

Brief summary of the process and preliminary findings of the phase *„Minority policing and restorative justice‘ (WP3)*

Gabor Héra, Budapest, 14th January 2014

Structure of the presentation

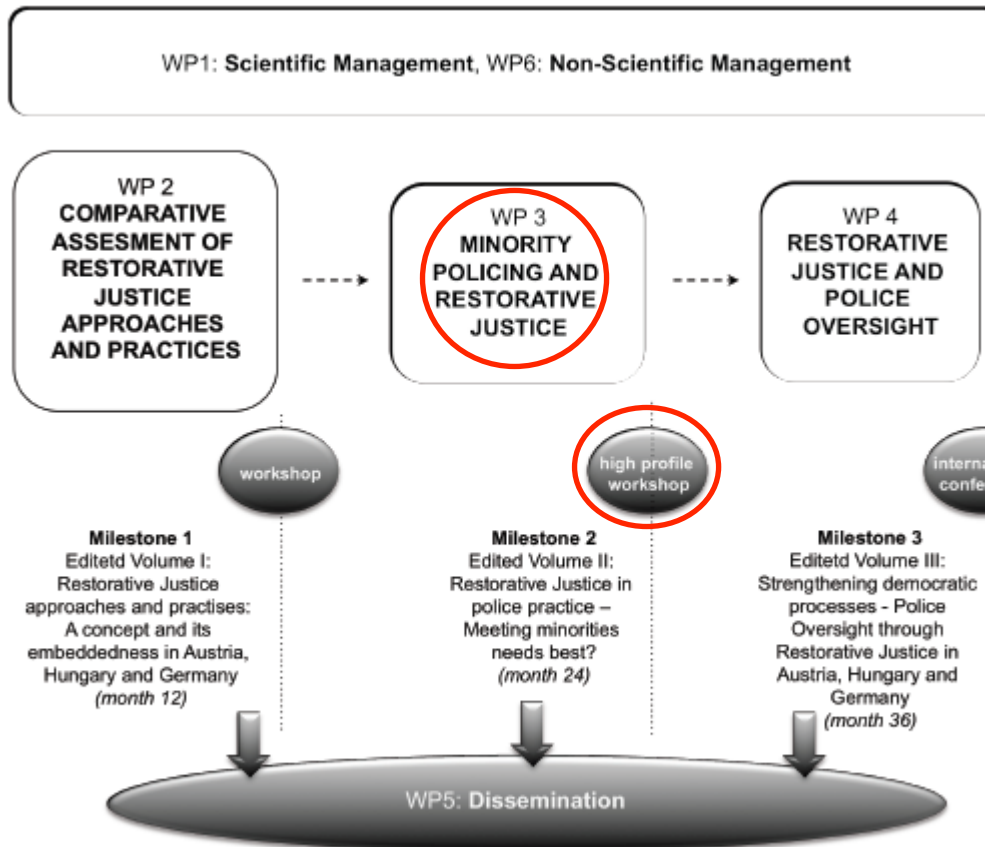


The phase of *‘Minority policing and restorative justice’* (WP3)

About the field work

Preliminary results - Roma

The process of COREPOL



We are close to the end of the

- field work and
- work package No3.

The aim of WP3

Analysing the specific situation of the three minorities and the relationship between the minorities and the police in the three European countries under study.

Sub-objectives:

- To analyse the **socio-economic situation** and **special needs** of the country-specific minority population under study.
- To highlight **culture-specific aspects**, gender and age specific factors concerning the minorities and their **expectable impact hindering or enhancing the application of Restorative Justice Measures** and the research process itself.
- To reveal the under researched area of ethnical/racial profiling and abuse of police power in minority policing in the countries under study.
- To identify all relevant stakeholders in local networks which are of essential importance for the elaboration and application of Restorative Justice Programs.
- To identify cases and to conduct field studies in the three countries under study to **gain empirical data on minority policing and Restorative Justice.**

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- **Task1:** In-depth analysis of the profiles of minorities and policies dealing with the minorities
- **Task2:** Analysis of quantitative data and secondary documents
- **Task3:** Development of a field study design and specification of cases for field studies
- **Task4:** Development of an intercultural manual for researching minorities

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- **Task5:** Local network and stakeholder analysis
- **Task6:** Background interviews with policy experts, local stakeholders and police representatives
- **Task7:** Field Studies: Restorative Justice on the demand side and the supply side of policing minorities
- **Task8:** Organisation of a high-profile workshop

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⇒ About the field work

Preliminary results - Roma

About the field work

- **Period:** May 2013 – November 2013
- **Sampling:**
 - In case of the minorities: based on **snow-ball method** (as a technique is mainly used in populations which are difficult to access)
 - **Interviews:** Minority, Police, Stakeholders
 - **Research method:** desk research, qualitative interviews combining narrative and guideline elements, group interviews, expert interviews, observation
 - **Spatial settings:**
 - *Austria:* Vienna, Graz
 - *Germany:* Berlin, Mannheim, Hamburg
 - *Hungary:* Budapest, Miskolc, three villages in Nógrád county

Field work in Hungary



Number of interviews	
Roma	33
Police	31
Stakeholder	10

Number of interviews					
Nógrád		Miskolc		Budapest	
Roma	Police	Roma	Police	Roma	Police
13	10	11	10	9	11

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About the field work

⇒ Preliminary results - Roma

Conflicts and security

- **Serious conflicts** can be observed
 - within the Roma communities. Low life-circumstances, unemployment and poverty is typical – conflicts (mainly neighborhood conflicts and domestic violence) develop easily.
 - with the majority of the society. Typical scenes of **discrimination**: labour market, services, public transport, education, identity checks, public speech etc.
- **Subjective perception of security** could be positive even in problematic, arrant areas where crime/conflicts are frequent because communities may ensure trust, control and the sense of safety - *particularistic and not universalist understandings of security*
- **Dealing with conflicts**: opposition, communication and attempt for understanding, taking the law in the hands, authority and the police – only in certain circumstances.

Sense of justice and its consequences

- **Moral justice:** significant.
- **Legal process** (which provides procedural justice): it is very problematic because it is
 - difficult,
 - consumes time and money,
 - a lot of times does not punish the offender,
 - does not defend denouncer or the witness and
 - often discriminative towards the Roma.
- This is (also) the reason why usually Roma
 - **contact police** only in case of **serious conflicts** (for example: assaults or danger of assaults). They usually do not call the police because of *minor incidents*' – such as hate speech, domestic violence, neighborhood conflicts and minor incidents of hate crime
 - **do not file a complaint** against the procedure of and **do not bear witness** against the police – even if physical violence takes place.

Image of and connection with the police

- There is a negative impression and image of the police :
 - Policemen are usually **prejudist** towards the Roma
 - A lot of stories about **disrespectful behavior, ethnic profiling, physical violence** – mainly at the countryside
 - Police is **not able to handle** conflicts and „catch the criminals”
- However, work of police is **important** and **necessary** – some of our interviewees even missed definite actions.
- Conflict management is usually absent and based on non-effective tools. Effective methods:
 - informal deals – **basis principles of mediation are damaged**
 - distinct, calm and cooperative behavior in case of procedure of the police.

Opportunities – Roma-police relationship



- Roma ,on the other side':
 - Policemen
 - Mediators
- Make the local community stronger by **community police**
- **Common programs**
 - Leisure time activities
 - Trainings, lectures, events
- **Training** of the policemen
 - Communication, conflict management
 - Anti-discrimination, diversity
 - Mediation
 - Culture and social situation of the Roma



Conflict Resolution, Mediation
and Restorative Justice and the
Policing of Ethnic Minorities in
Germany, Austria and Hungary



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Thank you for your attention!

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