

## Foreword

Ludovika University of Public Service has established the Law Enforcement and Psychology (LEPSY) CEEPUS Network with the objective of equipping future legal, law enforcement, police, fire, security and psychology professionals with the competences to address societal challenges through an interdisciplinary approach to education and research.

The LEPSY initiative unites academic institutions offering diverse educational programmes and research initiatives across various disciplines, including political science, international relations, law, law enforcement, sociology, criminology, criminalistics, security, psychology, etc.

The network's core comprises universities with an advanced educational and research infrastructure in this specific field of study, and the network's primary objective is to examine comprehensively the underlying factors and consequences of contemporary social processes. The establishment of transnational networks facilitates the exploration of contemporary research inquiries and the formulation of integrated responses through basic and applied research. An interdisciplinary approach to contemporary societal processes (e.g. the impact of migration, terrorism, war, mental health, etc.) enables a more profound comprehension of the underlying mechanisms, facilitating a more effective law enforcement response and psychological treatment. The exploration of such phenomena transcends national boundaries, and LEPSY offers a valuable opportunity to strengthen international connections and respond effectively to emerging challenges. Achieving success in addressing novel challenges necessitates the deepening of international cooperation through learning, education and joint interdisciplinary research.

The LEPSY CEEPUS Conference Book constitutes a collection of papers presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> LEPSY CEEPUS Network Research and Cooperation Conference, which was held on 12 March 2024. The overarching objective of the conference was to promote research on law enforcement and psychology issues in LEPSY CEEPUS Network partner institutions, with a view to strengthening collaboration between researchers. The conference encompassed a diverse range of topics, addressing contemporary issues in psychology, education, organisational behaviour and security studies. A significant proportion of the presentations focused on the intersection of cognitive processes and educational strategies, while another prominent theme was the application of psychological principles in organisational settings. Additionally, the conference delved into critical security and societal challenges, exploring the evolving patterns of terrorist operations and spontaneous radicalisation in small communities. The event also highlighted innovative methodologies, such as engineering approaches in forensic fire scene reconstruction and network researching methods for decision-making support, demonstrating the interdisciplinary nature of the research presented.

The LEPSY CEEPUS Network looks to the future with ambitions to further develop and deepen cooperation between partner institutions and facilitate the implementation of research projects. The Network's future goals include providing network members with additional opportunities for knowledge sharing, access to joint research projects and collaboration at the international level. The success of the conference would not have been possible without the efforts of the Ludovika University of Public Service, who provided invaluable organisation and support. The speakers and participants who contributed to the success of the conference should also be warmly thanked, and it is hoped that a significant proportion of these individuals will participate in subsequent conferences. The subsequent plans of the Network include the annual organisation of the conference, with the objective of continuous updating and expansion of knowledge in the LEPSY research domains.

The editors