



**INTERNATIONAL
POLICE ASSOCIATION**
INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

IPA Newsletter

April 2022

The true Spirit of IPA



One of many IPA aid initiatives for Ukraine
Photo courtesy of IPA Germany member Christian Heckens

WORD OF INTRODUCTION

Dear Friends,

As the IPA Treasurer, one of my primary tasks is preparing and managing financial budgets. The income for the IEB Treasury is collected solely through the annual levy, and that amount is calculated from membership numbers. So the more members we have, the lower the levy can ultimately be set, or the more the IPA can spend on global projects; however if membership numbers decline on a continuous basis, either the levy has to increase or the spend needs to be reduced.



As depicted in the graph on the next page, we have seen a reduction in IPA membership over the past number of years. In 2013 we had 412,127 IPA members, but that number dropped greatly in 2014, when over 37,000 Turkish members had to withdraw following the attempted coup d'état.

We had a steady increase over the following years, but the Covid-19 pandemic then took its toll. With a world in shut-down and no IPA activity, membership numbers began to decline once more. This rate of decline based on its current trend line is projecting our 2025 membership at 330,000.

All of this number crunching does not solve the problem, but merely highlights the loss in revenue and asks questions about our future.

Do we simply increase the levy each year and hope that membership will return? Or do we make cuts to spending and if so, what do we eradicate?

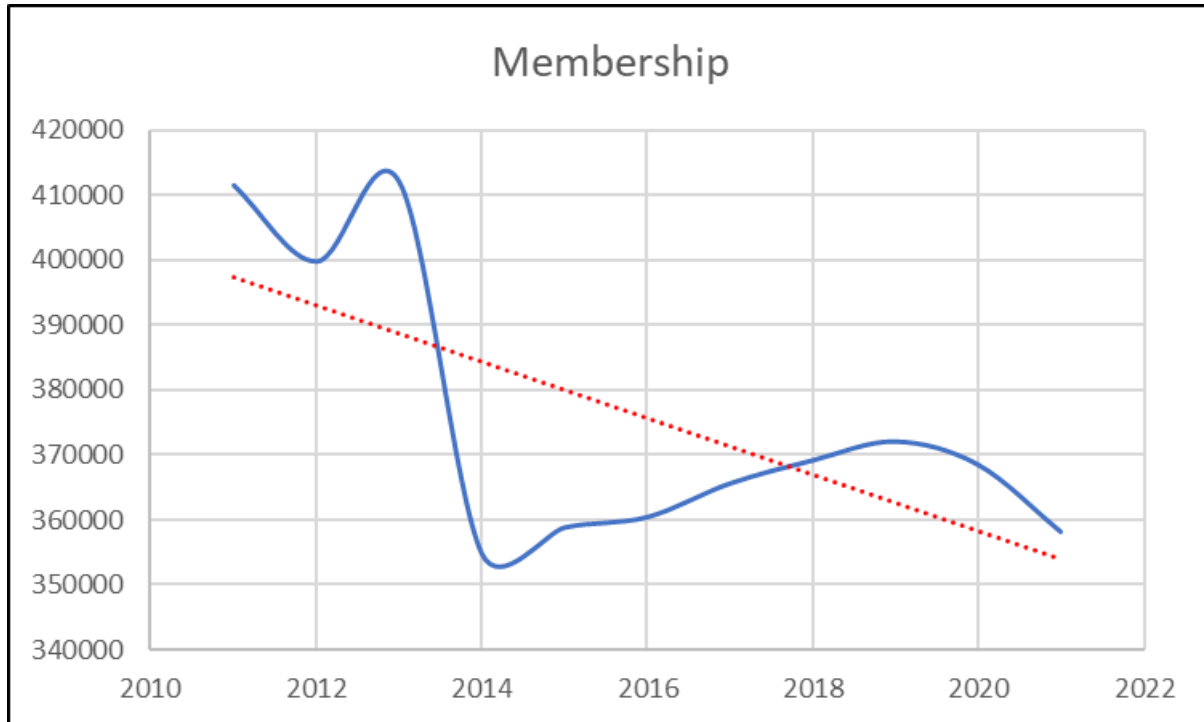
I believe activity is vital, and the IEB are committed to supporting activity across the globe. Transformation is not a future event, it is a present-day activity, and I'm confident that if the IPA promotes activity, new members will come.

Over the past two years, the IEB Treasury reduced the annual levy by 50% to cater for the pressures of the Covid-19 pandemic, and in 2022 we are supplementing the levy by €70,000 in an effort to drive activity in each IPA Section. Therefore, this year's international levy is at the reduced rate of €1.48, and the levy invoices will be circulated later this month to each Section.

The IEB are also closely looking at our spending. It is very difficult to predict the future costs of airfares and travel given global oil prices, but this will undoubtedly impact on the cost of World Congresses.

One cost reduction measure could be to conduct the congress through English only, thus reducing the necessity for expensive interpreting. In 2021, we held a virtual congress in English, and in general this worked quite well.

Traditionally, we hire up to 10 interpreters to translate into 5 different languages. We provide translation booths as well as pay for flights, accommodation and meals for each of them. While they have provided us with an excellent service through the years, it comes at a very high cost, which has been in the region of €45,000 each year. The IEB are bringing a motion to the World Congress this year proposing the congress is held in English only. But that's a discussion for the IEC delegates in October.



In the meantime, activity remains a key priority. It is now time to bounce back and create opportunities that will get IPA members talking and promote brand value. In the 1989 movie 'Field of Dreams', the actor Kevin Costner says: "build it and they will come." Over the past 70 years we have built something great, and we all owe it to the future generations to build an even better IPA.

I urge the IPA world to build activity and promote your endeavours through our social media channels, websites, the IAC and this monthly newsletter.

They will come...

Servo per Amikeco,

Mick Walsh, Treasurer Finances

AROUND THE WORLD

IPA Germany: Ukraine - we are helping ... ми допомагаємо

War in Ukraine...

...the shock and concern for the people paralysed us, but not for long. It was clear to IPA Germany that help had to be provided, immediately!

With the beginning of the refugee crisis, we received more than 40 offers from IPA families, who were willing to welcome children, women, and whole families of Ukrainian colleagues into their homes.

In order to provide the refugees with relief supplies, committed IPA friends became active and put together relief transports, which were initially financed by the German IPA Section and then became more and more extensive through a variety of donations.



*IPA on the move:
Ukraine aid convoy eastward-bound*

German IPA members, but also the International Executive Board and IPA Sections Ireland, Iceland, Canada, North Macedonia, Switzerland and Turkey transferred generous amounts that were spent directly on relief items, and so the first transport of supplies could start.

So far, around 60,000€ have been collected and more transports could be organised. Again and again, IPA friends use their free time to go to Poland and bring their deliveries to where they are needed, with the help of IPA Section Poland. Since some of the transports are by bus, on the return journey our friends are able to take Ukrainian refugees back with them to their new destinations.

This really shows what friendship means, and the IPA can be proud. Several radio stations and newspapers are also reporting on the relief efforts and thus give hope for further financial donations, which will enable us to continue helping.

The team of the first transport tells the following story:

“On 10 March 2022, two of my colleagues and I drove to Poland in a bus and a truck. The bus transported almost 7 tons of relief supplies. Unfortunately, I could only transport 3.2 tons in the truck.

After almost 1,500 kilometres, we arrived at our destination in Chelm, where we were able to hand over the donations from IPA Section Germany, as well as from our acquaintances, friends, and relatives.

Beforehand, we had supplied two children's homes in Łódź with everything that was urgently needed. Mostly Ukrainian orphans are cared for there.

Our colleagues from Ukraine reported from the war zone first-hand, and their reports and mobile pictures made us feel queasy.

Afterwards we drove to a refugee home in Hrubieszów with colleagues from IPA Mecklenburg-Vorpommern. This place is located 5 km from the Ukrainian border. We contacted those responsible and offered our support to take refugees to Germany. I will never forget the impressions I gained there.

Until the following day at 06:45 am, there was no-one who wanted to go to Germany. Then a call came that 13 refugees wanted to go to Dresden. We could hardly believe it, but 30 minutes later the entire bus was full of people, and one could see that they all had obviously experienced a lot of suffering and exertion.

I stood next to the senior transportation coordinator while heart-breaking scenes unfolded in front of the bus. She suddenly noticed how difficult it was for me to speak. Tears ran down her cheeks, and she said to me: "I've been doing this for two weeks now, and I feel like this every day here".

I don't want to imagine what was going through people's minds as they got further and further from home minute by minute. Our journey led via Katowice to Dresden, and from there to Frankfurt.



Handover to IPA Ukraine

Then we had to go back to work, but the next vacation days are booked. We will continue and will not leave these people alone, some of whom got on the bus with just a small plastic bag.

Originally, we had expected a maximum of 13 people for our transport of refugees who had fled from the war zone. When the bus was suddenly full, we had to improvise. The previously purchased sausages, sweets and drinks would not have lasted long for 44 people. We tried everything to enable particularly the children to have a carefree ride. Luckily, one of our team, Mathäus, speaks Polish and was able to bridge the language barrier well.

We tried everything to offer our passengers a warm meal before the expected lengthy ordeal in the initial reception centre (EAA) in Dresden. Despite good contacts to the German Red Cross in Rhineland-Palatinate and the Order of Malta Volunteers in Dresden, it was unfortunately not possible to organise anything adequately in this short time. However, we were promised help for our next transport.

About 170 km before Dresden, we drove to a motorway service area and invited everyone to a warm meal in the snack bar there. Exhausted from the day's exertions, we finally arrived at the EAA in Dresden at 11:00 pm. It is a strange feeling to collect people from a school gym, drop them off at another gym, and then to just drive away.

Leaving the hall, we saw exhausted, sad, tired, and hope-seeking faces. My last police teddy bear found a happy new owner here. We said goodbye to the Ukrainian refugees, and then received the best possible reward for our work: a quiet 'Spasibo' and a smile."

Facts and figures of the first transport:

We spent 180 working hours on the preparation and follow-up plus the trips, we used 800 litres of diesel for the bus and 250 for the truck to transport 10 tons of relief supplies and drive 44 refugees to Dresden ...

... and we have brought back countless impressions.



Text: Hubert Vitt, IPA Germany

Photos: Christian Heckens, IPA Germany

IPA Romania support Ukrainian Refugees on many Levels

We all know that we are going through an extremely difficult time. We didn't even get to enjoy the fact that the coronavirus pandemic is coming to an end, when in 2022 we found ourselves in Europe faced with a full-blown war. Many people have struggled to make ends meet.



It is almost impossible to imagine that something like this could happen in the 21st century in Europe. In a short time, wonder was replaced by fear, and fear was replaced by the desire to do something, to help. The drama of the Ukrainian people fighting for freedom today is huge. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled into exile to escape the bombs, hundreds of thousands more are fighting with weapons in their hands to defend their country.

All the countries that have a common border with Ukraine were confronted with a high number of refugees and, in a common front, Romanians, Poles, Moldovans, amongst others, have shown humanity and solidarity.



The IPA Romanian Section could not remain passive in this macabre show orchestrated under the veiled threat of a nuclear war. From messages of support to convoys of material aid, the Romanian IPA regions and IPA members have shown that our association's motto 'Servo per Amikeco' is not simply a slogan, but the essence of a pattern of social behaviour.

May peace guide us in all our decisions, and may we remain united, because united we are stronger!

Mihai-Liviu Tărtăreanu, President IPA Romania

IPA Poland Serving through Friendship – for Ukraine

The day when the war in Ukraine began will forever remain in our minds. We knew the world would change. Nothing will ever be the same again. Photos and video clips showing the invasion of Russian troops in Ukraine, explosions, people hiding in shelters ... situations we had only seen in the movies up to now. Until recently, none of us expected such a human drama to take place so close to us, between two countries belonging to our association as part of our IPA family: IPA Ukraine and IPA Russia. Together, we had proudly expressed our motto "Servo per Amikeco" - to serve through friendship.



Suddenly we had to answer the question: what now? What should an association that is by definition politically neutral do? Our members, however, did not wait for the decisions of world authorities. In the face of such a huge human tragedy, "serving through friendship" took on an even stronger meaning. Hundreds of IPA members from all over Poland started raising funds for Ukraine.

We got in touch with our Ukrainian friends to find out exactly how we can help, and what their needs are. Almost every day, tons of products, including essential equipment, as well as medical and food supplies, are now delivered to the eastern border from Polish IPA members.



We are also trying to support Ukrainian orphans who ended up in our country. Hundreds of such children are currently residing in Polish orphanages. We have not forgotten about police dogs, providing them with hundreds of kilogrammes of food. However, we do not focus our help only on the territory of Ukraine.



The men who stayed behind in the war-torn country kept telling us to help their wives and children. We have not remained deaf to these appeals. We knew that people who escaped from Ukraine and found themselves in Poland also needed us. Members of the IPA (especially from border regions) help refugees day and night during their very difficult first moments in Poland. They provide food, help to carry luggage, or give information about the opportunities that our country opens up for them. They are close to this human drama. They try to give encouragement and strength to Ukrainian mothers, and make their children smile for a moment.

One of the first decisions of the Polish national board was to prepare a special form for IPA members, in which they can express their willingness to accept refugees under their roof, as well as report other possibilities of assistance. Ukrainian families live in the houses of Polish IPA members, and we are trying to help them also through the IPA regions. We do everything to make them feel safe in these difficult moments. On the IPA website and Facebook, a message in Ukrainian was posted, assuring the willingness to help the members of IPA Ukraine. None of us want to sit back and wait.



Not only the Polish Section of the IPA helps. Police from all over the world help Ukrainian families. IPA convoys full of the most necessary products from all over the world arrive in this war-torn country! Many representatives of national sections from European countries, including Germany, Italy, Spain or the Netherlands come to the Polish-Ukrainian border. They bring the necessary products, but also offer transport for those fleeing the war. They help orphans who were evacuated from Ukraine and ended up in Polish orphanages. We try to support them in this help, so that both they and the gifts they carry through Poland safely reach those in need. We help them logistically plan their trip, we organise accommodation for them if they need it, or we indicate places where help is most needed.

Although IPA members from all over the world have by now shown their solidarity and helped each other more than once, "Servo per Amikeco" has never had such an overtone. This war has left its mark not only on the citizens of Ukraine, but also on all of us. It has touched the hearts of people from all over the world. We realise that the citizens of Ukraine will need our help for a long time



Even if the war ends soon, it will take years for the country to recover from this tragedy. We know this and are already planning long-term assistance. We will not leave our Ukrainian friends in need. This is why the IPA was created - so that we, as police officers, unite, help each other and others.

Aneta Sobieraj, Vice President IPA Poland

IPA Spain invite you to the 65th IPA World Congress and Friendship Week 2022!

Dear IPA friends,

On behalf of the Organising Committee and all members of IPA Section Spain, it is my pleasure to invite you to the 65th IPA World Congress (WC) followed by the Friendship Week (Barcelona & Madrid).



Covid-19 forced us to cancel the organisation of the WC during the years 2020 and 2021. As a result of the pandemic, many people around the world have died or are still under the effects of the disease, some of them colleagues and family members. Our most affectionate thoughts are with all of them.

The IPA World Congress will be held from 4-9 October 2022, followed by the IPA Friendship Week from 9-16 October 2022. All information related to both events can be found directly on our website at <https://ipa-65th-world-congress.org/>.

IPA Spain was founded on 15 May 1961, at the general meeting of members that took place in the Municipal Police School of Barcelona. This was followed by our section's affiliation on 11 September 1961, in Stuttgart during the III IPA World Congress.

We have worked very hard to find a place where we can celebrate our World Congress with the best conditions and prices, and we have made a huge effort to maintain the same prices as two years ago, to encourage the personal encounter between all of us during the World Congress and the Friendship Week. We decided on Lloret de Mar as a location, as it is interesting from a tourist point of view.

The venue we have chosen is the Olympic Congress Centre, which is part of the EVENIA Olympic Resort composed of 4-star hotels and a congress centre (auditorium), located in the heart of the Costa Brava, in a residential area of Lloret de Mar (1000m from the beach, 12 minutes' walk).



We know from experience that the working days at the congress are very hard, and for this reason we have made every effort and put special interest into the social programme. It will be exciting for all, delegates, observers and visitors. During the World Congress, you will have the opportunity to spend a fun evening with a dinner-show in a themed restaurant.

We will visit Barcelona, take a sightseeing excursion and a skyline tour by boat. Barcelona is a cosmopolitan city on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea, always following and leading the latest international trends, which becomes evident in particular if you look at its architecture.

For those of you who want to take part in the Friendship Week after the World Congress, I assure you it will be amazing. Colleagues from IPA Madrid and the IPA Catalunya region have prepared a programme that you will not forget for years to come. You will be accompanied 24/7 by members of the organising committee.



Look forward to visiting beautiful Barcelona ...

We will visit Barcelona and Madrid, take a ZIP train to climb to the top of the Holy Mountain of Montserrat, visit the interior of the Sagrada Família, and also take a tour in a small train to one of the largest 'cava' factories in the world.

The transfer to Madrid will be on the high-speed train 'AVE', a great experience! Colleagues from IPA Madrid will be waiting for us and show us the capital of Spain, full of historical monuments and unique places.

We will visit 'The Madrid of the Austrias' which is the name given to one of the most touristic areas in the centre of Madrid, located between the Puerta del Sol and the Royal Palace and where some of the most important monuments of Madrid are concentrated. It is named for having been built, mostly, during the reign of the Habsburg dynasty.

We will also visit other cities, such as: Toledo, Avila and, if we have enough time, the unique and magnificent Aqueduct of Segovia, one of the most amazing masterpieces from Roman times.

In Toledo we will take a half-day guided tour to visit this monumental World Heritage city, the capital of the Spanish Empire under Carlos V. The visit to the medieval city of Avila will impress you, due to its magnificent city walls. We will also visit the National Police Academy (CNP).



... as well as the capital Madrid!

The National Executive Committee of IPA Spain has taken the decision to hold its general assembly during the weekend coinciding with the World Congress.

All that now remains, is for you to encourage yourselves and complete your registration for these events in the form provided on the website, as soon as possible.

Website: <https://ipa-65th-world-congress.org/>

Email: booking@ipa-65th-world-congress.org

We are waiting for you with open arms!

Servo per Amikeco,

Arturo Salinas Marin, President IPA Spain

IPA Canada's Region 16 raises Donations for worthy Causes

Members of IPA Canada's Region 16 have delivered, once again.

Through group effort, money was raised to provide donations, gift cards and gifts to worthy organizations.



In New Brunswick, members delivered gift cards to the Beausejour Family Crisis Resource Centre, which helps victims of domestic violence.

In Newfoundland, members made a donation to the Association of New Canadians and to local seniors through the Silver Santa Program.

In Prince Edward Island, members donated to the local food bank, the Upper Room Hospitality Ministry.

Finally, in Nova Scotia, members donated to the Adsum Shelter for Women and Children.

In total, \$3550 was raised and gifted.

A wonderful effort, and selflessness, by all involved.

Tara Murphy, National Newsletter Editor, IPA Canada



IPA Serbia's Kikinda Region offers Humanitarian Aid

The wish to help was at the heart of IPA Serbia's Kikinda region when disaster hit a local family.



During the night of 7-8 February 2022, a fire broke out in the chimney of the house of the Martinov family from Mol in the municipality of Ada, and then spread to other rooms of the house and the ceiling, causing the entire house of about 60 m² and its contents to burn down. The family stayed on the street for one night, and their situation was all the more serious due to their severe health issues.

Shortly afterwards, representatives of local businesses from the municipality of Ada and the local government came to the rescue and provided construction materials for the erection of a new house for the family. At the initiative of the Ada IPA sub-region and with the support of the IPA Kikinda region, the decision was made to organise a humanitarian fundraising event.

On 7 March 2022, a dinner was organised in Ada for all members of the IPA Kikinda region, as well as for IPA supporters and businesspeople of the Ada municipality. Each guest had the opportunity to donate money, which would go towards the family, as an aid in solving their housing problem. The IPA region of Kikinda was guided by the slogan: "A little bit from us - means a lot to someone". On that evening, an amount of about 100,000 Dinars was collected (around 900 Euros).



On 16 March 2022, a delegation of the national IPA Serbia section - Kikinda region visited the unfortunate family to see in person what had happened, and what they were going through. Proud of the humanity of the entrepreneurs of the municipality of Ada, the local government, as well as the IPA members who recognised the need to collect aid, the IPA Kikinda delegation handed over the collected money and gifts to the family, in the hope that they will soon have a new home.

We wish the Martinov family health, peace, and happiness.

Servo per Amikeco!

Čedomir Vidicki, Secretary General Kikinda Region IPA Serbia

IPA Spain's fifth Trans-Pyrenean Motorcycle Trip: A Tour full of Adventures and beautiful Sights

The 1st October at Roses was a date and location marked on the calendar for those who love motorcycles and great routes, as this was the start for the the 5th Trans-Pyrenean IPA Route 2021.

Roses was the meeting and departure point, the beginning of a 1200 km journey through the Pyrenees, from the Mediterranean to the Cantabrian Sea. Three days of coexistence with nature, the motorcycle, family, colleagues and friends. The whole IPA philosophy concentrated in one event.

Participants came from different countries, some from far away, such as Belgium, or others who live closer, such as Madrid, Almeria, Valencia, and Catalonia.

From 6:00 pm, familiar faces from former years began to arrive, having chosen to take part once more because they like the good environment. Once everyone had arrived, the briefing began by explaining some of the route aspects. This was followed by dinner.



Day 2: Roses - Andorra

Following an early breakfast, the participants gathered for a group photo before starting the trip. After a day of good weather, the forecast predicted rain for the following day.



I want to thank the Community of Sant Julià de Lòria for the facilities given to park the 36 motorcycles that composed the group, and especially the head of the parking department, Mr. Kim for the professionalism and diligence shown in organising the parking for us: each participant was shown to their booked spaces. Thanks Kim, it was a pleasure meeting you!

Everyone was at the hotel by 7:00 pm, no setbacks happened on the way, which was a good sign. We met some of the participants for dinner at a close-by pizzeria, giving us the chance to talk about the day's route, in a good atmosphere.

Day 3: Andorra - Jaca

The sunrise was accompanied with rain, as the forecast foresaw, so there was no choice but to put on the raincoats and wait for the weather to improve during the day.

Once we arrived in Spain, at Sort, thankfully it stopped raining, but the forecast for the Col du Tourmalet was not good. As a precaution, we decided to go to Jaca by an alternative route and restart the route later. Arriving in Jaca in the rain, we all met up at the parking lot and talked about the day.

Day 4: Jaca - Irún

The day started cold but sunny, and although the forecast predicted that it might rain again, we faced the day with enthusiasm and joy, and wished ourselves a good route to start the last stage of the tour.

After the breathtaking landscape at Huesca, we entered Navarra and the Roncal Valley, to take a detour to France and the Irati Forest.

In my humble opinion, this last part of the route is one of the most beautiful in the Pyrenees. In this section we alternated between France and Spain. Both the area and the road were beautiful, the weather was good, and finally it was time to eat.

In Saint-Jean Pied de Port France, we met some of the participants who had decided to stop for lunch in this beautiful French city, whereas we carried on to reach the top of Izpegui, already in Navarra (Spain), where we decided to eat at the Venta Ispegui restaurant, where more participants were arriving, forming a good group.

After lunch with a bright sun, we continued the route, and the road was good. Before arriving at our destination, we decided to take a photo with the Atlantic behind us. This made us late and night fell, but this was not a problem, as we were only 4 km away from our destination.



Once at the hotel I saw that everyone had arrived, I saw happy faces, everyone had spent a few days in the company of friends, family and above all, we had had the opportunity to meet new people. At the farewell dinner, we handed out certificates of participation and expressed our wish to see each other again next year.

This year's trip will be from Irún to La Coruña, along the entire Cantabrian coast, from 14-18 October 2022, if you would like to mark these dates.

After our good-byes, I went to my room satisfied and happy, with the tranquility that comes from seeing the participants' happy faces. The IPA motto had once again been fulfilled, in accordance with our founder Arthur Troop: "Servo per Amikeko" among all the police officers of the world.

Jose Luiz Lopez, Route Organiser, member IPA Spain

IPA Montenegro welcome new IPA members on International Women's Day

On the occasion of the International Women's Day 2022, the IPA Section of Montenegro awarded IPA cadet membership cards to 28 women cadets of the XIV and XV generation.



The attendees were welcomed by the acting director of the Police Academy, Mr Dragan Pavličić, who warmly thanked the IPA Section for taking care of their students and future policewomen.

Furthermore, he wished them a very happy International Women's Day on behalf of the Police Academy and, on his own behalf, expressed great pleasure that he was able to welcome young, valuable and responsible women, who had shown themselves as devoted students, and who would be proving themselves as exceptional managers, counsellors and policewomen, with tremendous knowledge and enthusiasm:

“You deserve attention and trust, not only on this day, but much much more, on each and every single day”, concluded Mr Pavličić.



The president of the regional centre, Mr Duško Baković, then spoke about the importance of women in the police, emphasising that they should work hard to earn leadership positions, as the presence of more women raises the confidence of people, especially women, in the police.

Jelena Albijanić Tomić, Regional Public Relations Officer, IPA Montenegro

Surprise Donation for IPA UK Member

Members from IPA UK's Scarborough branch and their twin branch IPA Ludwigsburg organised a surprise lunch and presentation for Scarborough branch member Colin Phipps at a local pub on Saturday 19th March 2022.

Colin, a former amateur rugby player, underwent surgery on his spinal column in August 2021 after suffering many years of pain and injury, including a broken back suffered during working at height training, while still a serving police officer.

The procedure was not without risk, which Colin knew, but without it, he had been told he would never walk again. The operation was successful in that it freed up Colin's spine, but it still left him unable to walk. Colin was told by medical experts that he would be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. He spent 3½ months in Pinderfields Hospital Spinal Unit, Wakefield isolated from his 5-year-old son Jacob and his first granddaughter Maddison, who was born days before he was admitted to hospital.



Spurred on by wanting to be the best possible father and grandfather, Colin has since confounded the medical experts and, with lots of physiotherapy, training, determination and fighting spirit, can now walk short distances with the aid of sticks.



On learning of Colin's plight, and in the true spirit of the IPA, friends from IPA Ludwigsburg donated 2500€ to help with practical support for Colin's future. Lars Herold from IPA Ludwigsburg, a friend of many Scarborough branch members, including Colin, travelled to the UK for a brief visit to see Colin and was hosted locally. In addition to the cheque, Lars also presented a bottle of local German wine to Colin's partner and a toy to Jacob. In return, Lars was presented with a Metropolitan Police Whistle by Secretary Chris Charlton on behalf of the Scarborough Branch.

Lars said, "When we heard about what happened to Colin, we decided to initiate a donation for our friend from Scarborough and collected 2500€. As we had not just wanted to send a bank transfer, I said, I was going to bring the money over myself and here I am! It was amazing to see Colin walk into the pub on his own. Best of our IPA wishes to Colin and his family. We hope to welcome him in Germany again very soon."

The surprise lunch was organised with the help of Colin's partner Kelly. Colin said, "At 56 years of age, I am still amazed at the ability of fellow humans to surprise me having seen the worst of everything in my lifetime. I am absolutely dumbfounded by this gesture and am extremely grateful for the friendship that has been shown to me which has been nurtured over the years through the IPA. Vielen Dank!

Chris Charlton, Secretary Scarborough Branch IPA UK

IPA North Macedonia hold successful Balkan-Adriatic Meeting

IPA North Macedonia hosted the 6th Balkan-Adriatic Conference dedicated to the "Migrant Crisis and the countries of the Balkan-Adriatic Region" in the IPA Skopje Region from 12 to 14 November 2021. Delegations from 9 out of 16 member states, Greece, Cyprus, Bulgaria, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania and Montenegro, plus the host North Macedonia, took part, and delegations from Germany, Poland and Israel attended as observer countries.



The meeting also welcomed guests from the IPA Skopje twin region of Halle/Saale from Germany, Zagreb from Croatia, Timisoara from Romania, Brčko from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Niš from Serbia, Burgas from Bulgaria and Regija Jug from Montenegro. On Friday evening a friendship dinner was held for all.

On 12 November 2021, the conference was attended by the Minister of the Interior Mr. Oliver Spasovski, the Director of the Public Security Bureau Mr. Saso Tasevski, representatives of FRONTEX, IOED, the Federation of Trade Unions of Macedonia, Mr. Darko Dimovski, the North Macedonian Police Union led by Mr. Marjan Kicev, the assistant director Mr. Toni Stankovski and the Chief of SIA Skopje, Mr. Toni Jakimovski, as well as delegations from all regions of the country.

The President of IPA North Macedonia, Mr. Robertino Acevski and the President of the IPA Region Skopje, Mr. Igno Stojkov opened the conference with their welcoming speeches. This was followed by a speech of The Director of the Public Security Bureau, Mr. Tasevski, who addressed the attendees on the topic this year's conference "The Migrant Crisis and the Countries of the Balkan-Adriatic Region". In his speech, Mr. Tasevski welcomed the delegations on behalf of the Public Security Bureau and as an IPA member, and highlighted the objectives of the IPA. Regarding the migrant crisis, Mr Tasevski stated that illegal crossing through the Western Balkan and Adriatic route was still active, used by migrants from the Middle East and Africa on their route to Western European countries, mostly for security or economic reasons. Attempts to cross the border illegally to North Macedonia showed a downward trend of 36.5 %, more than 60% for detected cases of migrant smuggling, and a decrease of the number of new asylum applications by 70%. He detailed that the joint organisation and coordination for intensified surveillance of the southern border, by hiring police officers from abroad, continued, with police officers from eight countries participating in this activity in joint mixed patrols with members of the border police, with the aim of preventing attempts for illegal entry or exit of migrants from the Republic of Greece, as well as detecting cases of migrant smuggling.



The Minister of the Interior, Mr. Spasovski, also addressed the Conference, welcoming the delegates and guests on behalf of the Ministry and thanking for the invitation. He emphasised that the IPA family was constantly growing, from about 50 enthusiastic police officers from the Ministry of the Interior in the beginning, to over 7,000 members today, with numerous international activities and contacts around the world. He referred to the organisation of several international events, including the Central-Eastern European and the Mediterranean Conference in 2022, and stressed that the commitment, enthusiasm and work of IPA North Macedonia was recognised internationally, resulting in the allocation of the IPA World Congress 2024.



Mr Spasovski welcomed the IPA humanitarian actions with regard to the Covid-19 pandemic, in which IPA members, as well as companies and individuals helped secure and distribute protective equipment intended for police officers on the front lines. He concluded by giving his full support to the IPA, stating he was convinced the conference would continue to deepen international police cooperation. He wished for successful discussions, as well as a strengthening of friendships – existing and new.

IPA Vice President Mr. Kyriakos Karkalis from Greece also addressed the conference, via video link. He congratulated IPA North Macedonia on organising a highly successful regional meeting and expressed his thanks to President Robertino Acevski for the opportunity to address the delegates by video conference.

The second working session of the Conference included a presentation by the Secretary General of the IPA Region Skopje, Mr. Igor Manojloski, on the migrant crisis, prepared in cooperation with the Department for Border Police, and a video presentation by Mr. George Demetriou and Mr. Kyriakos Perikleous from IPA Cyprus, on the IPA International Folklore Festival, taking place in Cyprus in 2022. In addition, Mr. Vojislav Dragović, Vice President of IPA Montenegro, held a presentation on the IPA Games 2022 in Bar, plus Mr. Eran Israel, Secretary General of IPA Israel and member of the IPA Socio-Cultural Commission addressed the meeting.

At the end of the working sessions, the flag of the Balkan-Adriatic Group was handed to the President of IPA Bosnia and Herzegovina, as host of the next Balkan-Adriatic Meeting in 2022. The conference was closed by the President of IPA North Macedonia, after which all delegations exchanged gifts and were awarded with coins dedicated to the 10th anniversary of IPA North Macedonia.

In the afternoon, all guests visited the "STOBI" winery in Gradsko for a wine tasting session, and the gala dinner in the "Denicija" restaurant in Skopje was attended by over 200 guests. On 14 November, all delegates were invited to the opening of the new IPA North Macedonia & IPA Region Skopje offices.

We take this opportunity to thank all our members who were involved in the organisation of this conference, and our IPA friends who helped and supported us both with the Conference and the new IPA offices.

Igor Manojloski, Secretary General IPA North Macedonia

IPA Poland National Board Meeting in Opole

On 18th and 19th March 2022, the national board of IPA Poland held a spring meeting. This time, the Opole Voivodeship Group was the host, and welcomed the participants in the “Festival” Hotel in Opole.



During the 2-day meeting, the Polish IPA Section’s activities during the year 2021 were summarised, and the financial affairs of our Section were discussed in detail.

As part of the proceedings, a number of resolutions necessary for the proper functioning of our Section were adopted.

Four Voivodeship Groups (Śląsk, Mazowsze, Podkarpacie and Podlasie) were awarded with a diploma for outstanding activities in 2021.

Furthermore, activities concerning current and planned help for Ukraine in these harsh times, as well as preparations for celebrations of the 30th anniversary of our Section were discussed.

Our meeting was also an occasion to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Opole Voivodeship Group.



On Friday, 18th March, a solemn gala was held in the Marshal's Office in Opole, with members of the National Board, headed by the President of IPA Poland, the Chairman of the Opole Voivodeship Group, the Deputy Marshal of the Opole Voivodeship, the Deputy Mayor of the City of Opole, the First Deputy of the



Voivodeship Police Chief in Opole, representatives of the Opole Voivodeship Group, delegations from other national IPA Sections and invited guests.

The Chairperson of the Opole Voivodeship Group, Olga Gaida, received an engraved plate presented by the President of the Polish IPA Section, and three colleagues from the Opole Voivodeship Section were honoured with Polish IPA Section medals.

Piotr Wójcik, President IPA Poland

IPA Extremadura – IV Matanza Tradicional IPAex 2022

Este año, 2022, hemos podido disfrutar de un intenso fin de semana internacional de amistad en Guadalupe (Cáceres). Nos hemos reunido 85 Amikecos, y cada año más, de diferentes lugares con una misma premisa: pasarlo bien y en buena compañía (Andalucía, Euskadi, Navarra, Madrid, Cataluña, Valencia, Castilla y León, Italia, Extremadura).



Ha sido un fin de semana repleto de actividades, con visitas guiadas por el pueblo de Guadalupe; aprendiendo y conociendo el arte y tradición de la Matanza (confección de diferentes embutidos tales como chorizos, patatera, morcillas de sangre y lomos); así como realizando una ruta senderista por los parajes de los alrededores del Geoparque Mundial de la UNESCO Villuercas-Ibores-Jara (Cueva Chiquita y Pico Villuercas)

Un amigo no es en realidad cualquier persona a quien llamamos con dicha palabra; el que realmente lo es conoce nuestra manera de ser y pone siempre de su parte la empatía para conocer la manera correcta en que debemos ser tratados. Disfruta y hace disfrutar cada instante que coincidimos, olvidando problemas y maximizando valores; consiguen de ti guardar en esa "cajita" momentos inolvidables.

Cada año se agranda el significado de nuestro lema #ServoPerAmikeco.

Raúl Medina, Secretario IPA Extremadura, IPA España



LAST WORD

Reading through this month's newsletter articles, I feel a sense of gratitude working for an association made up of thousands of individuals who take the IPA motto of 'Servo per Amikeco – Service through Friendship' truly to their hearts.

Assisting those in need is the common denominator in the majority of articles in this edition. We are only able to publish a very small proportion of the countless IPA initiatives aimed at helping IPA members and refugees in Ukraine these past few weeks – but the three examples featured in this edition illustrate how far IPA members and boards are prepared to go, and how much they are willing to assist, when help is needed most.



IPA members coming to the aid of those in need is not restricted to Ukraine, but is also evident on a day-to-day basis in incidences that do not make the world news: IPA sections, regions as well as individuals raise money for worthy causes in Christmas initiatives, organise fundraising events when disasters strike, or show their support by making a donation to a fellow member who has lived through an extremely tough time.

To give, to help, to take care, is at the heart of the IPA.

It will therefore be all the more of a joyous occasion for IPA members from 68 sections to come together for the first world gathering in three years, to celebrate IPA solidarity and exchange friendship – a small taste of what will expect those who attend can be found in IPA Spain's article on the 65th IPA World Congress in this newsletter.

Elke

