

Police Science in the European Police College Perspective

Eko Rudi Sudarto

Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Kepolisian (STIK/PTIK)

E-mail: ekosudarto@stik-ptik.ac.id

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Abstract : *Police science has evolved alongside the increasing complexity of policing functions in modern society. In Europe, its development gained significant momentum through the initiatives of the European Police College (CEPOL), which promotes an integrated scientific approach to policing. This article aims to analyze the concept of police science from the CEPOL perspective based on the report Perspectives of Police Science in Europe. The study employs a qualitative library research method through the analysis of official CEPOL documents. The findings indicate that to enhance police professionalism, police science is understood as an interdisciplinary applied discipline integrating law, criminology, sociology, psychology, and management. CEPOL emphasizes the interconnection between research, education, and operational practice, as well as the importance of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law as the fundamental principles guiding policing in addressing contemporary security challenges. In the context of current global issues, such as*



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transnational crime, terrorism, irregular migration, cybercrime, and hybrid threats, a knowledge-based police science approach has become increasingly relevant for strengthening the adaptive capacity of police institutions. For Indonesia, the CEPOL perspective provides a valuable conceptual framework for the development of police science capable of responding to evolving national security challenges, including the management of transnational crime, digital transformation in policing, and the strengthening of democratic and accountable security governance.

Keywords : *Police science, CEPOL, policing, police education, rule of law*

INTRODUCTION

The development of modern society has increased the complexity of policing functions within the state. The police are no longer viewed solely as law enforcement institutions that carry out repressive functions, but as public organizations that have broad responsibilities in maintaining security, order, human rights protection, and social conflict management in a democratic society.¹ This changing role requires a scientific approach capable of systematically explaining how the police work, how security policies are formulated, and how policing practices can be improved through knowledge-based research and education. It is in this context that police science develops as a field of study that seeks to integrate theory and practice in the implementation of police functions.

In the academic literature, policing studies initially developed across several disciplines. Legal studies examine policing in relation to law enforcement and state authority, criminology examines crime and responses to crime, sociology examines the relationship between police and society, while administrative and management highlight police organization as a bureaucratic institution. This fragmentation has resulted in the absence of a single discipline dedicated specifically to policing. Therefore, there is a need to develop a field of

¹ David H. Bayley, *Police for The Future*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994), 125-126

science that specifically studies the police comprehensively, both as an institution and as a social process.²

The need for a scientific approach to policing has intensified alongside growing demands for professionalism, accountability, and transparency in the implementation of security functions. In a democratic society, the police are not only required to be effective in enforcing the law, but also must be able to work in accordance with the principles of the rule of law, respecting human rights, and be accountable for their actions to the public.³ This condition requires a strong scientific basis as a foundation for education, training, and policy-making in the police field. Therefore, the development of police science cannot be separated from efforts to modernize the police institution itself.⁴

In the international context, especially in Europe, the need for the development of police science is increasingly urgent as cross-border cooperation in the field of security increases. EU integration entails the consequence of increased mobility of people, goods and services, which at the same time opens up opportunities for the development of transnational crimes, such as human trafficking, terrorism, cybercrime, and organised crime. These challenges cannot be faced by one country individually, but require close cooperation among member countries. Such cooperation requires not only operational coordination, but also a common understanding of police functions, professional standards, and scientific approaches in handling security issues.⁵

To address this need, the Council of the European Union established the European Police College (CEPOL) as an institution tasked with enhancing education and training cooperation for high-level police officers in member states. CEPOL's mandate is not only limited to training, but also includes the development of a European approach to key issues in crime eradication, crime prevention, and the maintenance of public order and security, especially those that have a cross-border dimension.⁶ In carrying out this mandate, CEPOL

² European Police College (CEPOL), "Perspectives of Police Science in Europe: Final Report," (2007), 10

³ Hermawan Sulisty & Tito Karnavian, *Democratic Policing*, (Jakarta: Pencil 324, 2018).

⁴ European Police College (CEPOL), 9

⁵ European Police College (CEPOL), 3-4

⁶ European Police College (CEPOL), 5

realizes that a clear conceptual basis is needed for police science to be developed in a directional manner.

The main problem faced in the development of a European approach to policing is the lack of understanding of the definition and scope of police science.⁷ Studies on policing have been widely conducted by experts from various disciplines, but the results of these studies have not been integrated into a scientific framework that can be used together. Moreover, each country has different police traditions, both in the legal system, organizational structure, and institutional culture, making it difficult to formulate a concept of police science that applies in general. This raises fundamental questions about how it is possible to develop a European approach to policing if there is no common understanding of policing itself.

To answer this problem, CEPOL formed a working group consisting of academics and police practitioners from various European countries with different disciplinary backgrounds. This group is tasked with examining the possibility of developing police science as a scientific discipline that can be the basis for police education and research in Europe. In the study, it was agreed that police science must be understood as an interdisciplinary field that studies police as an institution as well as policing as a social process. Thus, police science is not only concerned with law and law enforcement, but also includes social, political, psychological, and organizational aspects that affect police practice.⁸

An interdisciplinary approach to police science is in line with the development of police studies in international literature. Greene argues that the study of modern policing cannot be understood through a single discipline alone, because policing practices are complex social phenomena and are influenced by a variety of factors, including public policy, organizational culture, power structures, and the relationship between police and society. Therefore, the development of police science requires an integration between academic

⁷ European Police College (CEPOL), 20

⁸ Sebastian Roché, "Police Science: Science of The Police or Science for The Police? — Conceptual Clarification and Taxonomy for Comparing Police Systems," (2017)

research, practical experience, and public policy, so that the knowledge generated can be used to increase the effectiveness and legitimacy of the police.⁹

Greene also emphasizes that the development of police studies in the late 20th century shows a shift from a normative approach to a research-based empirical approach. If in the past the study of the police focused more on the rule of law and organizational structure, then in modern development the attention has shifted to how the police actually work in practice, how policies are implemented, and how the community responds to police actions.¹⁰ This shift has led to the birth of the concept of knowledge-based policing, which is policing based on scientific evidence and research results, not just on tradition or experience.

It is in this context that CEPOL places the development of police science as an important part of efforts to build a modern police force in Europe. Police science is seen as a bridge between theory and practice, between research and policy, and between education and operations. With a strong scientific foundation, it is hoped that the police can increase professionalism, strengthen accountability, and adapt to changes in the increasingly complex security environment.

Furthermore, the European approach to police science emphasizes that police functions must be carried out within the framework of a state of law and a democratic society. The police must act according to the law, respecting human rights, and be under effective supervision. Therefore, police education must include an understanding of democratic values, professional ethics, and social responsibility. Police science not only aims to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement, but also ensures that police power is used lawfully and proportionately.¹¹

The development of the concept of police science in Europe also shows that policing cannot be separated from the social and political context in which

⁹ Jack R. Greene, "The Upside and Downside of the 'Police Science' Epistemic Community," *Policing*, Volume 8, Number 4, (2014), 379–392

¹⁰ Jack R. Greene, "The Upside and Downside of the 'Police Science' Epistemic Community," 381

¹¹ Sebastian Roché, "Police Science: Science of The Police or Science for The Police? — Conceptual Clarification and Taxonomy for Comparing Police Systems," (2017)

it operates. The police are not only law enforcers, but also part of the system of government and society. Therefore, the study of policing should include an analysis of the relationship between the state, society, and power. This approach is in line with the view in the modern police studies literature that places the police as a social institution influenced by political, economic, and cultural dynamics.¹²

This article aims to analyze police science from the perspective of CEPOL by examining the concept of police science developed in the *report Perspectives of Police Science in Europe* and related conceptual documents, and comparing it with the development of police studies in the international academic literature. The use of CEPOL report data is based on the author's reading of the CEPOL framework of thought which offers a police science approach within the framework of *knowledge-based policing* that integrates research, education, and operational practices while upholding democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. This perspective is relevant as a reference in the development of police science and the institutional transformation of the police in Indonesia to be more professional, adaptive, and responsive to global security dynamics. On that basis, this article is expected to provide a more systematic understanding of the scope, character, and purpose of police science, as well as its relevance to the development of police education and research, especially in the context of countries that are strengthening the professionalism and accountability of police institutions.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative method with a library research approach. The main source of research is CEPOL's official report entitled *Perspectives of Police Science in Europe* compiled by the *Project Group on a European Approach to Police Science*. This document was chosen because it is the main reference in the development of the concept of police science in Europe. The analysis was carried out with content analysis techniques to identify the main concepts related to the definition of police science, the relationship between police research and

¹² Jack R. Greene, "The Upside and Downside of the 'Police Science' Epistemic Community," 380

practice, and the role of education and training in the development of police professionalism. This approach allows researchers to systematically understand CEPOL's perspective on police science as a scientific discipline. In addition, this study uses a conceptual approach to interpret the ideas contained in the CEPOL report, especially related to interdisciplinarity, integration of theory and practice, as well as democratic values and the rule of law in the implementation of police functions.

REVIEW OF POLICE SCIENCE LITERATURE

The study of police science has developed rapidly, especially since the end of Second World War.¹³ This development reached its peak in line with the socio-political transformation in Europe that demanded police professionalism,¹⁴ involving various disciplines, ranging from law, criminology, sociology, to public administration. In contrast to branches of science that have clear object limits, police science has developed interdisciplinary since its inception because it is related to the state's function in maintaining order, security, and law enforcement. Therefore, in the academic literature, the term police science is often used with different meanings, depending on the scientific tradition and the context of the country that developed it.

Historically, the term police science can be traced back to the 18th century in Europe, especially in France and Germany, when the concept of *Polizeiwissenschaft* was used to refer to the science of government in relation to societal governance.¹⁵ At that time, the term "police" did not only mean law enforcement officials, but also included all state functions in maintaining public welfare, order, and security.¹⁶ Therefore, police science in the early days was part

¹³ David H. Bayley, *Police for the Future*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994.

¹⁴ Robert Reiner, *The politics of the police* (4th ed.) (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010), 2-5.

¹⁵ Giuseppe Campesi, *A Genealogy of Public Security: The Theory and History of Modern Police Powers*, (New York, NY: Routledge, 2016), 23-24

¹⁶ Michel Foucault, *Security, Territory, Population: Lectures at the Collège de France, 1977–1978* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007); see also Thomas Feltes, "Polizeiwissenschaft in Deutschland," *Polizei & Wissenschaft*, no. 4 (2007): 2–21.

of the science of state administration that focused on how the government effectively regulates people's lives.¹⁷

In contrast, the Anglo-American tradition (especially developed in the United States, Britain, Canada, and Australia) uses the terms *Police Studies* or *Policing Studies* more than *Police Science*. The main focus is not to build an independent police discipline, but to analyze various aspects of policing through the perspectives of criminology, sociology, criminal law, and public policy. Anglo-American studies are generally oriented towards practical issues such as the effectiveness of patrols, criminal investigations, the use of police discretion, police-society relations, accountability, and crime control strategies.¹⁸ In fact, the 2007 CEPOL report stated that the European approach to police science is considered more ambitious than the Anglo-Saxon tradition because it seeks to establish its own conceptual framework and scientific identity for the police, while the Anglo-American tradition places police studies as part of a broader family of social sciences and criminology.

Despite the differences between the European traditions brought by CEPOL and the Anglo-American traditions, in subsequent developments, especially after the advent of modern states and a more structured legal system, the definition of policing has been narrowed. The police are understood as a specialized institution tasked with enforcing the law and maintaining order, so the study of the police begins to be separated from government science in general.¹⁹ However, the study of the police did not develop as a stand-alone discipline, but spread across various fields of science. Legal studies examine the authority of the police, criminology examines crime and its prevention, sociology studies the relationship between the police and society, while organizational and management studies the structure and performance of police institutions.²⁰

¹⁷ Giuseppe Campesi, *A Genealogy of Public Security*, 45-47.

¹⁸ See further review of Peter K. Manning, "The Study of Policing," *Police Quarterly*, (2005), 8(1), 23-43.

¹⁹ Giuseppe Campesi, *A Genealogy of Public Security*, 47-48

²⁰ Egon Bittner, *The Functions of the Police in Modern Society*. Rockville, MD: National Institute of Mental Health, 1970.

In modern literature, the development of police studies is increasingly influenced by the increasing demands for professionalism and accountability of police institutions. Greene states that in the second half of the 20th century, police studies began to develop as a separate field of research that was no longer limited to normative studies, but also included empirical research on how police work in practice. These developments are driven by the need to understand the effectiveness of police policies, the relationship between police and society, and the social impact of police actions.²¹

According to Greene, one of the main features of modern police studies is the shift from a legalistic approach to a social and organizational approach. If previously the research focused more on the legal rules that govern police authority, then in modern developments attention has shifted to how police organizations function, how decisions are made, and how policies are implemented in the field. This approach places the police as a social institution that is influenced by cultural, political, and economic factors, so it cannot be understood only through a legal perspective.²²

These developments have led to the emergence of the idea of *knowledge-based policing*, which is policing based on scientific research and empirical evidence.²³ In this approach, police policies, decisions, and practices should be supported by evidence and critically analyzed, not arbitrarily or without consideration.²⁴ This concept then became one of the bases for the development of police science as an applied discipline that aims to increase the effectiveness and legitimacy of the police in a democratic society.

²¹ Jack R. Greene, "The Upside and Downside of the 'Police Science' Epistemic Community," *Policing: A Journal of Policy and Practice*, 8(4), 379–392. <https://doi.org/10.1093/police/pau034>

²² Jack R. Greene, "The Upside and Downside of the 'Police Science' Epistemic Community," 382.

²³ Yobhel Levic de Fretes, Muhammad Krisna Bayunarendro, Hillary Cornelia, "Evidence-Based Policing as a Foundational Policing Model for the INP," *Jurnal Ilmu Kepolisian*, Vol. 18, No. 2, (2024), 177-190.

²⁴ Colin Rogers, Ian Pepper, Louise Skilling, "Evidence-based policing for crime prevention in England and Wales: perception and use by new police recruits," *Crime Prevention and Community Safety*, Vol. 24, No.4, (2022), 328–341. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41300-022-00158-w>

In the European context, efforts to systematically formulate police science gained momentum through the European Police College (CEPOL) initiative. CEPOL views that the development of security cooperation in the European Union requires a common understanding of the functions of the police, professional standards, and scientific approaches in dealing with security issues. Therefore, CEPOL formed a working group to study the possibility of developing *police science* as a scientific field that can be the basis for police education, training, and research at the European level.²⁵

One of the important findings of the CEPOL study is that police science cannot be narrowly defined as the study of police organization, but must encompass the entire policing process.²⁶ Policing is understood as all activities that aim to maintain order and security, both carried out by the police and by other institutions in society. Thus, the object of study of police science is not limited to police institutions, but also includes security policies, relations with the community, as well as supervision and accountability mechanisms.²⁷

This approach shows that police science is interdisciplinary. CEPOL emphasized that the development of police science requires contributions from various fields of science, including law, criminology, sociology, psychology, political, and management²⁸ No single discipline is able to fully explain the phenomenon of policing, so the integration of various perspectives is needed to understand and improve policing practices.

In addition to being interdisciplinary, police science is also understood as an applied science. The main goal of police science is not only to produce theories, but also to provide a scientific basis for police policy and practice. Therefore, the relationship between research, education, and operational practice is crucial. CEPOL emphasizes that police education should be based on

²⁵ European Police College (CEPOL), "Perspectives of Police Science in Europe: Final Report," 3-5

²⁶ European Police College (CEPOL), "Perspectives of Police Science in Europe: Final Report," 23.

²⁷ Sebastian Roché, "Police Science: Science of The Police or Science for The Police? — Conceptual Clarification and Taxonomy for Comparing Police Systems," (2017), 45

²⁸ European Police College (CEPOL), "Perspectives of Police Science in Europe: Final Report," 28.

research results, and research should be directed to answer practical needs in the implementation of police functions.²⁹

In the international literature, this approach is in line with the development of the concept of *professional policing*, which is the police that work based on scientific standards, professional ethics, and the principle of accountability. Modern policing is no longer seen as a purely technical job, but as a profession that requires higher education, specialized training, and strong analytical skills. Therefore, the development of police knowledge is an important part of efforts to increase the professionalism and legitimacy of the police in a democratic society.³⁰

In addition, the literature on police science also emphasizes the importance of democratic values and human rights. In a state of law, police power must be limited by law and supervised by the community. Therefore, the study of policing not only addresses the effectiveness of law enforcement, but also the legitimacy of the use of power. CEPOL affirms that the European approach to policing must be based on the principles of the rule of law, respect for human rights, and public accountability.

Based on the development of the literature, it can be concluded that police science is a field of study that continues to develop and does not fully have fixed limits. However, there are several main characteristics that can be identified, namely interdisciplinary, practice-oriented, research-based, and based on democratic values and the rule of law. These characteristics are the basis for the development of police science in the perspective of CEPOL, which seeks to build an integrated scientific approach to policing at the European level.

The Concept of Police Science in the Perspective of CEPOL

Efforts to formulate the concept of police science systematically at the European level have gained important momentum through the European Police College (CEPOL) initiative. The Council of the European Union established the institution with the aim of enhancing education and training cooperation for member state police officers, as well as developing a shared approach to

²⁹ European Police College (CEPOL), 20-23

³⁰ European Police College (CEPOL), 10-20

increasingly complex and cross-border security challenges. In carrying out this mandate, CEPOL realizes that operational cooperation cannot run optimally without a common conceptual understanding of the functions of the police, professional standards, and the scientific basis of policing. Therefore, the development of police science is seen as a strategic need in supporting police professionalism at the European level.³¹

One of the main problems identified in the CEPOL study is the absence of a single generally acceptable definition of police science. In fact, in Europe itself, it is still a debate about the use of the term "Police Sciences" or "Police Studies".³² Various studies on policing have been conducted by experts from different disciplines, but the results of these studies have not been integrated into a conceptual framework that can be used together. In addition, the differences in legal traditions, government systems, and police structures in European countries make it difficult to establish a uniform understanding of what police science is. This condition prompted CEPOL to form a working group tasked with conceptual clarification of police science.³³

The working group consists of academics and police practitioners from various member countries with diverse scientific backgrounds, such as law, criminology, sociology, psychology, and political science. The main goal of this group is to formulate the conceptual fundamentals of police science, including its definition, scope, methods, and development objectives.³⁴ In the process of the study, it was agreed that police science cannot be understood narrowly as a study of police organizations, but must include the entire process of *policing* in society. In this context, CEPOL defines police science as follows:³⁵

"Police Science is the scientific study of the police as an institution and of policing as a process. As an applied discipline it combines methods and subjects of other

³¹ European Police College (CEPOL), "Perspectives of Police Science in Europe: Final Report," 3-5.

³² European Police College (CEPOL), 23

³³ European Police College (CEPOL), 14

³⁴ European Police College (CEPOL), 14

³⁵ European Police College (CEPOL), 23

neighbouring disciplines within the field of policing. It includes all of what the police do and all aspects from outside that have an impact on policing and public order..."

In CEPOL's perspective, the term *policing* has a broader meaning than police. Police are understood as formal institutions that have the authority of the state to enforce the law and maintain order. At the same time, *policing* encompasses all activities aimed at maintaining security and order, both carried out by the police and by other institutions, including government agencies, private organizations, and the community. Thus, the object of study of police science is not limited to police organizations, but also includes security policies, supervision mechanisms, related with the community, and various forms of cooperation in maintaining social order.

This approach shows that police science in the perspective of CEPOL is interdisciplinary. There is no single discipline that is able to fully explain the phenomenon of the police, so the integration of various perspectives is needed. Legal science is needed to understand the basis of authority and the limits of the use of power, criminology to explain crime and its prevention, sociology to analyze the relationship between the police and society, psychology to understand the behavior of individuals in organizations, and management science and public administration to improve the effectiveness of police organizations. The integration of these various disciplines is the main characteristic of police science as a field of study oriented to problem solving.³⁶

In addition to being interdisciplinary, CEPOL emphasized that police science is an *applied science*, as written in the final document of CEPOL, as follows:³⁷

"As an applied discipline it combines methods and subjects of other neighbouring disciplines within the field of policing..."

³⁶ Hans-Gerd Jaschke and Klaus Neidhardt, "A Modern Police Science as an Integrated Academic Discipline: A Contribution to the Debate on its Fundamentals," *Policing and Society*, Volume. 17, No. 4, (2007), 303-320

³⁷ European Police College (CEPOL), "Perspectives of Police Science in Europe: Final Report," 23

The main goal of police science is not only to produce theories, but also to provide a scientific basis for police practice. Therefore, the relationship between research, education, and operational practice is crucial. Research should generate knowledge that is relevant to the needs of the police, education should transfer that knowledge to police members, and operational practice should use that knowledge in the performance of daily tasks. The interconnectedness between these three elements is seen as the main requirement for the development of a professional modern police.³⁸

The CEPOL report also emphasized that the development of police science cannot be separated from the context of a democratic society.³⁹ The police is an institution that has the authority to use force, so its use must be limited by law and closely supervised. Therefore, police science must pay attention not only to the effectiveness of law enforcement, but also to the legitimacy of the use of power. This is reflected in the training program organized by CEPOL which specifically contains material on respect for human rights (*fundamental rights*), rule of law, and public accountability as a normative foundation that must be part of the study of police science.⁴⁰ This is also stated in the final report of CEPOL as follows:

“CEPOL shall contribute by means of police training and by insights of police science and research to the European integration process which is firmly rooted in a shared commitment to freedom based on human rights, democratic institutions and the rule of law...”

This approach reflects the difference between the concept of policing in a democratic country and the concept of policing in an authoritarian system. In a democratic country, the police are not only tasked with maintaining order, but

³⁸ European Police College (CEPOL), 140,

³⁹ Hans-Gerd Jaschke menyatakan “It also offers the knowledge for democratic societies that are needed to monitor police practice and to take part in the process of policing.” in “Police Science – A European Approach,” https://www.cepoleuropa.eu/api/assets/website/Research_Science/sps_aea.pdf

⁴⁰ See Annual Report CEPOL 2024, “2024 In Brief: stay ahead of crime,” European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training.

also must protect the rights of citizens and be accountable to the community. Therefore, police education in Europe emphasizes the importance of democratic values, professional ethics, and critical analysis skills. CEPOL considers that the development of police science is one way to ensure that the police work based on knowledge and legal principles, not solely based on power.

The concept of police science from CEPOL's perspective is also closely related to the need for international cooperation. Globalization and European integration have led to an increase in transnational crimes, such as terrorism, human trafficking, cybercrime, and organized crime.⁴¹ These challenges cannot be faced by one country individually, so close cooperation is needed between the police forces of member countries. This cooperation requires the same professional standards, the same methods, and the same understanding of the functions of the police. Therefore, the development of police science is seen as a means to build a common language in the field of security.⁴²

In this context, CEPOL emphasizes that police education and training should be based on scientific research. Modern police must perform their duties to understand the development of society, technology, and increasingly complex forms of crime. Therefore, police education is not enough to be just technical, but must include theoretical knowledge that allows police members to think analytically and critically. Police science serves as an academic foundation that supports the development of the police education curriculum in Europe.

CEPOL's approach to police science also shows that the boundaries between academics and practitioners are increasingly blurred. Research on policing is not only carried out by universities, but also by police educational institutions and police institutions themselves. Instead, police practices are an

⁴¹ European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training, *European Strategic training needs assessment 2018-2021*, (EU law enforcement priorities. Budapest: CEPOL, 2018).

⁴² This is reflected in CEPOL's mandate in the field of research and science as laid down in Article 5 of the Council Decision of 20 September 2005, stating, "The aim of CEPOL shall be to help train the senior police officers of the Member States by optimising cooperation between CEPOL's various components. It shall support and develop a European approach to the main problems facing Member States in the fight against crime, crime prevention, and the maintenance of law and order and public security, in particular the cross-border dimensions of those problems," in European Police College (CEPOL), *Perspectives of Police Science in Europe: Final Report* (Bramshill: European Police College, 2007), 6.

important source for scientific research. This mutual relationship between theory and practice is seen as the main characteristic of police science as an applied science that develops in a professional environment.⁴³

Based on this description, it can be concluded that the concept of police science in the perspective of CEPOL has several main characteristics, namely interdisciplinary, practice-oriented, research-based, and based on democratic values and the rule of law. Police science is understood as a field of study that examines the police as an institution and policing as a social process, with the aim of increasing the professionalism, effectiveness, and legitimacy of the police in modern society. This approach forms the basis for the development of police education, research, and cooperation at the European level, and provides an important conceptual framework for the development of police science in various countries.

The Interdisciplinary Character of Police Science

One of the main characteristics of police science in modern literature is its interdisciplinary nature.⁴⁴ In contrast to disciplines that have a clear object of study and relatively standard methods, police science develops from a practical need to understand and improve the function of the police in society. This is based on the duties of the police which include legal, social, political, and organizational aspects, so the study of the police cannot be limited to one field of knowledge only. From the perspective of CEPOL, this interdisciplinary nature is a fundamental feature that distinguishes police science from other academic disciplines.⁴⁵

⁴³ European Police College (CEPOL), "Perspectives of Police Science in Europe: Final Report," 24.

⁴⁴ Hans-Gerd Jaschke and Klaus Neidhardt, "A Modern Police Science as an Integrated Academic Discipline: A Contribution to the Debate on its Fundamentals," *Policing and Society*, Volume. 17, No. 4, (2007), 303-320

⁴⁵ "A police science which follows an interdisciplinary and European approach will form a strong link between theory and practice, doctrine/teachings/ training and research," in European Police College (CEPOL), "Perspectives of Police Science in Europe: Final Report," 12

In the CEPOL report, it is emphasized that the police as an institution is at the meeting point between the state and society. The police are an institution vested with the authority to use state power, but at the same time must work in a society that has diverse values, norms, and interests. Therefore, to understand the function of the police in its entirety, an approach that combines the perspectives of law, criminology, sociology, psychology, political science, and organizational science is needed. No single discipline is able to explain the entire dimension of policing, so the integration of various fields of science is an unavoidable necessity.

From a legal perspective, the police are understood as institutions that have the authority to enforce the law and maintain public order. Legal studies focus on the basis of police authority, limits on the use of force, law enforcement procedures, and mechanisms for monitoring police actions. In the state of law, all police actions must have a clear legal basis, so that legal science becomes one of the main foundations in the development of police science. However, a legal approach alone is not enough to understand how policing works in practice, as many operational decisions are influenced by social and organizational factors.

Criminology makes an important contribution in explaining the relationship between policing and crime. This science studies the causes of crime, crime patterns, and various crime prevention and control strategies. In the context of police science, criminology helps to understand how police policies affect crime rates, as well as how policing methods can be designed more effectively. The research-based approach in criminology is also the basis for the development of the concept of *evidence-based policing*, which is evidence-based policing and empirical research.⁴⁶

Sociology provides a different perspective by placing the police as a social institution that interacts with society. In the sociological approach, attention is not only to the authority of the police, but also to how society views the police, how legitimacy is built, and how conflicts between the police and society can occur. Studies of the sociology of policing show that the effectiveness of policing is determined not only by the force of the law, but also

⁴⁶ Jack R. Greene, "The Upside and Downside of the 'Police Science' Epistemic Community," 380

by the level of public trust. Therefore, the relationship between the police and the community is one of the main focuses in the study of modern police science.⁴⁷

Additionally to law, criminology, sociology and psychology also has an important role in police science. The police are an organization that works in often stressful situations, so understanding the behavior of individuals and groups is very important. Psychology helps explain how police members make decisions in emergency situations, how stress affects performance, as well as how leadership in police organizations can improve work effectiveness. In CEPOL's perspective, the psychological aspect is not only related to the individual police, but also to the interaction between the police and the community.⁴⁸

Organizational and management science is also an important part of police science. The police force is a large organization that has a hierarchical structure, command system, and complex operational procedures. Therefore, the study of organization, leadership, human resource management, and change management has become highly relevant. Many police reforms in various countries show that the main problem is not only in the rule of law, but in how the organization is run. Management science helps explain how policies can be effectively implemented in the organizational structure of the police.

Moreover, political science provides a framework for understanding the relationship between the police and the state. The police are part of the government system that is often influenced by political decisions. The study of political science helps explain how power is used, how security policies are formulated, and how policing is supervised in a democratic system. In a democratic country, the police must be accountable to the legitimately elected government, but at the same time must remain politically neutral. The tension

⁴⁷ Jack R. Greene, "The Upside and Downside of the 'Police Science' Epistemic Community," 381

⁴⁸ Jack R. Greene, "The Upside and Downside of the 'Police Science' Epistemic Community," 381-382

between professional independence and political control always becomes urgent in the study of police science.⁴⁹

The interdisciplinary nature of police science is also seen in the development of the concept of professional policing. Modern policing is no longer seen as a purely technical job, but as a profession that requires higher education and analytical skills. Greene states that police professionalism has to do with the increasing role of research, education, and ethical standards in policing practice. Modern police are expected to not only be able to carry out orders, but also be able to understand the reasons behind the policies implemented.⁵⁰

In CEPOL's perspective, the interdisciplinary nature of police science has direct implications for police education. The educational curriculum should not only contain technical training, but should cover a wide range of areas of knowledge relevant to police duties. Police education in Europe is designed to combine theory and practice, so that police members have analytical abilities as well as operational skills. This approach is seen as an essential requirement for facing the increasingly complex modern security challenges.⁵¹

The interdisciplinary character also shows that police science is dynamic and constantly evolving. Changes in society, technology, and forms of crime have led to a need for new knowledge in the field of policing. Therefore, police science cannot be static, but must always be open to the development of other sciences. The integration of various disciplines allows police science to adapt to changing security environments, while improving the quality of policing policies and practices.

Based on this description, it can be concluded that the interdisciplinary nature is the main characteristic of police science in a modern perspective as well as in the CEPOL's approach. Police science cannot be understood as a branch of one particular discipline, but as a field of study that integrates various sciences

⁴⁹ European Police College (CEPOL), "Perspectives of Police Science in Europe: Final Report," 159-161

⁵⁰ Jack R. Greene, "The Upside and Downside of the 'Police Science' Epistemic Community," 386

⁵¹ European Police College (CEPOL), "Perspectives of Police Science in Europe: Final Report," 16

to understand and improve police duties in society. This interdisciplinary approach is the basis for the development of police science as an applied discipline that aims to improve the professionalism, effectiveness, and legitimacy of the police in a democratic country.

CONCLUSION

Police science is a field of study that is developing along with the increasing complexity of police duties in modern society. Changing security environments, increasing demands for professionalism, and the need for accountability in democratic countries encourage the need for a scientific approach that can explain and improve policing practices systematically. In the development of academic literature, police science does not emerge as a single discipline that stands alone, but rather as an interdisciplinary field that integrates various sciences, such as law, criminology, sociology, psychology, organizational science, and political science. The interdisciplinary character reflects that the police is an institution that is at the meeting between the state, the law, and society, so it cannot be understood from just one scientific perspective.

In the European context, efforts to formulate police science more systematically gained momentum through the initiative of the European Police College (CEPOL). The institution serves not only as a center for police education and training, but also as a forum for the development of a scientific approach to policing. Through the Perspectives of Police Science in Europe report and other conceptual documents, CEPOL seeks to build a common understanding of the definition, scope, and objectives of police science as a basis for security cooperation among EU member states. The study shows that police science should be understood not only as a study of police institutions, but also as a study of the policing process in a broad sense, including security policy, relations with the community, and mechanisms of supervision over the use of power.

One of the key findings from CEPOL's perspective is that police science is a practice-oriented applied science. The main goal of police science development is not solely to produce theories, but to provide a scientific basis for policy-making, education, and the implementation of police duties.

Therefore, the relationship between research, education, and operational practice is an inseparable element. Research produces knowledge, education transfers that knowledge to members of the police, and operational practice uses this knowledge in the implementation of daily tasks. The integration of these three elements is seen as the main requirement for the realization of a modern professional police.

Furthermore to being interdisciplinary and applied, the concept of police science from the perspective of CEPOL is also based on democratic values and the rule of law. The police are an institution vested with the authority to use state power, so their use must be limited by law and effectively supervised. Therefore, the study of police science not only discusses the effectiveness of law enforcement, but also the legitimacy of the use of power, respect for human rights, and accountability to the community. This approach confirms that the police in a democratic country are not only tasked with maintaining order, but also protecting citizens' rights and maintaining public trust.

The interdisciplinary nature of police science also has important implications for the education and development of police professionalism. Modern policing requires members who not only have technical skills, but also analytical abilities and a theoretical understanding of society, the law, and the organization. Therefore, police education should be designed as research-based academic education, not just technical training. This approach is in line with the concept of *knowledge-based policing*, which is policing based on scientific knowledge and empirical evidence.

From the overall discussion, it can be concluded that police science from the perspective of CEPOL has several main characteristics, namely interdisciplinary, practice-oriented, research-based, and based on the values of democracy and the rule of law. Police science is understood as a field of study that studies the police as an institution and policing as a social process, to increase the professionalism, effectiveness, and legitimacy of the police in facing modern security challenges. This approach provides an important conceptual framework for the development of police science in various countries, particularly in an effort to strengthen the academic basis for professional, accountable, and democratic policing practices.

Thus, the development of police science is not only an academic need, but also a practical need in building a police institution that is able to answer increasingly complex security challenges. CEPOL's perspective shows that modern policing must be based on knowledge, research, and democratic values, so that the functions of the police can be carried out effectively while remaining within the framework of law and public trust.

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