisation also contributes towards family trips and special experiences.

The donation from #SHEisIPA was raised through a raffle held at one of the seminars at Gimborn, together with voluntary donations from members of the network.
Wicklow Garda Station received a visit around lunchtime, and it was like stepping into the old police station in Hjo, Sweden... There was a very familiar and friendly atmosphere between the station manager and the officers working there, with a strong focus on "community policing".
we then met a female colleague responsible for "mental health". She told us about her background and how she helps prevent negative stress through yoga. She gave us a yoga class, and mats were rolled out. Gentle movements gradually developed into more challenging exercises. We followed her instructions and felt considerably less stiff in all those hiking muscles afterwards.

Then it was time to take a dip in the Irish Sea!
Everyone had heard how cold these waters were supposed to be. Imagine everyone's surprise when we were able to walk into the water from the beach without a single groan or complaint. It was warmer than the Swedish west coast! We had a wonderful swim, and some even took the opportunity to jump from the pier.





The weekend was drawing to a close, but we had a national Hurling match to watch on TV in the hotel bar.

Hurling is an Irish team sport played on a rectangular pitch with an H-shaped goal at each end. The dimensions of the pitch and goals are the same as those used in Gaelic football, with approximately maximum dimensions of 137 x 82 meters. Each team consists of fifteen players. Hurling is said to be the fastest field sport in the world.

Naturally, we supported the "underdog", but Limerick took the game, leaving Glasgow to enjoy our support from the sidelines.

We returned to Wicklow for a pleasant dinner at one of the restaurants by the water. And, much to your surprise, we then all headed to a pub to watch the FIFA World Cup final.

We slept very well after a weekend of hiking, yoga, swimming and two exciting matches!
Monday was travel day for everyone. We returned to Dublin in our minibus and visited a few sights before it was time for passport and security checks.

IPA Sweden will now take over the baton and organise the second #SHEisHIKING event in the Gothenburg area.
May-Britt R. Ronnebro
#SHEisIPA

Why not join us in Gothenburg 22-26 April 2027



YOUNG MEMBERS

Young Members: Turning Ideas into Opportunities

Young members bring energy, experience and fresh perspectives to the IPA. The Young Members Project Team has been working to turn that potential into meaningful opportunities across our Sections. The 2026 IPA World Congress is an important moment for that work.

A key focus has been the proposed updates to the procedures for the Young Police Officers' Seminar (YPOS) and the Strategic Young Members Conference (SYMC). Both programmes bring young members together to learn from colleagues in other countries, build friendships and develop ideas for the future of our Association. Our team has contributed its practical experience to the proposed changes, which will be considered through the World Congress process.

We have also been advising Sections interested in hosting a future YPOS or SYMC. An application begins with an idea, but it also calls for a strong team, a programme and committed partners. By sharing what we have learned, we hope to help more Sections take that step with confidence.

YPOS Germany 2026 showed what becomes possible when a Section, its volunteers and its partners work together. Fifty-two young police officers from 31 nations explored the future of police training and formed friendships that will continue well beyond the seminar.

Looking ahead, closer cooperation with other Project Teams and the International Commissions will be an essential part of our work. Young members are interested in professional learning, cultural exchange, friendship and opportunities to contribute. By connecting our activities, we can help them discover and make the most of everything the IPA has to offer.

Whatever decisions are taken at the World Congress, our aim remains clear: young members should have the chance to take part, share their ideas and help shape the IPA's future. We look forward to working with Sections and colleagues across the Association to make that happen.

Philipp Kurz
Young Members Project Team



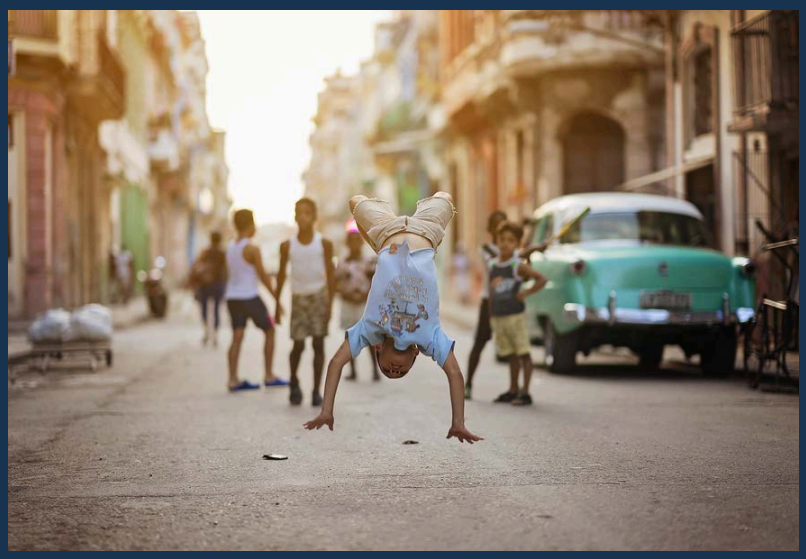
ARTS & CULTURE

IPA SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMISSION

RESULTS OF THE IPA PHOTO COMPETITION 2026

The IPA Photography Competition 2026 has now concluded, celebrating the creativity and talent of IPA members from around the world. The competition featured two categories: an Open Category for any photographic subject and a Subject Category focusing on police at work, with an emphasis on women in policing. A €400 prize was awarded to the overall winner, with €300 for each category winner, €200 for second place and €100 for third place, alongside six additional Merit Awards.

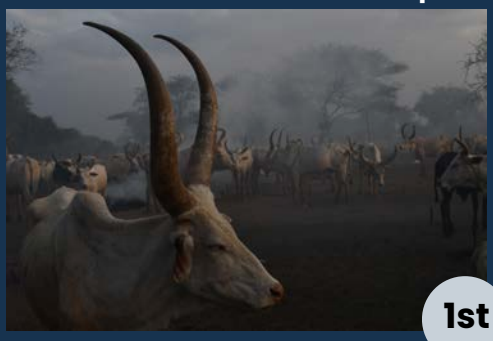
Overall Winner Bogdan MihaiNegoita – IPA Romania



The winning photographs were announced during the 69th IPA World Congress in Colombo, Sri Lanka, where a selection of the best entries was also displayed.

Open Category

JoseLuis Montes Garrido IPA Spain

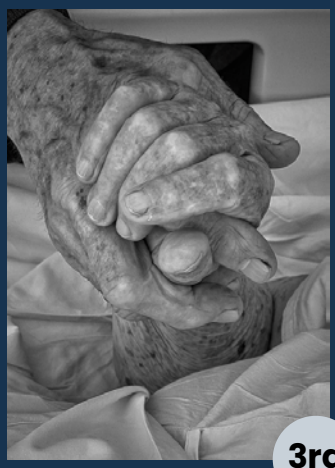


1st

Assi Dvilanski – IPA Israel



2nd



3rd

Arturas Tamkevicius IPA Lithuania

4th place (joint): Elmahadi Almog – IPA Israel

4th place (joint): Avidan Damti – IPA Israel

6th place: Szabolcs Toth – IPA Hungary

RESULTS OF THE IPA PHOTO COMPETITION 2026

ARTS & CULTURE
IPA SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMISSION

Police Category

The standard in the Police Category of this year's International Police Association Photography Competition was exceptionally high. The photographs were outstanding in both quality and creativity, capturing a remarkable breadth of topics and perspectives that showcased the diversity, dedication and many facets of policing.



Alex Stammers - IPA New Zealand



Freddie Peake – IPA USA



Justo Barbancho Perez – IPA Spain

4th place: Adi Felix – IPA Israel

5th place (joint): Dominik Stanek – IPA Poland

5th place (joint): Busuioc Cosmin Bogdan –IPA Romania

We say a big Thank you to our International Jury

Agnieszka Bohdanowicz, Photo Journalist at TVP, Poland

Harry Mootoosamy, Photographer, Mauritius

Janet Nyamwamu, Photographer , Kenya

Aneta Sobieraj, Photographer & Member of the IPA SCC , IPA Poland

RESULTS OF THE IPA CHILDREN'S DRAWING COMPETITION 2026



The results of the International Police Association Children's Drawing Competition were announced on 23 October at the 69th IPA World Congress in Sri Lanka. As in previous years, the standard of entries was exceptionally high, with talented young artists from across the world sharing their creativity, imagination and unique perspectives through their artwork.

Overall Winner
Solomon Shtok
Israel



ARTS & CULTURE

IPA SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMISSION

RESULTS OF THE IPA CHILDREN'S DRAWING COMPETITION 2026

Category: Cars



1st Place - Andrew SHINKARENKO
Ukraine



2nd Place - Emil PIACENZA
Switzerland



3rd Place - Anita LUKOSIUTE
Lithuania

Category: Animals



1st Place - Belen Garcia AGUADO - Spain



2nd Place - Mia ALCOCK
Australia



3rd Place - Victoria SHINKARENKO
Ukraine

Category: Environment



1st Place - Fatima RAJA
Pakistan



2nd Place - Afzal M KHAN
Pakistan

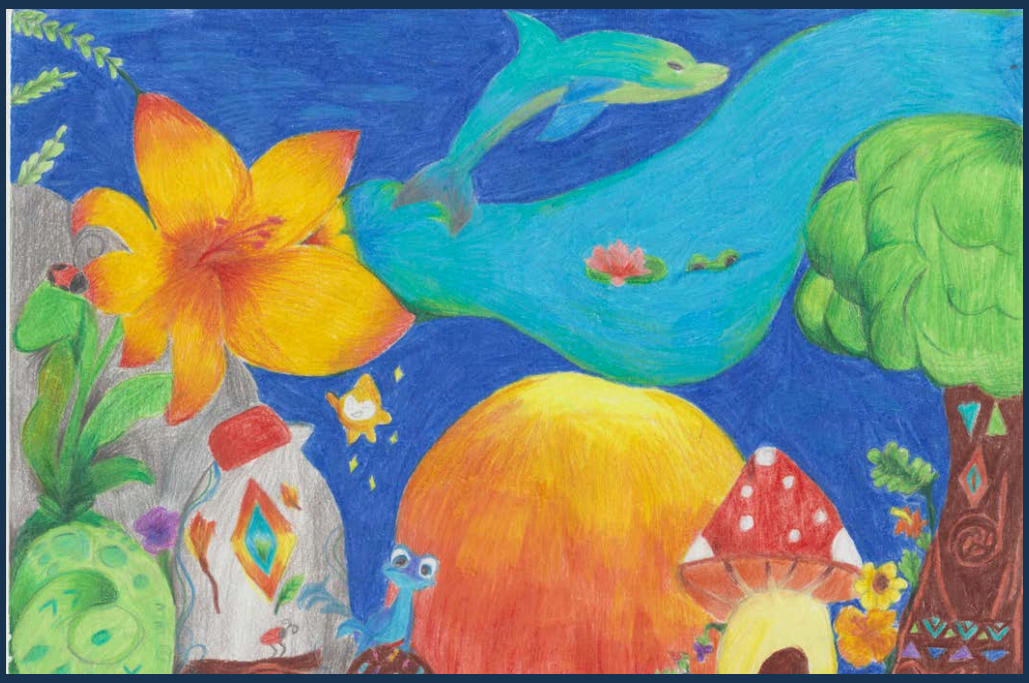


3rd Place - Euthalia TAKOU
Greece

ARTS & CULTURE
IPA SOCIO-CULTURAL COMMISSION

RESULTS OF THE IPA CHILDREN'S DRAWING COMPETITION 2026

Schools - Category: Animals - Maria Leonor GERALDES - Portugal



Cat C - Individuals - Julija Cepulyte-IPA LITHUANIA



Results of the IPA Literary Competition 2026



Literary Competition Results Short Stories-Professional

- Grand Prize- Marius-Gheorghita Cosofret (Romania) - The Math Problem
- 1st place: Vladimir Pipam (Slovenia)- Portoroz Rhapsody in G Major
- 2nd place:Noelia Colmenarejo (Spain) - I Lift Up My eyes
- 3rd place: Rodrigo Gonzalez Herrera (Colombia) - The Swing-18

Special Recognition

- Alina Kusakova (Lithuania) - What Follows me Home
- Pamela Keipcile Malebog (Botswana) - Integrity Over Chaos
- Krzysztof Kapturski (Poland) - To Serve Through Friendship
- John Clifton Hardy (UK) - A Personal Experience
- Martin Stow (Australia) - A Story of Purpose Beyond the Uniform

Literary Competition Results Short Stories

- 1st place: Peter Pleydell (UK) - Man To Boy
- 2nd place: Vicente Corachán (Spain) - With Only Two Blocks
- 3rd place: Eleni Trataris Cotton (UK) - A Crocodile Lurks On The Sand

Special Recognition

- Maria Elizabeth Marrero-Pérez (Puerto Rico-USA) - Mourning For Milagros
- Svetlana Zozulia (Spain) - Time To Wake Up
- Aleksandra Kowalik (Poland) - Fortuna's Emblem - A Double Life



Results of the IPA Literary Competition 2026

Literary Competition Results Poetry - Professional Version

- 1st place: Sunethra Senevirathne (Sri Lanka) - Beyond The Uniform
- 2nd place: Tracy Jennings (Northern Ireland – UK) - SUDI (Sudden Unexplained Death of an Infant
- 3rd place: Margarida Pendilhas (Belgium) - Servo Per Amikeco

Special Recognition

- Joaquim García Mentui (Spain) - Asphalt Samurai / Late Night Reflections
- Ivan Sardak (Russia) - Police of World / Alpine Notes / Police Friendship Week

Literary Competition Results - Poetry - Free Version

- 1st place: Michaela Carmen Alexandrescu (Romania) - About Love
- 2nd place: María Elizabeth Marrero-Pérez (Puerto Rico – USA) - Mourning
- 3rd place: Javier Otero (Spain) - A Sigh from the Soul / Warrior Dance

The entries to the IPA Literary Competition were compiled into a special book, which was distributed during the IPA World Congress in Colombo, Sri Lanka, in October 2026.
You can read a copy of the book here and enjoy the fantastic stories and creative talents of our IPA members from around the world.

View Book



The friendship tree planted in front of the IPA house in Lisbon is a symbol of the unity of the IPA family

During the international meeting of representatives of IPA sections, dedicated to IPA houses and the improvement of accommodation options for members, a tree of friendship was planted in front of the IPA house in Lisbon, as part of the IPA Green project, as a symbol of lasting friendship, cooperation, and connection between the members of the international police association.

The planting of the tree had a special symbolism - just as a tree grows and spreads its roots and branches, so the IPA spreads strong friendship, cooperation and support for all its members - police officers around the world and their families.

This event sends a message of togetherness and recalls the motto of IPA Servo per Amikeco, and the tree of friendship remains as a permanent symbol of meeting in Lisbon and working together.

The tree planted earlier in front of the IPA house in Lisbon, as part of Orange the World, has given its first fruit, which is a symbol of the success of the joint work of women in the IPA and the fight against domestic violence.

The IPA Green Project is the shared responsibility of IPA members towards nature, sustainability and future generations, confirming that friendship through joint work can leave a greener and more lasting footprint.

Biljana Dulović
Project Lead of the IPA Green project



The Countdown Is On for the 2nd IPA World Football Tournament!

Excitement is building as preparations continue for the 2nd IPA World Football Tournament, taking place in Cambrils, Spain, from 7–11 April 2027!

Following the success of the first edition, IPA members from around the world are once again invited to come together for an unforgettable celebration of football, friendship and international camaraderie.

With both Men's Open and Women's Open categories, the tournament promises exciting matches, friendly competition and plenty of opportunities to strengthen friendships across borders.

Participants can look forward to excellent sporting facilities, accommodation in a 4-star hotel just 100 metres from the beach, and an organised programme including full-board accommodation, transfers, a Gala Dinner and commemorative gifts.

Thinking of getting your team together? Now is the time to start planning! Participation is limited to one team per National Section, with each section responsible for nominating a team coordinator and arranging registration through the organisers.

For further details, including participation conditions, accommodation and the full tournament programme, please refer to the official Cambrils 2027 presentation and contact your National Section.

Get ready for football, friendship and the spirit of Servo per Amikeco in sunny Spain!



Watch the Promotional Video

To give you a taste of what awaits in Cambrils, take a look at the promotional video prepared by our hosts and start getting excited for another fantastic celebration of football and IPA friendship!

Watch the Video

Lisbon Hosted The Hosting Sections' Meeting 2026 *Building bridges, strengthening bonds and leaving roots*

Between September 4th and 7th, 2026, Lisbon became a meeting point for the large family of the International Police Association, by hosting the Hosting Sections' Meeting – Lisbon 2026, organized by the Portuguese Section of the IPA.

For four days, representatives of National Sections from different countries met in the Portuguese capital to reflect on the present and future of the IPA Accommodation network, share experiences and good practices and seek answers to common challenges.





Bulgaria, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Greece, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Iceland and the United Kingdom were represented. But this meeting was much more than a work meeting. It was also a space for reunion, discovery, cooperation and, above all, friendship — that friendship without borders that is at the genesis of the International Police Association and that continues to give true meaning to the motto Servo per Amikeco — Service through Friendship.

Lisbon welcomed the IPA family
The program began on September 4, with the arrival and reception of delegations at Casa IPA Nacional, in Lisbon.

A welcome drink marked the welcome to the participants, followed by a dinner in the Casa IPA lounge in an informal atmosphere marked by Portuguese hospitality, there was an opportunity for reunions, presentations and first conversations between representatives from different national realities.

It was the beginning of four days that would combine two inseparable dimensions of the IPA: work and friendship.



IBecause it is also in these moments, around a table and in a conversation between people who share the same values, that many of the ideas, projects and relationships that later turn into effective cooperation between the Sections begin.

Thinking about the future of Casas IPA

On the morning of September 5, the official work agenda began.

After the traditional family photograph, the participants gathered in the Anabela Alferes Noble Hall, at Casa IPA Nacional, for a day dedicated to the analysis of the different realities of the IPA Houses and the international network of accommodation made available to the members of the Association.
The interventions of the various Sections made it possible to learn about different operating and management models, to identify common difficulties and, above ail, to share solutions and experiences that could contribute to improving the international IPA accommodation network

Among the issues addressed were the rules of operation and management of Casas IPA, reservation policies, cancellation procedures, the rights and responsibilities of users and the need to promote greater uniformity of procedures.

One of the topics that deserved particular reflection was the possibility of defining ten common rules applicable to IPA Houses, seeking to establish shared principles regarding reservations, cancellations, use of the facilities and guest responsibilities.

Greater harmonisation will make it possible to offer members travelling between different countries a simpler, more predictable and transparent experience, while respecting the specificities and autonomy of each National Section.

More accommodation, more opportunities, more cooperation

The growth and diversification of the accommodation supply were also important topics of the meeting.

In addition to the existing IPA Houses, the possibility of expanding the options available to members through the establishment of partnerships with hotels, accommodation units and other entities was analysed, creating a complementary network capable of responding to the growing mobility of IPA members and their families.

This perspective goes beyond the simple provision of beds or rooms.

Each accommodation possibility created in the IPA universe also represents a new opportunity to travel, get to know other countries and other cultures, establish contacts and live, in practice, the international dimension of the Association.

The meeting also made it possible to analyse the current booking mechanisms, including the use of Google Forms for the submission of requests.

The accumulated experience allowed us to identify some limitations and difficulties in operation, namely situations in which requests do not arrive correctly at the recipient Sections.

The improvement and simplification of these procedures was, therefore, recognized as an area of particular importance for the future, seeking to make access to the IPA hosting network increasingly easier, efficient and functional.

Taking IPA Houses further

At a time when most travel-related decisions start on a mobile phone or a computer, digital communication could not fail to be part of the reflection.

The need to strengthen the international promotion of the IPA Houses was stressed, taking advantage of the social networks, the media of the National Sections and the channels of the International IPA.

Giving greater visibility to IPA Houses means showing not only rooms and facilities, but also the destinations where they are located, the possibilities they offer and, above all, the differentiating experience of traveling as part of a truly international organization.

The better members know about the existing network, the greater its use and the greater the circulation and contact between members of different Sections.
At the end of the working day, a perception was widely shared by the participants: the meeting had been useful, productive and enriching, allowing them to confront experiences, identify problems, seek solutions and open up new possibilities for cooperation.

But Lisbon still had other moments in store.

A tree to stay in Lisbon

At the end of the afternoon of the 5th, an initiative was carried out as part of IPA Green, an international project that associates IPA's values with environmental responsibility and awareness of sustainability.

In the presence of the participants and Biljana Dulović, President of IPA Montenegro and international responsible for the IPA Green project, a tree was planted in the outdoor space, in front of the National IPA House.

An apparently simple gesture, but loaded with symbolism.

The choice of location was not accidental.
A few days later, the participants would return to their countries. The meeting would end, the bags would be packed again and Lisbon would be left behind.
The tree, however, would remain.
It will stand in front of Casa IPA Nacional as a living memory of Hosting Sections' Meeting – Lisbon 2026 and as a symbol of a commitment that is intended to last.
Over the years it will grow, take root and change with the seasons. Just like friendship. Because friendship also needs roots to remain, space to grow and care to be strengthened.



Portugal and Montenegro: from friendship to compromise

The afternoon was also marked by another moment of special institutional significance: the signing of the Twinning and Institutional Cooperation Protocol between IPA Portugal and IPA Montenegro.

The document formalized a privileged relationship between the two National Sections, based on friendship, reciprocity and the common desire to develop a permanent partnership.

More than formalizing an institutional relationship, the Protocol transforms a friendship built over time into a commitment for the future.

A commitment to rapprochement between members, exchange of experiences, development of joint initiatives and cooperation in areas of common interest.

Portugal and Montenegro were thus linked by an instrument that aims to create new opportunities for the members of the two Sections and deepen the ties that already unite their leaders and associates.

This is also the essence of IPA: to transform contacts into relationships, relationships into friendship and friendship into lasting cooperation.

The Sado, the dolphins and the time to be together

After the intensity of the working day, September 6 was dedicated to the social program.
The participants went to Setúbal, where they had the opportunity to take a boat trip on the Sado River, discovering one of the most emblematic natural landscapes in the region.
The possibility of observing dolphins in their natural habitat made the experience even more special. Between the river, the landscape, the conversations and the inevitable photographs, there was above all time for what no work agenda can replace: being together.

Because the social programs of an international meeting are not just moments of leisure. They are also spaces where relationships are deepened, distances disappear, complicities are born and common memories are created.
And it is often precisely there that the IPA spirit finds one of its most genuine expressions.



A dinner to celebrate what unites us

On the night of September 6, the Farewell Dinner was held, marking the official closing of the program.

It was the moment to bring all the participants together around the same table again, remember the days lived in Lisbon and celebrate the relationships created or strengthened in the meantime.

The presence of His Excellency the National Director of the Public Security Police, Chief Superintendent, Luís Carrilho, an associate of the IPA and also Honorary Vice-President of the Portuguese Section, gave special significance to the moment and also represented the recognition of the importance of the International Police Association and the holding of this international meeting in Portugal.

As a souvenir of participating in the Hosting Sections' Meeting – Lisbon 2026, participants were given a diploma of participation, a family photograph and a souvenir of the city of Lisbon.

Simple objects, but intended to keep the memory of an experience that went far beyond the formal program of the meeting.



A Portuguese organization, a truly international meeting

For IPA Portugal, hosting this meeting was simultaneously a responsibility, an honor and an opportunity.

Organizing an international meeting of this nature in Lisbon meant welcoming colleagues and friends from different countries, ensuring the necessary conditions for the development of the work and, at the same time, providing an experience capable of showing a little of Portugal, its hospitality and the way in which the Portuguese Section understands and lives the values of the IPA.

The recognition expressed by the participants regarding the quality of the organization, the reception and the program developed was, therefore, a reason for particular satisfaction.
This result was possible thanks to the involvement of all those who, directly or indirectly, contributed to the preparation and realization of the meeting, as well as the entities and partners that supported IPA Portugal at the different moments of the program.

More than the logistical success of an event, there was the satisfaction of having provided conditions for the IPA family to meet, work, debate ideas and strengthen relationships.

See you soon, Lisbon

On September 7, the time for farewells inevitably arrived.
The delegations began to return to their countries, taking documents, photographs and souvenirs in their luggage, but also new ideas, new contacts and, hopefully, good memories of Portugal.



For four days, Lisbon was much more than the place where an international meeting was held.

It was a meeting point.
It was a space for dialogue.
It was a place of cooperation.
It was a friend's house.

A Hosting Sections' Meeting – Lisbon 2026, terminou.

But what was built here will continue.

IAnd, year after year, as long as that tree grows in Lisbon, there will also be a living symbol of the days when the IPA family once again demonstrated that borders, languages and distances can separate countries, but do not prevent people from meeting around the same values.
That is the most important asset that a meeting like this can leave.
Not just decisions.
Not just projects.
But bridges, roots and friendship.

Servo per Amikeco — Service through Friendship.
Paula Borralho
Vice-President of IPA Portugal



Serves 4
Ingredients
500 g ground beef
1½ teaspoons salt
2/3 teaspoon ground black pepper
2/3 teaspoon ground white pepper
2 tablespoons breadcrumbs
1 egg
50 cl milk or water
2–3 tablespoons butter
2 onions, thinly sliced
2 tablespoons concentrated beef stock
30–40 cl water
1 tablespoon soy sauce

To serve:
12 potatoes, peeled and boiled
1½ cups fresh green peas (or thawed frozen peas, depending on the season)
Cherry tomatoes
Quick-pickled cucumber: 1 cucumber, cut into large pieces, mixed with 2 tablespoons chopped dill, 1 tablespoon sugar, and 1 tablespoon salt in a plastic bag. Shake well and leave for 3–6 hours. Rinse off the mixture before serving.
Lingonberry jam

Method:
1. Make the quick-pickled cucumber in the morning so it is ready by lunchtime.
2. In a bowl, mix the salt, both peppers, breadcrumbs, egg, and milk or water. Leave to stand for 15 minutes.
3. Peel the potatoes and set them to boil.
4. Add the ground beef and mix well. Leave to rest for 10 minutes.
5. Meanwhile, peel the onions and slice them thinly.
6. Divide the meat mixture into 12 pieces. Shape them into balls, then flatten them to about 1 cm thick.
7. Heat a large frying pan and add 1 tablespoon of butter. Fry 6 meatballs until browned and cooked through, turning them as needed. Transfer them to a deep serving dish. Repeat with the remaining meatballs and another tablespoon of butter.
8. Add 1 tablespoon of butter to the empty frying pan and cook the sliced onions until soft and golden.
9. Leave the onions in the pan and add the beef stock, soy sauce, and water. Taste and season with salt and pepper if needed. Pour the onion gravy over the meatballs.
10. Serve the meatballs with boiled potatoes, green peas, cherry tomatoes, quick-pickled cucumber, and lingonberry jam.

You can find all PolicemenU Recipes on the International Website

https://tinyurl.com/ipamenus

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMISSION

Airpol is the European Network for Police and Border Guard Units at European airports financed by the EU COM, ISF. The Airpol scope are Airport Policing, Aviation Security and Border Security. The main mission is to enhance the cooperation between EU airports and to develop work metods. Airpol has now seven expert groups ongoing; Insider Threat, Intelligence, Behaviour Detection, Securing the Airport Community, Airpol International AVSEC Police, Technology and an Exercise Group.

Airpol also carries out peer visits, training sessions and perform cross border actions.
The main focus for AIRPOL this year is a thorough work on a guideline how to protect landside at the airport. The behaviour detection development is another topic with the AIRPOL web-based part A and the operational Part B carried out at an airport.

Table-top exercises on Counter-Terrorism and Insider Awareness are other activities with 5-10 sessions for each exercise conducted per year.

For info www.airpoleuropa.eu

Oliver Hoffmann
Vice President & Chairperson International Relations Commission



Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with AIRPOL

During the 69th IPA World Congress in Sri Lanka, delegates had the opportunity to hear a presentation from AIRPOL, highlighting the organisation's work and its commitment to strengthening international cooperation.

Following the presentation, we were pleased to formally sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with AIRPOL in the presence of delegates from around the world. The signing marks an important step in developing closer cooperation and collaboration between our two organisations, creating opportunities to share knowledge, experience and expertise.

We look forward to building on this partnership and strengthening our collaboration with AIRPOL in the years ahead.







IPA Marketing Video Competition – And the Winner Is...

The International Police Association (IPA) is delighted to announce the winner of the IPA Marketing Video Competition, celebrating the creativity, talent and enthusiasm of our members around the world.

The competition invited IPA Sections, regions and individual members to create a high-quality promotional video showcasing the values, activities and international spirit of our Association. The aim was to produce engaging content that could be shared across IPA platforms worldwide, highlighting our commitment to friendship, professional cooperation and international understanding.

We received some excellent entries from across the globe, demonstrating just how much talent exists within our international IPA family. A huge thank you to everyone who took the time to participate and submit a video. The standard of creativity and imagination was impressive, and it was fantastic to see the many different ways members chose to represent our Association.

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One particularly exciting aspect of the competition was seeing how artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to create innovative promotional content. The possibilities are incredible, and these entries demonstrated how emerging technologies can help us explore new ways to tell our story, reach wider audiences and promote the fantastic work of the IPA internationally.

Following evaluation by our international judging panel, we are pleased to announce the results:

And the winner is.....

Mirel Basic - IPA Ireland

Runner up -
Eran Israel - Israel

Third Place -
Piotr Wojciechowski - IPAPoland

Congratulations to all three individuals for their outstanding contributions!

IPA MARKETING

IPA Marketing Video Competition – And the Winner Is…

One particularly exciting aspect of the competition was seeing how artificial intelligence (AI) can be used to create innovative promotional content. The possibilities are incredible, and these entries demonstrated how emerging technologies can help us explore new ways to tell our story, reach wider aud
The winning video was featured at the IPA World Congress recently held in Sri Lanka and will have the opportunity to feature in the IPA's official promotional activities, helping to showcase our Association and its values to audiences around the world.

As part of the prize, the winning entrant will also receive an invitation, with expenses paid, to attend an international IPA event. The winner will be contacted directly to discuss the arrangements and agree on a suitable event.

We would once again like to thank everyone who entered and our judging panel for their time and contribution. Your enthusiasm, creativity and willingness to embrace new ideas demonstrate the strength of our global network and the many opportunities we have to promote the IPA in fresh and engaging ways.

Congratulations to our winner, Mirel Basic of IPA Ireland and thank you to all our talented members for helping to bring the IPA story to life!

Servo per Amikeco – Service Through Friendship

IPA International Marketing Team

View the Videos

1st Place Video - Mirel Basic

2nd Place Video - Eran Israel

3rd Place Video - Piotr Wojciechowski

A special mentio to all our entrants:

Pieter-Jan Oris - IPA Belgium

Laurie Cook - IPA Canada

Kilinan Naëlya - IPA France

Rana Salahuddin - IPA Pakistan

Sani Kabir Bayero - IPA South Africa

Thank you For your Participation

Austria

Blue Walks – Pink Cause" campaign

On 4 October 2026, IPA Lower Austria and IPA Styria jointly organised an autumn walk followed by a picnic. In total, around 34 IPA friends took part, including the President of IPA Austria Robert Neumann, and the Secretary General Walter Rosanits. In addition, IPA Lower Austria organised an asphalt stock shooting event, which also drew numerous participants.

All of the sporting activities took place in excellent weather. There was plenty of laughter, and new friendships were made.

We would like to thank the IEB for the idea, and we will certainly be taking part again next year.

Elke Strohmeyer
3rd Vice President, IPA Austria











Belgium

COPS 2.0: Service Through Friendship in the Fight Against Drug-Related Crime

From 16 to 23 August 2026, the International Police Association Belgium – Section Antwerp welcomed an international group of police, customs and military police professionals to Campus Vesta in Ranst for COPS 2.0 – Drugs & Related Violence. What followed was an intensive week of learning, practical training, knowledge exchange and friendship, all centred on one of the most pressing security challenges facing Europe today: organised drug crime and the violence that accompanies it.



Although the organisers did not reach the ambitious number of participants initially envisaged, the final group of approximately 15 to 20 colleagues proved to be the ideal size for what IPA has always stood for: personal connections, open dialogue and international friendship.

Rather than being a limitation, the smaller group created a close-knit atmosphere where participants quickly got to know one another, shared experiences from their respective countries and built professional networks that will undoubtedly continue long after the seminar.

The seminar combined strategic, operational and practical perspectives on combating organised crime. Throughout the week, participants received presentations from Belgian specialists working on the frontlines of the fight against drug trafficking and related violence. Topics ranged from the role of the Belgian police and international cooperation to customs, military policing, synthetic drug production, hidden compartments and specialised support services.

One of the highlights was the presentation by the Federal Maritime & River Police (SPN), which provided a detailed insight into Belgium's waterborne policing capabilities and the ongoing battle against cocaine trafficking through the Port of Antwerp. Participants learned about the evolution of the service, its specialised vessels and its Technical Support Team (TST), which supports investigations involving hidden compartments, evidence recovery, drugs, explosives and underwater searches. The session also illustrated how the maritime police strengthened their operational response following the wave of drug-related violence that affected Antwerp in recent years.



Belgium Cont

Another thought-provoking presentation was delivered by Annemie De Boye of ARIEC Limburg, who explained the growing importance of the administrative approach to organised crime. Participants discovered how municipalities, mayors and administrative authorities can play a crucial role in disrupting criminal networks by using licensing policies, inspections, information sharing and integrity screenings. The presentation demonstrated that combating organised crime requires far more than arrests alone; it demands a coordinated effort involving police, judicial authorities, tax administrations and local governments.

The international dimension of organised crime was further explored through a specialist session on hidden compartments in vehicles. Experts from the International Concealed Compartments Network explained how criminal organisations use increasingly sophisticated concealment methods to transport drugs, cash and weapons across borders.

Participants gained valuable operational knowledge on identifying indicators, conducting searches safely and preserving forensic evidence, while



COPS 2.0: Service Through Friendship in the Fight Against Drug-Related Crime

also learning about the importance of European cooperation and information sharing in tackling these criminal techniques.

A particularly impressive day focused on synthetic drug production, a criminal phenomenon with which Belgium is increasingly confronted. Specialists explained the evolution of drug laboratories, the chemicals and equipment used in large-scale production of amphetamine, MDMA, methamphetamine and synthetic cathinones, as well as emerging trends in the criminal landscape. Participants gained insight into the multidisciplinary Belgian approach, involving police, forensic experts and hazardous materials specialists working together to detect and dismantle clandestine laboratories.

Equally important was the emphasis on safety. Detailed briefings highlighted the significant risks associated with synthetic drug laboratories, including toxic gases, fires, explosions, corrosive chemicals, environmental contamination and improvised or defective equipment. Officers were reminded that recognising a laboratory is only the first step; knowing how to safely secure a scene and request specialised assistance can be equally important.

While the lectures provided participants with valuable expertise, Friday's programme demonstrated that policing ultimately remains a practical profession. The entire day was dedicated to hands-on training and scenario-based learning.

Belgium Cont



This was followed by baton training, also based on the principles of Doce Pares Eskrima. Participants refined their skills in the lawful and effective use of the baton while developing a better understanding of distance management, movement and personal protection during confrontational situations.
Perhaps the most engaging part of the practical day was the roleplay programme. Participants were confronted with realistic scenarios based on incidents and operational situations that Belgian police services have encountered. Working together, colleagues from different countries were challenged to solve the situations using their own experience, tactics and professional judgement. After each exercise, Belgian officers provided feedback, operational insights and practical recommendations. These discussions quickly became one of the most valuable learning opportunities of the week, as participants discovered how different countries approach similar policing challenges. The exchange of knowledge, tactics and professional experiences perfectly reflected the international spirit of the seminar.

Beyond the classroom and training grounds, COPS 2.0 delivered what IPA events do best: bringing people together. The all-inclusive residential format, shared meals, evening conversations and informal networking opportunities helped create friendships and professional connections that cannot be achieved through online meetings or short conferences. The famous IPA spirit was present throughout the week.

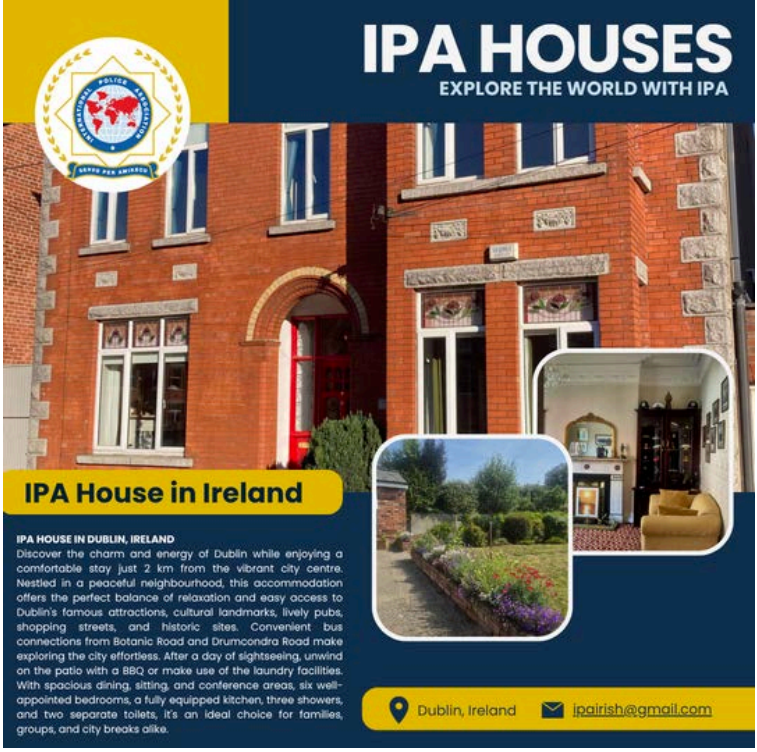
The programme concluded with a visit to Antwerp, where participants explored the city through the eyes of a specialised crime guide. Historical crime scenes, policing stories and modern-day challenges provided an interesting cultural and professional perspective on Belgium's largest port city before participants enjoyed some free time to discover Antwerp on their own.
Looking back, COPS 2.0 was much more than a seminar about drugs and related violence. It became a platform where operational experts, investigators and frontline officers could learn from one another, challenge each other's perspectives and build lasting international partnerships. The combination of expert presentations, practical workshops, realistic scenarios and informal networking created precisely the environment that the IPA seeks to foster.

In the end, the success of COPS 2.0 was not measured by the number of participants, but by the quality of the experience shared among them. The friendships formed, the lessons learned and the international cooperation strengthened during the week are a testament to the enduring relevance of the IPA motto:
Servo per Amikeco – Service Through Friendship
Sven Maertens - IPA Belgium

IPA House Dublin

Ireland

IPA HOUSE IN DUBLIN, IRELAND
Discover the charm and energy of Dublin while enjoying a comfortable stay just 2 km from the vibrant city centre. Nestled in a peaceful neighbourhood, this accommodation offers the perfect balance of relaxation and easy access to Dublin's famous attractions, cultural landmarks, lively pubs, shopping streets, and historic sites. Convenient bus connections from Botanic Road and Drumcondra Road make exploring the city effortless. After a day of sightseeing, unwind on the patio with a BBQ or make use of the laundry facilities. With spacious dining, sitting, and conference areas, six well-appointed bedrooms, a fully equipped kitchen, three showers, and two separate toilets, it's an ideal choice for families, groups, and city breaks alike.



Location: Dublin

House Manager:

Bookings: ipairish@gmail.com

International Code:

Accomodation: IPA House

Sleeps: 14

Rooms: 6

Additional info:
Dining sitting and conference rooms.
6 bedrooms 4 of which are ensuite.
2 showers, 2 separate toilets.
Large kitchen.









For More Information on this house or other IPA Houses please visit The International Website:

https://ipa-international.org/ipa-houses/

Bosnia & Herzegovina

9th IPA Motorcycle Meeting – Sarajevo 2026

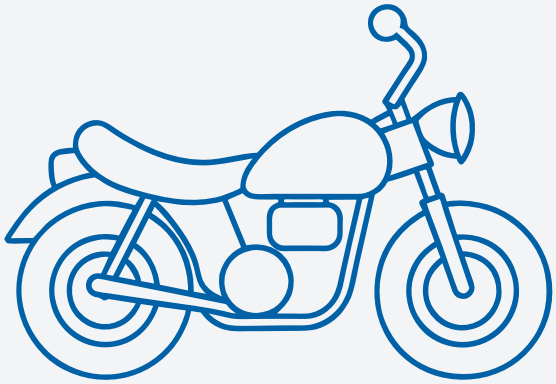
From 3 to 6 September 2026, the 9th IPA Motorcycle Meeting was successfully held in Sarajevo, organized by the IPA Section Bosnia and Herzegovina – Regional Club Sarajevo.

The meeting brought together more than 120 participants from 13 European countries, once again highlighting the importance of international friendship, cooperation, and connections among IPA members through shared activities.
During the event, participants had the opportunity to discover the natural and tourist attractions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Organized motorcycle rides took them across Bjelašnica Mountain to Boračko Lake and Konjic, as well as to Jahorina Mountain and Orlovača Cave.

The entire event took place in an exceptionally friendly atmosphere, with opportunities for socializing, exchanging experiences, and building new friendships among IPA members from different European countries.
The meeting once again demonstrated the values and strength of the international IPA family, in the spirit of our motto:

Servo per Amikeco – Service Through Friendship.

IPA Bosnia & Herzegovina





Botswana

Donation of 15 Pairs of School Shoes to Makolojane Primary School, Serowe Village



Date: Friday, 18th September 2026

Venue: Makolojane Primary School, Serowe Village

Donor: International Police Association (IPA) - North Central Region, Botswana

Beneficiary: Makolojane Primary School Learners

On Friday 18th September 2026, the International Police Association, North Central Region, Botswana, under its motto *Servo Per Amikeco – Service Through Friendship*, embarked on a community outreach initiative at Makolojane Primary School in Serowe Village. The activity involved the donation of 15 pairs of school shoes to identified needy learners.

Objective

- To support vulnerable learners with basic school requirements
- To promote school attendance and learner dignity
- To strengthen police-community partnership
- - To fulfill IPA's humanitarian and social responsibility mandate

Donation Process

The beneficiaries were identified by the school management based on need.

The shoes were officially handed over by the IPA North Central Region Executive to the School Head. The School Head expressed sincere gratitude and stated that the donation will motivate learners and ease their daily challenges of walking long distances to school.

Impact

The donation was warmly received by learners, teachers and parents. It has boosted learner morale and strengthened the relationship between the police and the community.

Conclusion

The donation was a success and aligns with IPA's values of friendship and service. The Association remains committed to continue supporting needy communities in the North Central Region.

SERVO PER AMIKECO!

Pelonomi Juliah MARUMO
IPA Botswana



Israel

IPA Israel Tribute Evening

For the third consecutive year, IPA Israel held a tribute evening honoring Israel Police officer, the families of fallen officers, and the wounded.

The event took place at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, attended by nearly 3,000 IPA members. Former Commissioners, commanders, and the former Minister of Public Security were also invited to the tribute. Commissioner Dani Levy highlighted IPA's significant contribution to the Israel Police and its retirees, noting the organization's role in providing a warm, supportive, and helpful environment.

IPA Israel President Adv. Gal Sharon remarked: "We are concluding four years of significant activity, and I am proud of the journey we have taken together to transform IPA Israel into a stronger, more advanced organization that serves as a home and a family to its members.



Throughout these four difficult and challenging years, we have embraced the families of the fallen and the wounded."

IPA Israel continues to support and assist the families of fallen police officers and those who were wounded. This is largely due to donations from police organizations around the world—particularly Jewish police associations in New York.

Thus, beyond paying tribute to the officers, the families of the fallen, and the wounded, practical aid is also provided directly to the families.

The performer at the tribute event was Idan Amedi, a leading Israeli singer; he had been severely wounded in the war and returned to performing after a long rehabilitation period. He was wounded alongside a police officer from the counter-terrorism unit who was subsequently killed in action.



IPA Israel Tribute Evening

Amedi dedicated his songs to the officer's mother, who was present at the event.





The main event serves as a summary of the current operational year, during which emphasis was placed on implementing a new computer system to assist with management, logistics, budgeting, and member services. Concurrently, service efficiency is being enhanced through amendments to the bylaws and changes to the organizational structure of the branches. A revolution is also underway regarding IPA membership, driven by a new digital application form, coordination with the recruitment bureaus of the Israel Police and the Israel Prison Service, and the introduction of a new digital information page that links directly to the IPA application form. The system has been operational for three months, already attracting nearly 1,000 new members—all active-duty police officers.

This salute event honors police officers while also recognizing the extensive network of branch chairpersons, presidency members, and staff who drive this momentum of activity.

Eran Israel
IPA Israel



Israel

The secrets behind recruiting new members to the IPA



What is the factor that most influences our ability to recruit new members to the IPA?

This topic came up in many discussions at the IPA Management Academy.

Many ideas came up, all of which were distributed to all branches as part of the summaries of the discussions at the Management Academy.

There were ideas that dealt with long-term strategy, setting goals, directions of action, principles, values. The common denominator for all of these ideas was that they all dealt with the ethical, conceptual aspect and less with technology and useful tools for recruiting.

n most discussions at the Management Academy, practical questions arose, such as the difference between national branches regarding the collection of membership fees. How to join, retaining members after retirement.

There were discussions that dealt with different recruitment methods, targeting members by age groups, places for initial meetings, mainly in academies and police colleges.

The conclusions revealed a disturbing picture: most recruitment is related to the technical tools and places where members are recruited, just as most retirements stem from procedural issues of continuing to collect membership fee.

From the summaries of the discussions and tests I conducted with members from many sections around the world, the following picture emerges: young members join because of the framework, or the contact of a senior officer, or as part of the recruitment process for the police.



Israel Cont

The secrets behind recruiting new members to the IPA

They usually do not know the IPA in depth, do not really know what they receive from the organization.

Payment of membership fee comes from the paycheck, and therefore in sections that have close ties with the police and the police technological systems, including salaries, it is easy to recruit new members.

The meeting with them takes place in the early stages of police training. And what happens when you retire? In sections where pension funds are provided by the police or the office that deals with salaries, membership in the IPA continues.

As soon as there is a disconnect and the salary comes from another source, the retired member has to re-arrange his membership in the organization, and this is where there is a big downfall.

We analyzed the situation in IPA Israel, with the intention of helping sections around the world learn from our experience.

IPA Israel is a very large section with 24,000 members in a country where the police force has only 30,000 members. We lose about 1,000 members every year for the following reasons: nearly 400 die, and the rest are members we proactively expel.

Every IPA member over the age of 80 receives a phone call from a member of the national board who is dealing with this and other members.

We check the member's condition, whether he benefits from IPA's services, and his health.

There are elderly members who are in nursing homes, hospitalized, and those with whom we have no contact.

We check with the member or his family whether he wants to remain a member of IPA. There are sick and nursing members who see their dignity being violated. Longtime members who consider membership in the IPA an honor and are not willing to disengage, regardless of their situation.

At the same time, we recruit around 1,000 new members each year, so the number of members in the organization remains the same. Most of the new members are young police officers who get to know the IPA through their local branches.

In Israel, the membership fees of a serving police officer, a prison guard, and retirees are managed by a single system through the pay stub or benefit, and in this respect, it is very convenient, because there is no need for separate registration. We have another group of Civil Guard volunteers who serve like police officers without pay and on a voluntary basis. They pay their membership fees by annual standing order.

Israel Cont

In Israel, there is a great advantage in that the salary system allows membership fees to be paid from the pay stub, even for retirees.

This does not exist in all sections in the world, and it turns out that the solution is not ideological, but simply to reach an agreement with the relevant ministry and arrange the payment of membership fees.

Another issue is the joining process. You have to go to the police officers and bring them registration forms, and this is where a cumbersome bureaucratic process begins.

We recently added an IPA membership form to the IPA Israel website Digital. It is important to emphasize that we have had such forms in the past and the problem is security and maintaining the police officer's details. It is necessary to regulate the storage of information with the police and the person responsible for the IPA's technological system. From the moment the system went live, within a week over 300 new police officers joined the IPA. Solely as a result of the new technological system.

What happens when an IPA sections becomes a closed club and there is no desire to open it to new members? Here the data speaks for itself and the picture is very worrying: There are only 4 branches with over 20,000 members. Only 4 with over 10,000 members. 8 with over 5,000 members and there are 18 with 1,000 members and 9 with less than 300 members.

The secrets behind recruiting new members to the IPA

In every discussion we held at the IPA Management Academy, the topic of recruiting new members to the IPA was in first place. That is why it is important to engage in international learning, to learn from each other. There are differences between the branches, between the police forces, but we need to learn how to reach young police officers and how to provide a quality technological infrastructure, because it turns out that this is the secret to recruiting new members.

Dr Eran Israel
IPA Israel

Events





Kenya

IPA Section Kenya Goes Green: 1,000 Mangrove Seedlings Planted on the Coast

On the 10th September 2026, at Mwachisongo, in Gungombe, Mwakirungu Sub Location, of Mombasa County, the International Police Association (IPA), Kenya Section, (Coast Region), Mombasa, in a show of community service, environmental responsibility and international friendship, took a meaningful step towards protecting Kenya's Indian ocean coastline by planting 1,000 mangrove seedlings.

The initiative is part of the IPA Section Kenya Coast Region's commitment to restoring and expanding mangrove forests along the Kenyan coast. Mangroves play an important role in keeping our coastal environment healthy. They provide breeding and nursery grounds for marine life, protect shorelines from erosion, support the livelihoods of coastal communities and help address climate change by storing carbon.

The planting exercise brought together IPA members, the Earthlung Afforestation Foundation, local stakeholders and members of the community, all working towards a common goal. For the participants, it was not about simply planting trees. It was an opportunity to put the IPA motto, "Service through Friendship," into action by giving back to the community and helping protect the environment for future generations.

While planting 1,000 seedlings is an important achievement, it is only the beginning. The real success of the initiative will be measured by how many of those seedlings survive and grow into healthy mangrove forests. IPA Section Kenya, Coast Region, therefore plans to monitor the planted areas, carry out follow-up planting and work with partners and local communities to ensure the seedlings are properly cared for.

The long-term vision is to develop a sustainable, multi-year mangrove restoration programme that brings together IPA members, communities, government institutions, private-sector partners and environmental organisations.





Kenya



IPA Section Kenya, Coast Region, also welcomes partnerships, technical expertise, resources and collaboration from IPA sections around the world and other organisations that share this vision. With the right support and continued commitment, this initiative can grow from a single planting exercise into a lasting conservation programme for Kenya's coastline.

IPA Section Kenya Goes Green: 1,000 Mangrove Seedlings Planted on the Coast

Every seedling planted today is an investment in tomorrow. By working together, we can help restore our mangroves, strengthen coastal communities and leave a healthier coastline for generations to come.
1,000 seedlings planted. One shared commitment. A greener coast for generations to come.

By Col. Henry Nyambok, project lead, and member IPA Section Kenya, Coast Region.





Lithuania

Four Officers, Two Countries, One IPA Family



Building Bridges of Friendship Between Switzerland and Lithuania

Two countries, four police officers and one shared spirit of friendship. Sometimes, the most meaningful international connections begin with a simple handshake, a warm smile and the realisation that, despite different languages, uniforms and policing traditions, we share the same values.

This is exactly what happened during the 2026 police officer exchange programme between the Swiss and Lithuanian Sections of the International Police Association (IPA). What began as an opportunity to exchange professional knowledge and experience became something much more meaningful – an unforgettable experience of friendship, mutual trust and genuine international camaraderie.

For the second consecutive year, both IPA Sections have demonstrated that the Association's motto, "Servo per Amikeco" – "Service Through Friendship", is much more than just words.

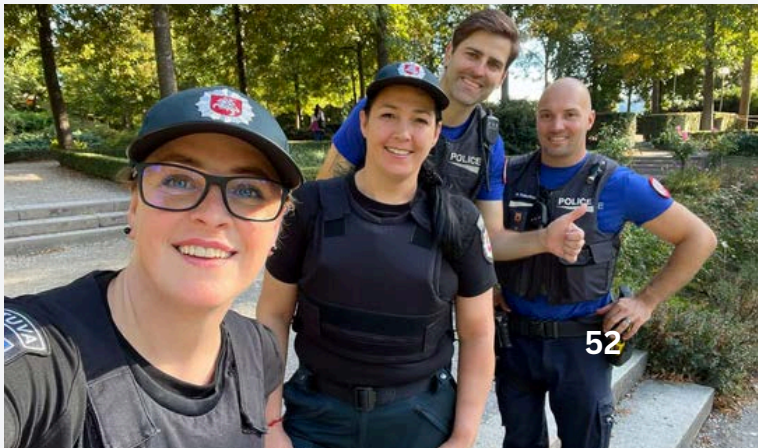
It is a philosophy that comes to life whenever police officers meet as colleagues and part as friends.

Switzerland: Professional Inspiration and a Warm Welcome

From 14 to 20 September 2026, Lithuanian police officers Jurgita Juozaitytė and Grita Butkuvienė visited Switzerland, where they gained valuable professional experience by working alongside police patrols in Bern, observing the activities of the specialised KROKU unit and learning about Swiss policing methods. However, what impressed them most was the professionalism, genuine hospitality and friendship of their Swiss colleagues, which made them feel part of one big IPA family.

Jurgita Juozaityte, Lithuania

"Participating in the exchange programme in Switzerland was an incredible experience, filled with positive emotions and unforgettable moments. Learning about Swiss policing, particularly the joint emergency operations centre, provided valuable professional insights. I returned home with new ideas, inspiration and wonderful memories. Different countries, different experiences, but one shared mission – helping people and keeping them safe."



Lithuania Cont

Four Officers, Two Countries, One IPA Family

Grita Butkuviene, Lithuania

"Our week in Switzerland passed in the blink of an eye, but the memories will stay with us for a long time. In Bern, we were welcomed like members of one big family. Working alongside patrol officers and the KROKU unit was both fascinating and inspiring. Above all, we were impressed by our colleagues' professionalism, empathy and genuine friendship. This experience reminded us once again of the true spirit of IPA."

Lithuania: Where Colleagues Become Friends

From 22 to 27 September 2026, Swiss police officers Rachel Josephine Meier and Julian Luca Baier visited Lithuania, where they explored police operations in Vilnius, Anykščiai and Kaunas, joined their Lithuanian colleagues on patrol and attended the Police and Community Celebration in Marijampolė. Lithuanian hospitality, warm personal connections and genuine friendship transformed their professional visit into an unforgettable experience, bringing the IPA motto "Servo per Amikeco" to life.





Lithuanian Police and Community Celebration – A Moment of Togetherness

One of the highlights of the entire exchange programme was the opportunity for the Swiss officers to attend the Lithuanian Police and Community Celebration in Marijampolė. The event brought together police officers, their families and members of the public in a celebration filled with pride in the policing profession, openness, smiles and a strong sense of community spirit.

Rachel Josephine Meier, Switzerland

"It was a wonderful and unforgettable week! We learned so much about Lithuanian policing and discovered both similarities and interesting differences between our countries. Attending the Police and Community Celebration in Marijampolė was particularly impressive – a tradition we could certainly learn from. Thank you sincerely for your kindness, hospitality and friendship. We will never forget this experience."

Julian Luca Baier, Switzerland

"A huge thank you for such a well-organised, rewarding and valuable programme! We were welcomed with incredible warmth and sincerity. Working alongside our Lithuanian colleagues was both interesting and inspiring. The hospitality, friendship and wonderful experiences made this visit truly special."

Four Officers, Two Countries, One IPA Family

More Than an Exchange – A Friendship That Lasts

The exchange programme received positive feedback from both participants and police leadership, once again highlighting the importance of international cooperation. However, its greatest value lies not only in the professional knowledge gained, but also in the friendships formed, the trust strengthened and the unforgettable memories created.

For Jurgita, Grita, Rachel and Julian, this experience demonstrated that police officers from different countries share the same calling – to serve people and protect their communities. This is where the true strength of IPA lies: bringing people together across national borders.

We sincerely thank the IPA Sections of Switzerland and Lithuania, the programme organisers, our colleagues and the Lithuanian police leadership for their support, hospitality and friendship. We believe this initiative will inspire future meetings and even stronger international bonds.

Because the most important thing we bring home from an IPA exchange is knowing that somewhere beyond our country's borders, we now have friends. Four officers. Two countries. One IPA family.

Servo per Amikeco – Service Through Friendship!

Authors: IPA Lithuanian Section, in cooperation with the exchange programme participants.





New Zealand

IPA New Zealand Launches Virtual Run Club

IPA New Zealand has launched a Virtual Run Club, providing members with a fun and flexible way to stay active, connect with fellow IPA members and take part in activities together, wherever they are around the world.

The initiative uses Strava to bring members together, allowing participants to record and share their runs, encourage one another and become part of a growing virtual community. Whether you are an experienced runner or simply looking for some extra motivation to get moving, the Virtual Run Club offers an opportunity to get involved at your own pace.

It is another great example of how IPA Sections are using new ideas and digital platforms to encourage friendship, wellbeing and participation among members.

IPA New Zealand welcomes members to join the club and take part in this new initiative.

Join the IPA New Zealand Virtual Run Club on Strava:

IPA New Zealand Virtual Run Club
IPA New Zealand



Portugal

MineTEx 2026



Portugal, September 21 to 25, 2026, the Faro District (Algarve) hosted the 10th edition of the international exercise MineTEx 2026. Organized by the EIEXSS unit of the UEP/Faro Detached Force, the event featured close collaboration with the IPA-Portugal Southern Delegation and support from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Underground Safety Center (CIEXSS) of the PSP's Special Police Unit. This high-level operational gathering brought together highly qualified specialists from various agencies, including personnel from the PSP's CIEXSS, the Air Force, the Army, the GNR, and Spain's National Police Corps (Cuerpo Nacional de Policía).

Over the course of five days, EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) experts shared tactics, protocols, and operational best practices, thereby strengthening interoperability and joint response capabilities in the face of complex security scenarios. Ongoing cooperation and knowledge sharing are essential to ensuring safety and protection for all.

Servo Per Amikeco

Fernando Palma
President of the Southern Delegation of the Portuguese Section



Romania

Sibiu becomes the capital of women's solidarity in policing

From 2–5 September 2026, Sibiu, Romania, hosted the second edition of the international conference "SheisIPA – The Role of Women in IPA: Trends and Challenges", bringing together female police officers and IPA members from nine countries across two continents: Cyprus, Israel, North Macedonia, the Netherlands, Canada, Greece, Sweden, the Republic of Moldova and Romania.

Coordinated by Marius Mureșan, Vice President of IPA Romania, the four-day event provided an international platform for participants to exchange professional experiences, share best practices and strengthen cooperation, while exploring the evolving role of women in law enforcement and civil society.



The conference was honoured by the participation of Mihai Liviu Tărtăreanu, President of IPA Romania, and Kikis Perikleous, Treasurer Finances, International Police Association, whose presence highlighted the importance of the SheisIPA initiative and its contribution to strengthening international cooperation within IPA.



An Agenda Beyond the Uniform

The conference went beyond traditional professional perspectives, addressing topics such as leadership, digital security, resilience, empathy and community engagement.

Representing the Sibiu County Police Inspectorate, Police Commissary Mihaela Huzoaica, coordinator of the Crime Analysis and Prevention Unit and Vice President of IPA Region 1 Sibiu, together with retired Colonel Răducu Magda, member of the SheisIPA project, ensured the dynamic flow of discussions in their roles as moderators and speakers.

The conference also welcomed guest speakers from other strategic fields.



Sibiu becomes the capital of women's solidarity in policing

Orșolia Bako, Vice President of Women4Cyber Romania, presented "Leadership and the Digital Frontier", highlighting the importance of adaptability, digital skills and women's preparedness in an increasingly connected world facing continuous cyber threats.

Dr. Rafaela Coca, Medical Oncology Specialist, addressed "Resilience and the Human Side of Care", focusing on stress management, empathy and the human dimension of professions dedicated to supporting people during difficult moments.

Cătălina Costache, Executive Director of the Polisano Foundation, presented "Community Impact and Building Lasting Change", emphasizing civic responsibility and the power of sustained community initiatives to create meaningful social transformation.

Building Bridges Through Cooperation
The discussions in Sibiu highlighted a broader understanding of modern leadership—one based not only on professional authority, but also on courage, empathy, adaptability and the ability to inspire positive change.

The second edition of SheisIPA demonstrated once again that bringing women together across borders, cultures and professional systems creates opportunities for learning, cooperation and mutual support. The connections established in Sibiu represent an important step towards a stronger international community within IPA, where diversity becomes a source of strength and shared experience can inspire lasting change.

Because change begins with each of us, but becomes stronger when we build it together.

Servo per Amikeco!

Marius Mureșan, Vicepresident of IPA ROMANIA



Spain

IPA Extremadura brought 63 works by artist José Manuel Otero to the Civil Guard Headquarters in Badajoz during a magical night that drew over 110,000 people.



There are nights when Badajoz transforms. It ceases to be merely a city and becomes a stage. This happens every first Saturday of September, as dusk falls and *La Noche en Blanco* (The White Night) begins. Monuments that usually slumber behind closed doors open their eyes. Museums, churches, theaters, and palaces light up. The streets are filled with families, young people, children with flashlights, and older adults rediscovering their city.

This year, on September 5th, more than 110,000 souls ventured out to experience it. There were over 150 offerings—music, theater, dance, workshops, and video mapping they turned the historic center into a celebration of culture.

And at the heart of that map lay a building that simply had to be included: the Civil Guard barracks housed in the former Convent of Santo Domingo. Its cloistered courtyard, built of centuries-old stone, once again became an open barracks.

"BETWEEN SHADOWS AND OLIVE GREEN"

Art Paying Tribute to the Civil Guard Captivates Badajoz's "White Night"

There, as happens every year, units such as Nature Protection Service SEPRONA, Traffic Unit, Public Safety, and the Special Underwater Activities Group, GEAS showcased their equipment and daily work right among the public.
But this year, there was something different. Something more intimate.

A gesture of respect.



In the assembly hall, sixty-three pairs of eyes silently watched us from the wall. Sixty-three drawings—in pencil, charcoal, and color. Sixty-three Civil Guards. Women and men, past and present, from every specialty, rendered with a precision so lifelike it was almost painful to behold.

It was "Entre sombras y verde oliva" ("Between Shadows and Olive Green"), the collection by artist and IPA Extremadura associate member José Manuel Otero.



Otero does not draw uniforms; he draws vocation. In every stroke, there are hours of research, a respect for detail—the sheen of a cap, the crease of a service coat, the tension of a mountain rescue—and, above all, humanity. His work is a quiet tribute to a 181-year-old institution that lives in close connection with the public.

The public understood this. For five days, there was a steady stream of visitors who wandered in out of curiosity and stayed for a long time, pointing things out: "Look, that one is from the Traffic Division, like my father," or "That's a colleague." No one remained indifferent.

A closing ceremony with honors.



The exhibition concluded on September 10th with a very special guided tour. José Manuel Otero himself, accompanied by his wife, acted as guide for the officials who came to show their support:

The Government Delegate in Extremadura Region, the Sub-delegate of the Government in Badajoz province, the Brigadier General commanding the Extremadura Zone,

"BETWEEN SHADOWS AND OLIVE GREEN"

Art Paying Tribute to the Civil Guard Captivates Badajoz's "White Night"

the Lieutenant Colonel commanding the Badajoz Command, the Head of the Badajoz Operational Unit of Customs Surveillance, and yours truly—the President of IPA Extremadura.

To top it all off, a portrait created specifically for the occasion was presented to the General Commanding the Zone. It was a moving moment that encapsulates the spirit of the IPA: *Servo per Amikeco*—Serving through friendship.

Thank you, and... to be continued.



We at IPA Extremadura would like to express our gratitude: to the Badajoz Command for opening their home to us—a place that represents a living part of the city's history; to the Badajoz City Council's Department of Culture for their indispensable logistical support in providing the easels; and, of course, to José Manuel Otero and his wife for their generosity and warmth, and for leaving a piece of their art here in Extremadura.

Spain Cont



"BETWEEN SHADOWS AND OLIVE GREEN"

We hope to have given something back to you by showcasing our land, our cuisine, and the character of our people—both from Badajoz and our Portuguese neighbors. We believe you left delighted.

It doesn't end here. "Entre sombras y verde oliva" (Between Shadows and Olive Green) is a traveling exhibition driven by a spirit of service, much like the Civil Guard itself. We are already working to bring it to the Cáceres Command and the Mérida and Plasencia Companies, with a very special stop at the Mérida Traffic School featuring a brand-new series dedicated to the Traffic Group.

Because some tributes deserve to be seen time and time again.

En Badajoz, a 27 de septiembre de 2026.

Fdo. Antonio J. Cabello Garay
PRESIDENTE IPA EXTREMADURA



World Police & Fire Games, Perth Australia 2027

You're invited to the World Police & Fire Games, the world's largest multisport event for active, volunteer and retired law enforcement and emergency services personnel. Join 8,500 athletes of all skill levels standing Shoulder to Shoulder, on and off the field.

12–21 March 2027

Police officers, police auxiliary officers and police staff are eligible to compete and volunteer.





Spain

UMEDULA BADAJOZ 2026



The Military Emergency Unit (UME) organized a campaign to promote bone marrow donation through sporting activities in eleven cities across Spain.
All UME units stationed throughout the country organize a series of sporting events involving soldiers from the Unit, the Armed Forces, security forces and agencies, public administration, and emergency services.

World Bone Marrow Donor Day is observed annually on the third Saturday of September.

Coinciding with this date, various solidarity initiatives take place during the preceding week in the following cities: Huelva, Seville, Cartagena, Valencia, Palma de Mallorca, Zaragoza, León, Barcelona, San Cristóbal de la Laguna, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, and Badajoz—with the latter being the first city to organize the event in Extremadura.

UMEdula is a solidarity initiative by the UME aimed at promoting bone marrow donation through sports activities, primarily stationary bike relay events. Beyond active participation, it seeks to raise public awareness about the importance of this gesture.

This campaign is carried out in coordination with the National Transplant Organization (ONT) and the Extremadura Blood and Tissue Bank and also enjoys the support of various institutions and companies.

Information stations are set up at each location where attendees can learn more about what becoming a bone marrow donor entail, alongside collection centers for those who decide to donate.



IPA Extremadura participated with a team of 50 people, including members, family, friends, and supporters. The activity involved stationery cycling in 30-minute relay shifts.

In Badajoz, the event took place at the Paseo de San Francisco on September 16, running from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. IPA Extremadura was assigned the 8:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. time slot; as the last of the 24 registered teams to participate, we brought the charity event to a close.



Spain Cont

UMEDULA BADAJOZ 2026

The initiative reflects the corporate social responsibility of the UME and the participating groups. It originated in 2014, when Corporal Abraham Trigo launched the "Mediterranean Challenge" charity project to raise funds for the fight against cancer.

Following his cancer diagnosis, the BIEM I (First Emergency Intervention Battalion) organized the first 48-hour stationary cycling event in 2018 under the name "Proyecto UMEdula."



Since 2023, the UME has extended this spirit of solidarity across the entire country, involving all its battalions.

Spain stands out for its solidarity regarding organ donation.

Last year, more than 3,800 bone marrow transplants were performed, and the Spanish Bone Marrow Donor Registry surpassed 520,000 donors, doubling the rate.

Even so, greater awareness is needed: the probability of finding a compatible donor is 1 in 3,500. Increasing the number of donors is crucial to improving patients' chances of success.

Diseases such as leukemia, lymphoma, or immunodeficiencies may require a bone marrow transplant, which involves replacing diseased cells with healthy cells from a donor.

To become a donor, one must be between 18 and 40 years old and free of transmissible diseases or other conditions that would put the donor at risk. Once registered, the donor remains in the database until the age of 60.

Eleven members of the IPA Extremadura team became new donors. Across the entire event in Badajoz, 333 people signed up as new donors, bringing the total number of new bone marrow donor registrations for the 2026 edition of UMEdula—across the 11 Spanish municipalities involved—to 1,723.

The IPA Extremadura team members received a custom-designed, all-over print T-shirt as a memento of their participation, while also enjoying a fun, entertaining, and community-spirited experience.

IPA Extremadura presented a commemorative plaque to the Military Emergency Unit (UME) to mark their visit to the region and acknowledge their dedication to society, recognizing that their commitment saves lives.

Fdo. Antonio J. Cabello Garay
PRESIDENTE IPA EXTREMADURA
IPA SPAIN



Sri Lanka

Celebrating Young Talent and Achievement: IPA Sri Lanka Marks World Children's Day



To mark World Children's Day, IPA Sri Lanka organised a special ceremony at Police Headquarters, celebrating the achievements, creativity and potential of children within the IPA and police family.

The event recognised children who successfully passed the Grade 5 Scholarship Examination, an important milestone in the Sri Lankan education system, as well as the talented young artists who participated in the IPA Children's Painting Competition.

Gift packs were presented to the successful scholarship students in recognition of their hard work, dedication and academic achievement.

The children's success was celebrated as an example of the importance of encouraging and supporting young people in their educational journey.

The ceremony also provided an opportunity to recognise the winners of the IPA Children's Painting Competition. Through their artwork, the children were able to express their creativity and share their own perspectives, demonstrating the imagination and talent of the younger generation.



Sri Lanka

Celebrating Young Talent and Achievement: IPA Sri Lanka Marks World Children's Day

Events such as this demonstrate the important role that the International Police Association can play in supporting not only its members, but also their families and communities. By creating opportunities for children to be recognised, encouraged and celebrated, IPA Sri Lanka continues to strengthen the friendships and connections that are at the heart of the Association.

World Children's Day is an opportunity to celebrate children and promote their rights, wellbeing and opportunities for the future. For IPA Sri Lanka, the occasion provided a meaningful opportunity to place children at the centre of the celebration and recognise their achievements.

The International Police Association congratulates all of the scholarship recipients and painting competition winners and wishes them continued success in their education and future endeavours.

Sunethra Senevirathne
IPA Sri Lanka
Secretary General



United Kingdom

Los Angeles and the IPA

If you have ever wondered whether your IPA membership is worth it, my recent family holiday to Los Angeles may help provide the answer.

We travelled to the west coast of the USA in July and spent an absolutely jam-packed week visiting as much of Los Angeles as we could, while squeezing in some IPA visits along the way. The kids were keen to visit Warner Bros. Studios, Universal Studios and Disneyland. Ruth was keen to visit the ocean, and I managed to convince everyone that visiting a police station would be cool and not feel like work at all!

I submitted an IPA travel form just five weeks before departure and, within a week, was introduced to John Prins, a host from the US Section, Region 6. John shared his knowledge of the city and organised a visit to Torrance Police Department. He also introduced me to recently retired Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Detective Dave Mertens, who went far beyond anything we could have expected.





Dave took a couple of hours off work on the day we flew in, picked us up from the airport, showed us around some of the sights of Los Angeles, including Griffith Observatory, and shared a meal with us at In-N-Out Burger. He then dropped us off at our hotel.

The following day, we were up early and headed to Universal Studios. By early afternoon we had finished at the park and returned to the hotel. Dave had arranged a visit to his shooting range, a public range where he is a member.

Once again, his hospitality and generosity were outstanding. He picked us up from the hotel, invited us into his home for refreshments where we exchanged police gifts, and then took us to the range.

It was exactly like the gun ranges we see in classic movies. It felt slightly surreal, but it was a real experience of American culture. In order for me to supervise one of the shooting lanes, I needed to demonstrate safe weapon handling. I was ready for this and was asked to demonstrate with one of the Glocks from the display cabinet.



As I went through the assessment, my daughter piped up and said, "Wouldn't it be funny if Dad failed?"

Dave was quick to tell the range staff that I was a firearms instructor, but only after I had passed the test.

It was brilliant to have the opportunity to shoot with my family in an environment that is so familiar to me professionally. They would never get this opportunity in the UK, and I really enjoyed coaching them. It turns out the ladies in my family are very comfortable with firearms and are naturally excellent shots.

After shooting, Dave took us to his favourite Korean BBQ restaurant, where we spent the evening chatting about policing, the similarities in the issues we deal with, and the differences in our approaches.

Los Angeles and the IPA

Dave was an incredible host, and I cannot thank him enough for his kindness and generosity in making both me and my family feel so welcome.

Later in the week, we visited Torrance Police Department and were welcomed by John, who showed us around and introduced us to a variety of units, including the control room, the command suite where they manage their fixed-site drone operations, the forensic laboratory, the detectives' office and the SWAT garage.

But perhaps the most enjoyable part was another visit to the range, where we met Jay, their firearms instructor. We had the chance to do some more shooting, talk about firearms, tactics and training, and generally "swing the lamp" a little.
Before we travelled, my wife joked, "Don't make this holiday too policey!"
By the end of the trip, she told me that meeting new friends and experiencing opportunities that would only have been possible through the IPA were among the highlights of our holiday.
The IPA motto is Servo per Amikeco - Service Through Friendship. After this trip, those words feel like much more than a motto. They perfectly capture the generosity, friendship and hospitality that made our family's Los Angeles adventure so memorable."

Liam Busby - IPA UK

United Kingdom

Building Bridges Through Dialogue: International Crisis Negotiation at Gimborn 2026

The spirit of international friendship and professional learning was clearly demonstrated during the 2026 IPA seminar Negotiations in Crisis Situations: The Role of the Police held at the International Conference Centre at Gimborn Castle, Germany. Directed by Chief Superintendent Louis Provart of Norfolk Constabulary, the programme was delivered by an instructional team comprising experienced negotiators and trainers from Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire in the United Kingdom. Over four days, delegates from Kenya, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Peru, Pakistan, Germany, Ireland, Romania, Cyprus and Australia came together to explore one of the most challenging disciplines in modern policing: crisis and hostage negotiation.

The seminar focused on the human dimension of policing and the role communication plays during incidents involving vulnerability, conflict and risk. Delegates examined negotiation principles, active listening, team dynamics, incident assessment and practical approaches to resolving critical incidents peacefully. One of the greatest strengths of the programme was the international diversity of participants. Delegates openly shared experiences from their own police services and communities, creating rich discussions around operational practice, legislation, culture and decision-making. Despite coming from different parts of the world, participants found many common challenges and opportunities for shared learning. Through practical exercises and collaborative problem-solving, delegates developed new skills whilst building lasting professional relationships.



United Kingdom
Cont

Building Bridges Through Dialogue: International Crisis Negotiation at Gimborn 2026

The programme demonstrated that while policing structures and legislation may differ, the principles of empathy, communication, professionalism and the preservation of life remain universal. Beyond the classroom, the seminar provided an opportunity for participants to experience the unique environment of Gimborn while strengthening international networks that may prove valuable in future collaborations.Chief Superintendent Louis Provart reflected on the programme: "The true strength of Gimborn lies in bringing together people with different experiences but a common purpose.

Every delegate contributes a unique perspective, and everyone leaves with a broader understanding of how communication can save lives and reduce harm." The seminar once again demonstrated the enduring value of IPA education and international cooperation. Through the exchange of knowledge, experience and friendship, participants embodied the IPA motto: Servo per Amikeco – Service Through Friendship.

Lou Provart
IPA UK



United Kingdom

National Clay Shooting Competition

Cambridge Gun Club was the venue for this year's National Clay Shooting competition, which was held on Saturday 19th September.

The event attracted 15 participants with members travelling from as far away as South Wales. 10 Region was particularly well represented, fielding no less than 7 participants.

The coaches for the day were our very own Clive Wood, a member of the International Executive Board and a keen clay shooter, along with Julian and Kev. Julian is the gun shop manager for the event sponsors, Giles Marriott Ltd, in Threddingworth, Leicestershire. Kev is a Firearms Enquiry Officer with Leicestershire Police.

The weather in mid-September is never predictable and after the requisite safety briefing the participants split into three groups and had their first opportunity to get to grips with the blustery conditions with 20 practice shots. This year all but one of the participants had some shooting experience but everyone found the windy conditions challenging!





After a hearty lunch and with the wind easing off slightly, participants returned to the stands and things got serious for the competition proper.
The competition comprised 10 clays from each of the three stands, one of which the participants hadn't shot from during the warm up. Whizzing off at up 60kph the clays offered a range of targets such as driven, teal, battues, crossers, incomers, quartering, loopers and rabbits.

Congratulations to the winners who placed as follows: 1st – Paul Oldnall, 2nd – Barry Deeks and 3rd – Kevin Langford. Paul won a new Beretta shooting jacket and bottle of whisky but everyone went home with a memento of the day.

It really was a great day out for members, family and friends with one participant remarking, "£60 for a day's shooting is fantastic value and spending the day shooting with other IPA members just added to the enjoyment."

National Clay Shooting Competition

Huge thanks to Julian and Kev for giving up their time but also for their good humour, patience and excellent coaching throughout the day. Thanks too to Stu Anderson from Cambridgeshire Branch who also helped the day go smoothly.

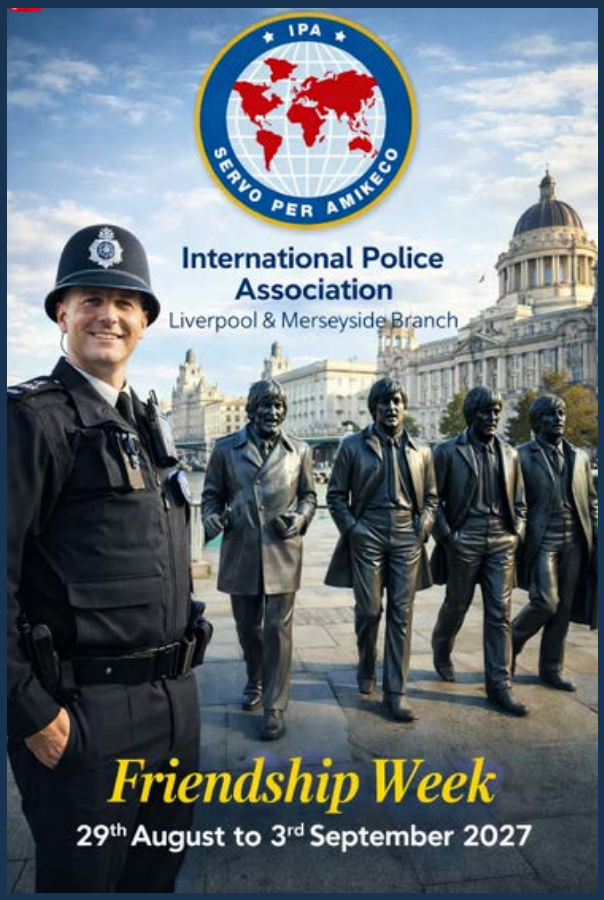
IPA Section UK and the event organisers would like to thank the our sponsors, *Giles Marriott Ltd* of Leicestershire. The company provided shotguns free of charge, shotgun cartridges at cost and prizes which included a Beretta shooting jacket and a shotgun slip case.

The annual clay shoot is one of several National iconic events that attract funding from IPA HQ, making what would otherwise be an expensive day very affordable.

Steve Bretherton
IPA UK



Events





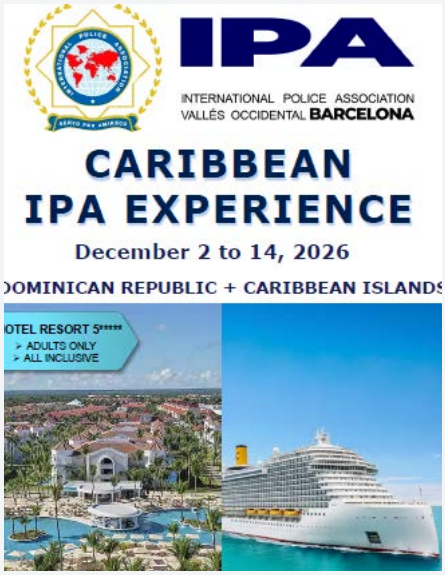
Upcoming Events



IPA Kenya 2nd IPA International Investigations Seminar

2nd IPA International Investigations Seminar takes place in Nairobi, Kenya, from **1–7 November 2026**, bringing together investigators and law enforcement professionals for international knowledge exchange, professional development and training.

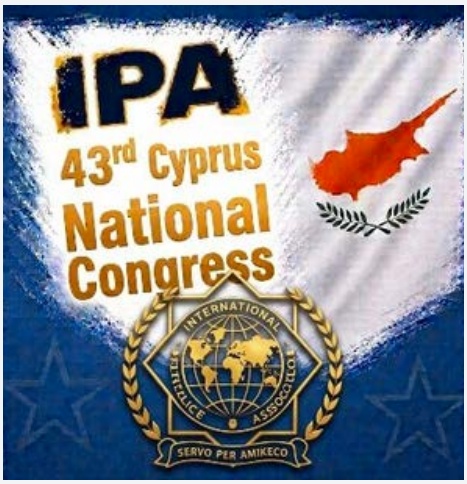
More Information



IPA Spain Caribbean Experience 2026

CARIBBEAN IPA EXPERIENCE 2026 offers an unforgettable international IPA adventure combining a 5★ all-inclusive stay in Punta Cana and a Caribbean cruise from **2–14 December 2026.**

More Information



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.

More Information



IPA Salzburg, Austria – 65th Anniversary

65 Years of IPA Salzburg celebrates the Regional Group's anniversary with a festive weekend of culture, music, Christmas traditions and IPA friendship in Salzburg, Austria, from **4–6 December** 2026.

More Information

Upcoming Events

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



The Art Of Expression

Join us for an immersive three-day seminar where amateurs and enthusiasts can dive into the storytelling, painting, and photography **4-7 December 2026**

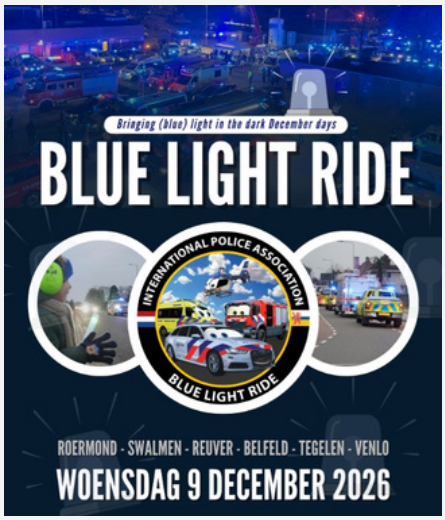
More Information



International 7-a-side Football Tournament

IPA Spain, invites all IPA National Sections to participate in the Third International 7-a-side Football Tournament for Police Officers, **9-13 December 2026**

More Information



Blue Light Ride

On Wednesday the **9th of December 2026**, the fifth edition of the IPA Blue Light Ride will take place. This wonderful event is organised by the Dutch IPA district Limburg-Noord.

More Information



International IPA Kohltour 2027 – Bremen, Germany

IPA Bremen warmly invites all IPA members to take part in the next International IPA Kohltour, taking place from **29–31 January 2027 in Bremen, Germany.**

More Information

IBZ SCHLOSS GIMBORN

INTERNATIONAL LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING & EDUCATION

Gimborn Seminars

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

The latest programme of seminars and events offers members a variety of opportunities for professional development, learning and international exchange. Explore the link below to discover the 2026 seminar programme and find a learning opportunity that interests you..

2026 Seminar Programme

2027 Seminar Programme

2027 Seminar Programme is here !

The 2027 IBZ Gimborn programme has officially been announced!
Take a look and start planning your next learning opportunity. We look forward to another year of inspiring seminars, new knowledge and international connections at IBZ Gimborn.



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NOVEMBER 2026

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