

International study: SHOT-COVID19 study investigates police officers' work demands during the COVID-19 crisis

The spread of the COVID-19 virus and the resulting governmental measures pose unprecedented challenges to European street patrol officers. They need to ensure that the measures are followed to guarantee public safety. Dynamic governmental policies, the constant risk of contamination and staff shortages can lead to stressful and uncertain situations in which police officers have to act appropriately. The new international study "SHOT-COVID19", as part of the research project SHOTPROS investigates the current work demands, dynamics and stress of European street patrol officers during the COVID-19 crisis.

Vienna, Austria (April 2020). The international research project SHOTPROS aims to improve first responders' decision making and acting capabilities under stress and in high risk situations by developing an innovative training solution. Picking up the current challenges, a study has been launched as part of the project, to investigate the work requirements and crisis management strategies of police officers during the COVID19 crisis. "The current exceptional situation places unprecedented demands on the crisis management of the police. It is a unique opportunity to gain information on how police officers cope with real-life stress situations," says project initiator Dr. Marie Ottilie Frenkel of Heidelberg University. She has already been able to collect data from over 1,400 police officers from different countries with the support from other project partners.

Background and goals of the SHOT-COVID19 study

Due to new global threat and risk scenarios in recent years, street patrol police officers' field of action constantly changes and new challenges are emerging all the time. The current COVID-19 crisis creates stressful and uncertain circumstances under which patrol officers have to decide and act appropriately and quickly. In these situations, the ability to cope with stress efficiently is a crucial factor for the successful denouement of the situation.

In the SHOT-COVID19 study, participating police officers are interviewed about their work requirements during the corona crisis at three measurement occasions from the end of March to mid-June. The data collected provides an insight into the crisis-related challenges, stress levels and coping strategies of police officers. The knowledge gained will help to further improve crisis management and identify key course elements for future police training. The study results will also feed into the police training program that SHOTPROS will develop over the next 2 years. This program, enhanced by Virtual Reality training, aims to prepare police officers for real-life incidents more efficiently. The aim is to improve the success of police operations and contribute to the civil security in Europe.

Planning and execution

Together with the other research partners in SHOTPROS, the Heidelberg University team is working on the successful implementation and execution of the SHOT-COVID study. Thanks to the close cooperation with various European law enforcement agencies in SHOTPROS, a large number of participants was acquired in a short time. Up to now, more than 1000 street patrol officers from different countries have participated in the study – with numbers increasing.

European Law Enforcement Agencies are currently busy fulfilling their tasks to ensure public safety and compliance with governmental measures. Therefore, an online-survey was developed to ensure time efficient and location-independent participation. This method of data collection offers police officers maximum flexibility when participating without putting them at risk of additional interpersonal contact.

Press release new study “SHOT-COVID19” in the SHOTPROS project – for immediate release

International cooperation in research and security is of central importance in times like these. The SHOT-COVID10 study proves that meaningful and end-user-oriented research is possible despite difficult circumstances. The main objective is to support European police officers in their daily challenges - today and in the future.

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SHOTPROS in Social Media

- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/shotpros>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/shotprosH2020/>
- Researchgate: <https://www.researchgate.net/project/SHOTPROS-A-HUMAN-FACTORS-BASED-VR-TRAINING-FRAMEWORK-FOR-DECISION-MAKING-AND-ACTING-CAPABILITIES-UNDER-STRESS-AND-IN-HIGH-RISK-SITUATIONS-FOR-EUROPEAN-LEAS>

Project Partners

- USECON – The Usability Consultants GmbH / Austria
- AIT Austrian Institute of Technology GmbH - Center for Technology Experience / Austria
- KU Leuven - Department of Criminal Law and Criminology / Belgium
- Stichting VU - Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam / The Netherlands
- Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg – Institute of Sport and Sport Sciences / Germany
- Campus Vesta APB / Belgium
- RE-liON Group B.V. / The Netherlands
- Ministry of Internal Affairs Romania - Directorate General Logistics / Romania
- Swedish Police Authority / Sweden
- Der Polizeipräsident in Berlin - Polizeiakademie / Germany
- National Politie Nederland / The Netherlands
- Directorate General Crisis Centre of the Belgian Federal Public Service, Home Affairs / Belgium
- Polizei Nordrhein-Westfalen - Landesamt für Ausbildung, Fortbildung and Personalangelegenheiten / Germany



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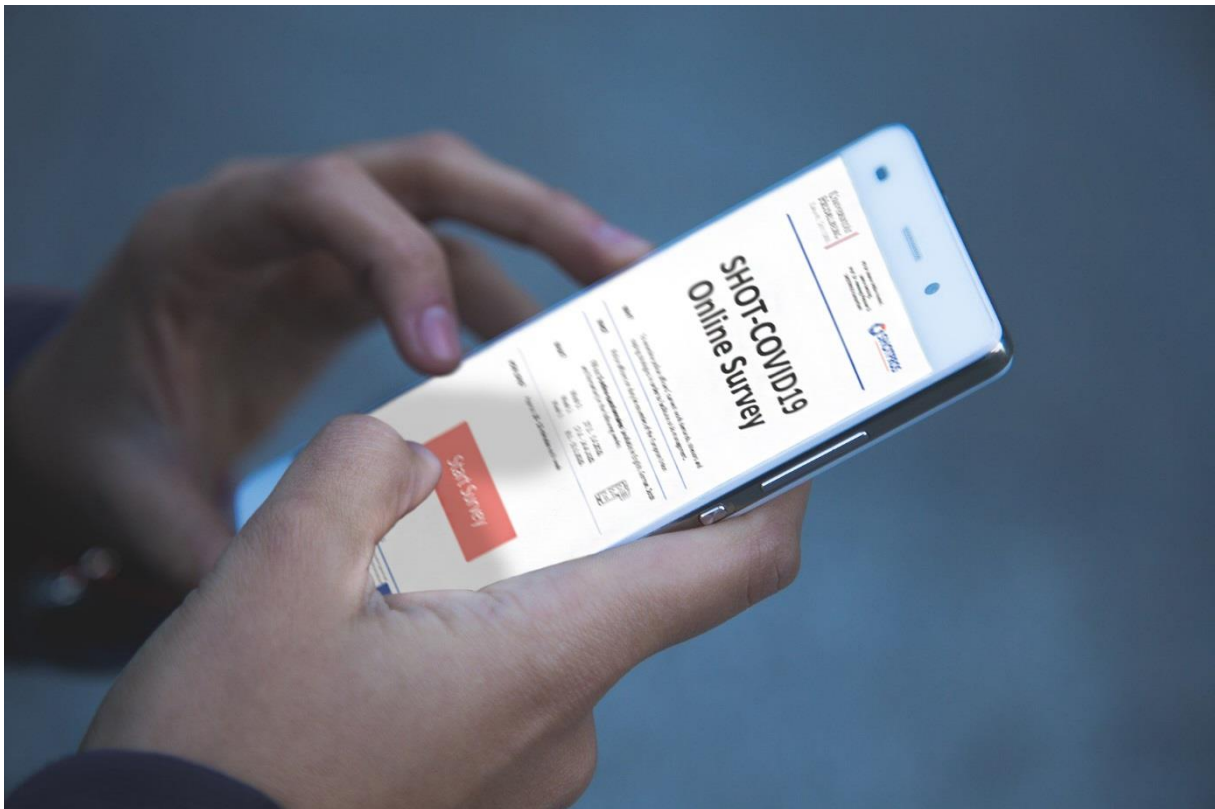
Total cost: 5.1 Million Euro; Duration: 36 months

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Picture about the SHOT-COVID19 study – online survey



Projekt Logo



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