Efficiency and fairness in criminal investigations – practical training tools

Side-event

31st session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Monday 16 May 2022

13.10-14.00 Central European Time (CET)

Link to register

Direct link

For the past decade there has been increasing awareness of judicial errors and wrongful convictions. Research has found that guilt presumption and confirmation bias are among the primary underlying causes of errors of justice, including wrongful convictions. Yet, training in interview methodology is absent or minimal and only a handful of countries worldwide have this as part of the core curriculum in police training. The lack of sound guidance has led to presumptions of guilt and confession-driven practices. Criminal justice systems that are geared toward obtaining confessional evidence increase the risk of ill-treatment during police interviews.

Investigative interviewing is a reliable and well-established method for questioning victims, witnesses and suspects of crime. It implies a shift away from confession-driven interrogations to rapport and objective-led interviews, drawing on the best available science. The methodology was recognized by the Kyoto Declaration and in the Principles on Effective Interviewing for Investigations and Information Gathering (Mendez Principles).

The objective of this side-event is to introduce a non-coercive, efficient, practical and human rights compliant tool for conducting interviews of victims, witnesses and suspects of crime. UNODC Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Section Access to Justice team and its' Global eLearning programme have developed, together with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights, the first ever comprehensive eLearning course on investigative interviewing. Consisting of three modules, the course aims at introducing a sound methodology for all forms of investigative interviews to police and law enforcement officers, as well as other investigating actors.

The eLearning is designed to give an introduction to investigative interviewing, that should be universal to all interviews explained in a simple and understandable manner - equally applicable to recruits as well as experienced officers.

For further questions please contact: Anna.Giudice@un.org

Agenda

Moderation: Anna Giudice, UNODC

Opening remarks:

John Brandolino, Director, Division for Treaty Affairs, UNODC (3 minutes)

Jan Austad, Specialist Director, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, Norway (3 minutes)

Susanne Maedrich, Head of Division, Criminal Law Relating to Narcotics and Traffic Offences, Regulatory Offences, Crime Prevention, Federal Ministry of Justice, Germany (3 minutes)

Expert presentations:

Anna Giudice, Team Leader, Access to Justice, CPCJS, DTA, UNODC**:** presentation of UNODC work and launch of the eLearning modules on investigative interviewing (7 minutes)

Maria Mahmood, Director (In-Service Training), National Police Academy, Pakistan: Feedback from the piloting of the eLearning modules and prospects in Pakistan (7 minutes) [TBC]

Susanne H. Flølo, Adviser, Rule of Law, Norwegian Centre for Human Rights: The emerging international standard on interviewing and investigations, NCHR (7 minutes)

Lennart May, Assistant Professor for Legal Psychology, Medical School Berlin, Germany: Can investigative interviewing help to ensure and increase the efficiency of investigations in Germany? (7 minutes)

Questions and answers from the audience