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# EUAM launches major training programme to support reform of public order policing in Ukraine

"The methods that will be taught in this public order programme have been tried and tested over the past 15 years and have repeatedly demonstrated their effectiveness.



They safeguard the right to assemble, while also seeking to protect members of the public and police officers from violence" A major training session organised by the EU Advisory Mission Ukraine (EUAM) started today for Ukrainian police commanders responsible for maintaining public order during mass events such as demonstrations or football matches.

The training programme, which will run from 25 September – 27 October 2017, forms part of EUAM's contribution to the development of a new public order policing model for Ukraine that tries to minimise the risk of violence. The training will be delivered by police officers from a number of European countries, mainly Denmark and Sweden and draws on the 'Scandinavian approach' to public order policing, widely recognised as one of the most effective in Europe.

Over the course of the programme, it is planned that 22 police commanders will be trained, including those at the very top of the chain of command during mass events.

The methods promoted include constant dialogue with the crowd, a low-key police presence which is only escalated if serious disturbances occur, and a developed understanding of the psychology of crowds among other techniques. At the heart of the approach is the philosophy that mass events are a human right that the police have to protect, rather than a threat.

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### The riot that changed European policing



On 14-16 June 2001, while an EU Summit was going on in Gothenburg, Sweden, the city suffered some of "I should stress that no country ever adopts police models wholesale – modern European policing is a patchwork of shared ideas, each adapted to local needs. So the new model in Ukraine will not purely be a the most violent and destructive rioting in its history. Anti-globalisation and anti-capitalist protestors clashed with the police, leaving large swathes of the city centre damaged. The situation got so out of hand that for the first time since 1931, the police used live fire on demonstrators. Mercifully, no-one was killed.

To the credit of the Swedish Police, after calm had been restored, they decided to take a long and hard look at what had gone wrong on that day. While a violent minority of the demonstrators had indeed come to Gothenburg with the express intention of causing trouble, an investigation into the events of June 2001 concluded that the police could and should have done a lot more to prevent violence.

The Swedish Police enjoys some of the highest levels of trust in the world – in regular opinion polls over 90% of Swedes say they trust their police service. One of the reasons for this is the police's willingness to identify problems and confront them head on. Consequently, after the problems exposed by the Gothenburg riots, the Swedish Police set to work on developing a new model of public order policing. Police services in Britain, the Netherlands and Germany were consulted on the new model, but the majority of the input came from neighbouring Denmark. At the same time, the Swedish police cooperating with started European scientists/researchers, including experts on the psychology of crowds, in order to learn more on how to better police different types of mass events.

### Read the full article

'Scandinavian approach', rather it will be a Ukrainian model, based on effective methods from abroad, grounded in a human rights perspective"

## **Activities on the horizon**

- 9-12 October: EUAM facilitates visit of Head of ARMA to Europol Annual General Meeting in Stockholm, Sweden
- **9-12 October:** Mission organizes a senior leadership training for the top managers of the National Police of Ukraine
- 11-12 October: EUAM holds a seminar on Anti-Fraud Coordination Structures models for representatives of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the National Police of Ukraine

• **12-13 October:** Training on ICT governance, anti-corruption and EU practice in developing Internal Security Strategy will take place in Kyiv



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