



Wolfgang Birkenstock  
Vizepräsident der Deutschen Hochschule der Polizei

## Police education and training in Belgium: on the way to Bologna?

International seminar  
Thursday, 16 October 2008  
Egmont Palace Brussels

Basic and advanced training for police officers in Germany  
Wolfgang Birkenstock – German Police University

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## Welcome to the German Police University



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## Structure of my presentation

- Police in Germany
- Principles and tendencies of police training
- Basic training of police officers
- The German Police University
- Advanced training for senior police officers

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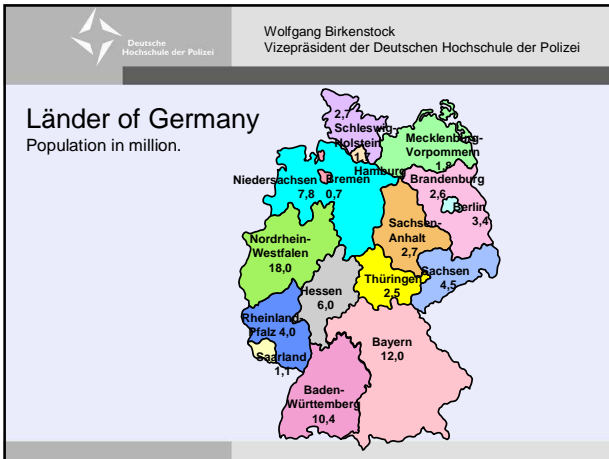
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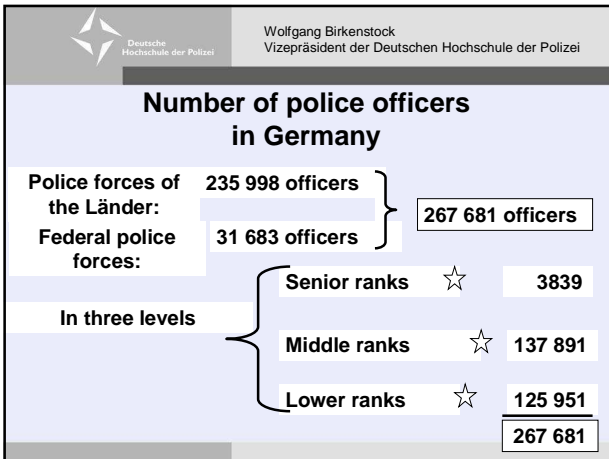
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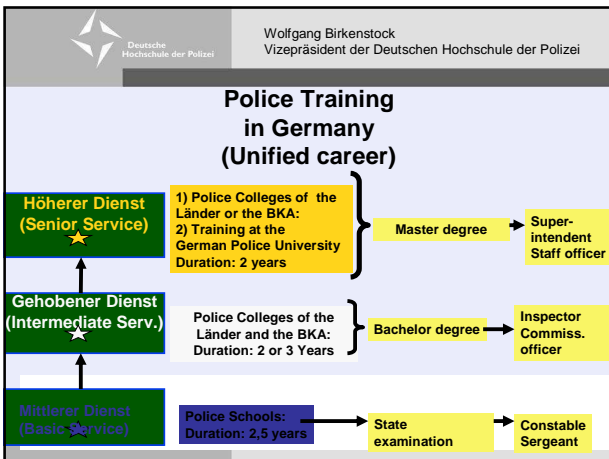
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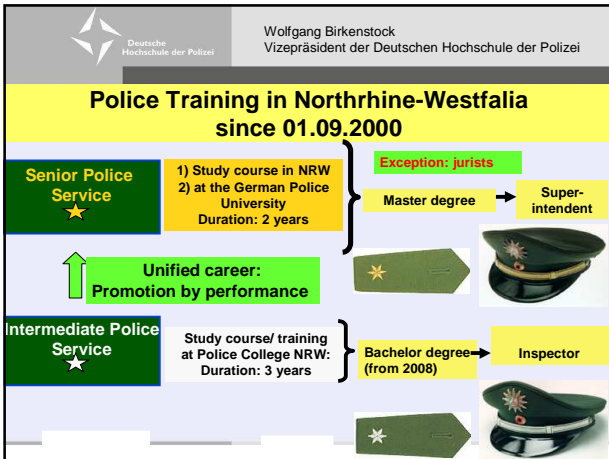
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Wolfgang Birkenstock  
Vizepräsident der Deutschen Hochschule der Polizei

### Corporate identity – job profile

- Organisation – Personal
- Democratic constitutional state (GG)
- Orientation towards the citizens
- Community-Policing
- International co-operation
- Complexity and dynamics of tasks and conditions
- Professionalism
- Leadership and co-operation

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### Democratic constitutional state

- Protection of freedom and civil rights
- Appropriateness of means
- Public and judicial control
- State protection

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## Orientation towards the citizens

- Serviceorientation
- People's expectations
  - Feeling of (un)security
  - Public opinion surveys
- Conduct
  - Appearance
  - Respect
  - Kommunikative Means
- Intercultural Competence

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## Community Policing

- Crime prevention and prevention of traffic accidents
- Problem oriented policing
- Co-operation strategy

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## Professionalism

- Strategy und tactics
- Efficacy und Efficiency
- Quality management
- Special skills, social competency and competence to act
- General consciousness of problems
- Professional ethics, code of conduct

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## Leadership and co-operation

- Co-operative leadership
- Self-confidence, independence, responsibility

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## Principles and tendencies of police training and education

- Orientation towards theory and practice
- Lifelong learning – personal development
- Objectives: knowledge, competencies and attitudes
- Change of paradigm: from teaching to learning
- Current learning methodology
- General standards – content specific to police
- Quality management - evaluation

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- **Change of paradigm: from teaching to learning**
  - Different role of teachers
  - Capability and willingness to autonomous learning
- **Current learning methodology**
  - Interdisciplinary approach: task- and problem-oriented modules
  - Exercises, simulations, projects, involvement in research
  - Learning environment (close to police practice)
  - E-learning/ blended learning

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## Basic training for police officers

- Admission
- Selection procedure
- Course of studies
- Theory: subjects
- Practical training: modules
- Special teaching methods
  - seminars
  - projects
  - behavior training
- Bachelor study course from 2008

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## Admission

- German citizenship (exceptions possible)
- Abitur (A-level exam, high-school diploma)
- Health and physical fitness (also swimming)
- No entry in criminal records
- Min. height 163cm (w) - 168cm (m)
- Not older than 32 years

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## Selection procedure

- Duration: two days
- Computerbased testing of competences: analytical, memory, communication abilities, social and personal competences, reactions, attention, powers of concentration
- Health suitability for police service
- Assessment Centre
  - Two role plays
  - Presentation
- Structured selection talk

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## Course of studies

- Duration: three years
- Phases of theory and practice in alternation
- Altogether 2 years of theory and 1 year of practice
- Three of five phases of practice in police stations

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## Theory: subjects

- Operations
- Criminalistics, criminology, forensics
- Traffic management
- Law
- Sociology, political science, psychology
- Management
- Ethics

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## Practical training modules

- Traffic security/information and communication techniques
- Taking down details of traffic accidents
- Prosecution of special property offences
- Forensic seminar (crime scenes)
- Training of interventions in special situations
- Weapons training/ shooting - not shooting
- First aid
- Driving and security training
- Basic training for police intervention units
- Sports and swimming

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## From Police Leadership Academy to German Police University

- Reasons for the decision in 1998
- Current state of development
- Police science as an important task of the German Police University
- Master of Public Administration - Police Management
- Further training for senior police officers

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## European Space for Higher Education

- Bologna Declaration in 1999 (29 states, now 42)
- Framework of comparable curricula and degrees
- Module system
- European Creditpoint Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)
- Diploma Supplement
- Cooperation in quality assurance: accreditation system
- Promotion of mobility of students and teachers

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## Advanced police training and education

- Master of Public Administration - Police Management
- Selection procedures
- Admission
- Duration of studies and structure of curriculum
- Curricular subjects / faculties
- Training methodology
- Examinations (incl. master thesis)
- Objectives of studies

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## The European Police Academy CEPOL

- The German Police University is a member of CEPOL
- The contribution of the German Police University to the common curricula initiative of CEPOL is *the module „International and Intercultural Policework“*

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Thank you for your  
attention

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