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Transformation in Policing - Challenges and Future Strategies

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Police Challenges and Future Strategies from the Point of View of
the Bundeskriminalamt

Abstract

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POLICE CHALLENGES AND FUTURE STRATEGIES FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE BUNDES- KRIMINALAMT

Globalisation, the technical development and digital connectivity change our society and change crime as such. It is only seldom that we can respond to newly developing crime phenomena and modi operandi in the sole jurisdiction of an individual country or even an individual German Land (federal state). Moreover, due to new technical developments, previously practiced investigative methods fail to produce the desired results and new methods and instruments have to be developed. This means: The need for cooperation between the Federation and the German Länder (federal states) as well as in Europe is as high as never before.

This need for cooperation in the federal system and at European level - a rapid and effective cooperation, as unbureaucratic as possible and saving resources - must be the guiding principle of every new development of our crime suppression approaches. The police must position themselves as a flexible and effective alliance. Instead of the previously prevailing individual approaches, we must organise our cooperation on demand-oriented and adaptable cooperation platforms. This requires a standardisation of our processes so that we are able to put police cooperation and coordination on a common basis.

Five central areas can be given as examples for these necessary and complex changes:

Firstly: the police information management. The previous structures of police information management do no longer meet the needs of an effective and dynamic crime suppression. Instead of adapting outdated systems, the introduction of "Police 2020" now constitutes a fundamental change: We create an information system that is set up in a common data warehouse instead of in various data silos and participants' systems, that is based on modern technologies and technical structures which are further developed and adapted centrally by the BKA for the whole of the German police, and that guarantees intelligent data protection on a technical basis.

Secondly: We need common standards and nationwide coordinated action as far as the operational cooperation is concerned. The approach taken with respect to the rising number of potentially dangerous persons from the Islamist scene serves as a good example here. The newly introduced procedure for a uniform assessment of the risk emanating from people from the militant Salafist scene is a prerequisite for prioritising high-risk persons and subjecting them to the necessary measures - independent of the German Land in which they are staying. Such a standardised procedure is the prerequisite for a targeted pooling of police resources.

Thirdly: The standardisation of police measures requires a harmonisation of the legal foundations on which policing is based. So far, the police laws of some German Länder lack

important authorisation bases. The decision of the Standing Conference of Interior Ministers of the Länder to work on a new model police law is therefore welcomed. Moreover, the police must be able to keep pace with the progressing digitisation of crime. This also means: The police must be able to do digitally what they have been able to do analogously for a long time already.

Fourthly: We must use the advantages of digitisation to make police work more effective and efficient. In the light of the high dynamics and limited resources, the new and further development of our technical equipment for operations, communication and analysis has to be harmonised - in the form of a joint project with results to be used by all participants.

Fifthly: In order to be able to finance these joint projects, we need a joint investment fund of the Federation and the German Länder. Only in this way can we overcome the various investment cycles and finance the system change beyond individual projects.

If, in future, we organise our cooperation more on joint, flexible and demand-oriented platforms, we are not only well-positioned with regard to current challenges, but we also have developed the necessary adaptability to be able to react to future challenges more rapidly, in a more coordinated fashion and, thus, more efficiently. We combine the strengths of federalism - decentral decision and action options - with the advantages of central organisations: uniform standards and common structures. The Bundeskriminalamt is aware of its special responsibility as a central office of the German police and will therefore take an active part in promoting this transformation process.