

Conference

National Police Forces in Europe and the Holocaust 1939-1945

*Academic opening conference in the framework of the Belgian Chairmanship of
the Task Force for International cooperation on Holocaust Education,
Remembrance and Research*

Lamot Centre – Mechelen
Monday 25 June 2012

Organized by:

CEGES[]SOMA

Centre for Historical Research and Documentation on War and Contemporary Society, Brussels



Institut für Geschichte of the Alpen Adria University of Klagenfurt (Austria)

Introduction

During the German occupation of large parts of Europe (1939-1945) policing was also enacted by national police forces of the occupied countries. These national police forces were taken over or (as in parts of Eastern Europe) newly created. They often outnumbered the German police by far.

Without this ‘auxiliary’ police, the enforcement of Nazi rule would have been impossible, especially on the local level. National police forces remained responsible for the persecution of regular criminality, and for everyday public order. But they also had to enact specific Nazi policies, more specifically the cooperation in the persecution, deportation – and in parts of Eastern Europe, killing – of Jews. Although the German Police and SS apparatus remained the driving force of this policy, the practical implementation relied heavily on national police on the local level.

Despite the subject's importance, there has only been limited transnational historical research into these occupied police forces. Most of the literature deals with national cases, or specific cities/regions. There is no transnational comprehensive overview. This conference aims to integrate the existing research on a European level, in particular from Central and Eastern Europe. It also envisages to open new transnational and comparative perspectives on collaboration in general.

The focal point of the conference lies with the Holocaust. This will also be used as a stepping stone for comparison between police structures (personnel, organization, command, identity) under Nazi and Axis rule, as well as the comparison between the actual operation of the occupied national police. In doing so, we will also try to compare and analyze the different structures on the background of societies under occupation.

Programme

09.00 a.m.: Doors

09.30-09.45 a.m. : Opening speeches

Rudi Van Doorslaer (director CEGES-SOMA)

Jan Deboutte (Belgian Chair, ITF)

Koen Verlaeckaert (secretary-general, Flemish department for foreign affairs)

Chair of the proceedings : Cyrille Fijnaut

09.45-11.00 a.m.: Session 1 - Structures and relations with the occupiers

Sergei Kudryashov – *'Russians in the German police forces'*

Benoît Majerus – *'Why the Holocaust does not matter? Explaining the (non-)participation of policemen in the arrest of Jews in Belgium during World War Two'*

Christoph Dieckmann – *'Lithuanian Paramilitary and Police forces under German Occupation. Structures, Processes, Effects'*

11.00-11.20 a.m.: Coffee Break

11.20-12.35 a.m. : Session 2 - Personnel : continuity during and after

Tal Bruttman – *'French police in Southern France : enforcing anti-Jewish policies'*

Niklas Perzi – *'The "Czech" police before, after and during the Second World War or the question of continuities'*

Andrzej Żbikowski – *'The underground conspiracy within the Polish Auxilliary Police 1939-1940 and the role of Marian and Jan Kozielski'*

12.35-13.35 p.m. - Lunch

13.35-14.50 p.m. : Session 3 - General police activities and relations with the population

Milan Koljanin – *‘The role of the Serbian Police in the Holocaust in occupied Serbia’*

Guus Meershoek – *‘The impact of citizens opinions on Dutch police participation in the deportation of the Jews 1942-1943’*

Leonid Rein - *‘Indigenous Auxiliary Police Formations in Nazi-occupied Belarus (1941-1944)’*

14.50-16.05 p.m.: Session 4 – Grassroot participation in the Holocaust

Laszlo Csosz – *‘The Royal Hungarian Police and the Holocaust’*

Martin Dean – *‘The participation of the indigenous local police in the ghetto liquidation Aktions, 1941-1943’*

Lieven Saerens & Herman Van Goethem – *‘The Antwerp police and the persecution of the Jews during the summer of 1942’*

16.05-16.25 p.m.: Coffee Break

16.25-17.00 p.m.: plenary remarks + closing comments : Dieter Pohl

Organization and Practical information

This conference is organized under the umbrella of **Eucowas** (*European Cooperation on War Studies*). This is an international partnership coordinated by CEGES-SOMA. This conference is co-organized with the *Institut für Geschichte of the Alpen Adria University of Klagenfurt* (Austria), For more information contact Eucowas-coordinator dr. Nico Wouters (nico.wouters@cegesoma.be)

Location :

Lamot Centre Mechelen

Van Beethovenstraat 8-10

B – 2800 Mechelen (<http://lamot-mechelen.be/home>)

Important Registration Information :

Delegates are kindly requested to register separately for this conference through the registration module on www.holocausttaskforce.org. The conference can also be attended by others, who can register by sending an e-mail to lut.vandaele@cegesoma.be.