



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Potsdam (GER), December 10 – December 12 2012

COMPOSITE - COmparative POLice Studies In The EU

From December 10 until December 2012, police practitioners and participants in the international, interdisciplinary research project “Comparative Police Studies in the EU” ([COMPOSITE](#)) will attend a meeting in Potsdam Germany, that serves to share the latest achievements and research results of the project.

Specific issues that will be addressed concern how divergent demands put on police forces can be reconciled and society specific dilemmas be solved? What are factors that determine success or failure of change processes? What can we learn from more than twenty years of ambitious change processes in many European countries? How important is organisational culture? What role do external stakeholders play? Are there different types of police forces – types that are open to change and types that are more conservative?

This conference aims bringing together practitioners and scholars, politicians and leaders, to discuss risks and challenges, problems and solutions, theories and typologies and best practices.

About COMPOSITE:

COMPOSITE aims to provide police forces across Europe with knowledge and instruments that will help them face current and future challenges.

The international, interdisciplinary research project “Comparative Police Studies in the EU” (COMPOSITE) is a comparative study of organisational change in police forces across Europe. Police forces in the EU face serious challenges. Integration in the EU has increased the need for cross-force collaboration, and technology has created new opportunities for criminals, but also for the police. Changes in the public opinion and in political expectations have created extra challenges. Responses to these challenges and exploitation of opportunities require major changes to the culture and structure of police forces. But the way these changes need to be implemented differs from one country to another because of cultural, organisational, societal, regional, ethnic, and religious diversity. COMPOSITE will deliver results that can be used by the police forces to improve the planning and execution of change initiatives in the police, showing how these projects can be better aligned with the cultural and societal context per country, and explaining how negative process effects can be mitigated. A further aim is to improve both the individual police organisations in each country and joint European capabilities.

This four years project started on August 1, 2010 and involves research partners from Belgium, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Italy, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Netherlands, Romania, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The fifteen participating organisations include universities, business schools, police academies, technical research institutes and a consultancy organisation. To

ensure that the academic research results will find their way into daily practice, twenty-five police forces from the participating countries are actively involved in the research and in the dissemination phases of the project and they intend to use the results. The project is partially funded by the European Commission in the context of its Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) for Security Research.

In addition to the scientific work COMPOSITE invited two photographers, David Adams and Hans van Rhoon, to realise two separate bodies of work reflecting the comparative spirit of the research project. They will create images of police forces in the ten participating countries. David Adam's work is based on typologies, showing police facilities, as well as a portrait series. Hans van Rhoon is making a documentary style series based on police activity in the field. The photos that are distributed with this press release may be used for editorial purposes, and can be downloaded from <http://www.composite-project.eu/index.php/press.html>. An up to date impression of the COMPOSITE photographs can be viewed at <http://www.composite-gallery.eu>.

Contact:

Dr. Gabriele Jacobs, Rotterdam School of Management, on +31 10 4082061 or by email at gjacobs@rsm.nl. More information about the project can also be found at www.composite-project.eu