

EU project to the left mass protest

The European Union has established a new project for handling political protests: **"Good practice for dialogue and communication as strategic principles for policing political manifestations in Europe" (GODIAC)** brings together 20 partners from 11 countries and is led by the Swedish police. The first of 10 field studies connected with the latest anti-nuke-protests around castor-transports in Wendland, Germany is being issued.

Even with the program "Coordinating National Research Programmes and Policies on Major Events Security" (EU-SEC), which is located under the European Security Research and was extended into the second stage, wanted the project partners from 22 EU member states to develop standards for major police operations. **The so-called "major events" are about the summit protests, but also sports events such as football championships or olympic games.**



EU-SEC II will expire from 2011 and has helped, among other

things, to draft a "handbook" for European police forces. In this manual the police, among other things, is advised to exchange data on expected protesters at an early stage, to impose travel bans, to build as soon as possible good relations with the press and to keep the information superiority. Prosecutors are encouraged to a high number of convictions.

The "Handbook for police and security authorities concerning cooperation at major events with an international dimension" by the European Council issued a recommendation and is dedicated to "major social events or high-level political meetings e.g. the G8-summit". **It demands also a constantly updated "threat assessment and risk analysis" by transferring informations and data of "individuals or groups expected to travel to the event and deemed to pose a potential threat to the maintenance of public law and order and/or security".** The document concretises that with this **"such as known potential demonstrators"** are meant. Data on their movements to travel shall be sent not only to the host country, but also to "other affected countries — i.e. transit or neighbouring countries".

What's this about?

This is a partially re-print of an article by Matthias Monroy, published on January 12th of 2011 on German news-platform "telepolis.de".

It's about EU-wide plans for further expansion of data collection and aggregation of data on people who participate in Europe-wide protests of various kinds.

Particularly in connection with major events such as football games, climate summits, but also in other contexts, where activists protest environmental, globalization, nuclear energy or military critics, lots of personal and sensitive data is to be exchanged, police is to be given new competences and authorities.



Who falls into the pattern of these systems must also travel with constant monitoring of its activities and to repression or face travel bans.

For all that essential basic and human rights will be compromised and limited provokes our thoughts.

Therefore, this flyer.

The full article by Matthias Monroy:
<http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/34/34000/1.html>

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More information about the Working Group on Data Retention "AK Vorrat": www.ak-vorrat.de

More informations about the local working group Hannover:
<http://wiki.vorratsdatenspeicherung.de/Hannover>

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GODIAC

A new EU project
in order to secure major events

With risks and side effects
for European citizen movements?

German Federal Police as a trendsetter

After the end of EU-SEC is now GODIAC provides the necessary fine-tuning among European police forces. GODIAC is led by the Swedish National Police Board and got for the 10 field studies a sum of € 1,206,431. The project is financed to 70% by the European Commission for Justice and Home Affairs, the rest is donated by the Swedish police. The project ends in July 2013 to present results at a conference in Stockholm.

GODIAC addresses movements that organize in the face of advancing globalization and their protest increasingly cross-border. In the project are the summits of 2009 listed, including the NATO-summit in Strasbourg and Baden-Baden, the G20-summit in London and the G8-summit in the Italian earthquake area in L'Aquila.

As a "problem" is outlined that the summits would attract thousands of "demonstrators or activists" and lead to local protests there again. This "internationalization" would also be accompanied by development of new tactics that constitute a "major challenge for police authorities across Europe." GODIAC is going to internationalize police knowledge about "protesters and activists, their ideology, mobility and strategies to police" as well.

Among the 20 organizations involved 11 ministries of interior and police forces from member countries including Austria, Cyprus, Hungary and Great Britain. Romania is represented with both its ministry and with its paramilitary gendarmerie. German project partners are the Federal Police of Lower Saxony and the German Police University in Muenster.



Sign of the German federal police of Lower Saxony.

The other participating national police academies are complemented by other "partners", including the European Police College CEPOL, which is urged to standardize and evaluate the police cooperation within the EU and allocates the GODIAC internet platform.

Bashing anti-nuke-demonstrators, shielding NATO-summit, safeguarding right-extremist celebrations

The first GODIAC field study conducted the last atomic-waste transport (Castor transport) through Germany, when thousands of activists belonging to the action "Castor? Schottern!" (i.e. the appeal for undermining railway tracks on special locations, where no other trains than the atomic-waste trains were passing) were prevented by the use of over 2,000 tear gas cartridges in the successful resistance. To this day it is also not clarified whether the presence of foreign police officers were given for the required for this request for assistance or their permits. In reply to a parliamentary inquiry said the Lower Saxony Interior Minister Schuene-mann, that "a total of eight members of the police forces of Sweden, the Netherlands, Portugal, Austria and England, and a Hungarian scientist" for GODIAC watched the Castor protests. The foreign officers were to do so by the Central Social Research Services Police Department has supported and conducted "interviews with police officers as well as demonstration participants" through.

The European project participants did not have the start of GODIAC as otherwise notified to normal. Also on the website of the German Police University, the EU or her research project there are no informations about it at all. In Germany GODIAC had become known only because of parliamentary questions about the presence of foreign police officers during the Castor transport. A few weeks later, the first and only written document for the British civil rights platform had emerged Statewatch.

According Ansgar Burchard, a member of the German Academy of police, three field studies had been agreed so far. According to Castor, the GODIAC police officers arrived just in November 2010 at the NATO summit in Lisbon, where activists were prevented from the international peace movement by Portuguese immigration officers taking part in the demonstrations. "This is the end of democracy," said one of the organizers of a counter-conference to the reason only a third of the expected 300 participants appeared. **At least 150 demonstrators were sent back to the border. This was based, inter alia, the German Bundeskriminalamt (BKA = the German Federal Criminal Agency) provided temporary data of German demonstrators.**

Next, the researchers police have picked out protest the "Viennese Ball Corporation" in late January 2011 in Vienna's Hofburg. The annual major event of extreme right and fraternities can be enforced only against some stiff opposition from protesters. Also in 2011 an alliance is already preparing protests because of this. The observation of the actions against the far-right event was proposed by the Austrian GODIAC project partners.

Still, according to Ansgar Burchard, the field study of the Castor transport has not even been evaluated. So far final advices for a "Best Practice" are not expected preliminary.

Having knowledge of earlier behaviour of police around "Major Events" the suspicion arises that again it's all not only about to enforce the right to demonstrate but about the restriction.

We can be curious, what unique selling proposition of the police handling of the Castor-resistance will find its way into the GODIAC recommendations and what kind of new field test are being involved and introduced by the Romanian police troops.



Cartoon of the project "Football fans are not criminals"