



NEWSLETTER

Issue 1

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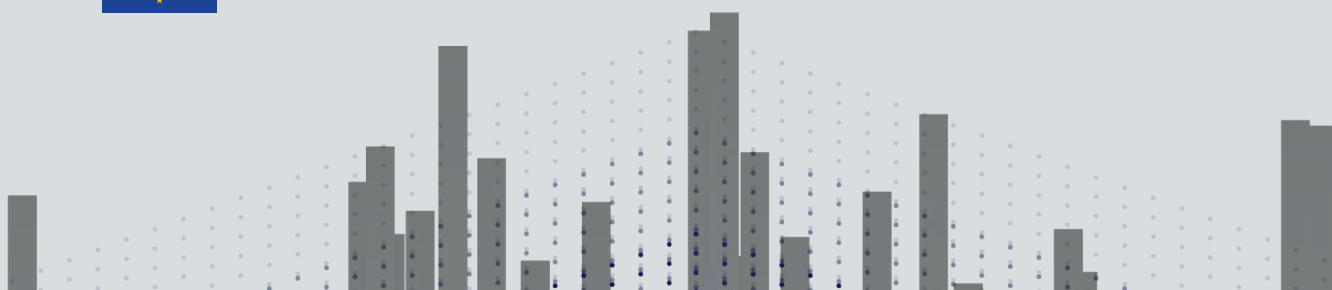




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ABOUT KOBAN

KOBAN (Japanese: 交番, a small neighbourhood police station found in Japan) builds upon these foundations and will prepare police forces for the future, including the social and demographic changes that will influence daily police work.

The KOBAN project is about improving how police work with communities to create safer neighborhoods. As Europe changes due to new technology, diverse populations, and economic shifts, police need better ways to connect with people and build trust.

KOBAN focuses on Community Policing, where police and community members work together to solve safety issues. The project will identify proven strategies, tools, and practices to improve this partnership. It will create an AI Assistant and an App Factory to develop helpful tools for both police and communities, ensuring they meet ethical, legal, and cultural standards.



KOBAN Objectives

1. To identify proven SSH and Community Policing (CP) methodologies, models, technologies, tools and best practices as well as current and future oriented proactive, coactive and reactive capabilities for CP.
2. To deliver adapted co designed and state of the art tools, methods and CP solutions which are tailored to the stakeholders needs and compliant with societal, legal, cultural, ethical and gender aspects.
3. To foster capacity building, knowledge, skills and abilities that organisations and citizens need to jointly fulfill the CP capabilities responsibly.
4. To increase the exchange and visibility of KOBAN outcomes widely.
5. To ensure successful adoption and implementation of the KOBAN validated methodologies and technologies by Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and non LEA community actors within and beyond the consortium.

KOBAN Target Audience



KOBAN Impact

1. Modern information analysis for Police Authorities, allowing them to efficiently fight criminals and terrorists who use novel technologies. [Economic and Societal]
2. Improved forensics and lawful evidence collection, increasing the capabilities to apprehend criminals and terrorists and bring them to the court. [Economic and Societal]
3. Enhanced prevention, detection and deterrence of societal issues related to various forms of crime, including cybercrime, and terrorism, such as violent radicalisation, domestic and sexual violence, or juvenile offenders. [Scientific, Societal and Economic]
4. Increased security of citizens against terrorism, including in public spaces (while preserving their quality and openness). [Societal and Economic]
5. Improved intelligence picture and enhanced prevention, detection and deterrence of various forms of organised crime. [Scientific, Economic and Societal]
6. More secure cyberspace for citizens, especially children, through a robust prevention, detection, and protection from cybercriminal activities. [Societal]

ACTIVITIES

EVENTS & MEETINGS

1. KOBAN Kick-Off meeting & General Assembly - Valencia, Spain

The official launch of the KOBAN project took place in the vibrant city of Valencia on the 1st and 2nd of October 2024, inaugurated by the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Jesús Carbonell Aguilar.

Hosted by Policía Local de Valencia (PLV), the event brought together representatives from LEAs across 12 EU Member States, marking the beginning of a collaborative

journey to reshape the future of community policing in Europe.

For the first time, all project partners gathered to set the course for the next three years. A total of 19 organisations from 12 countries, including 8 different police forces, will work hand in hand to address key challenges and explore innovative solutions in CP.

1-2 October 2024



2. NPN visited Police Headquarters - Radom, Poland

KOBAN's Coordination team, Patrick Padding and Susanne Van der Veen, visited the Provincial Police Headquarters in Radom, Poland, to explore the planned KOBAN pilot area.

During their visit, they had the opportunity to meet with

Major General Waldemar Wołowiec, Provincial Police Commander, along with Sylwia Szewczyk and her team.

They also visited a local police station in Goźda nearby to learn about the Community Policing principles executed in Radom, an approach that was truly impressive.

3 February 2025



3. KOBAN Project Featured at the 5th USEC Awards - Valencia, Spain

KOBAN partner, PLV, was recognized at the 5th USEC Awards Ceremony on February 26th in Madrid, during the Local Security Congress.

PLV received awards for their GAMA Group, a specialized unit dedicated to combating domestic violence, and for the IMPROVE project (GA:101074010), which enhances

local security through innovative solutions.

During the event, Chief Commissioner of the Valencia Local Police, Jose Vicente Herrera highlighted KOBAN in a roundtable on community policing and technology, emphasizing its role in strengthening police-community relations through innovative solutions.

26 February 2025



ACTIVITIES

EVENTS & MEETINGS

4. Valencia & Brussels Police Exchange

On March 25-26, 2025, the Valencia Local Police welcomed a delegation from the Brussels Police as part of the KOBAN Project, focusing on sharing experiences and best practices in community policing.

Day 1: The visit included a tour of Police Headquarters, discussions on policing models and EU projects, and a visit to the shooting range and Security Centre, where the delegation observed a live training session with 50 officers.

Day 2: Field activities took place, with a visit to the 1st Precinct, a local school, and Valencia's largest merchants' association, showcasing police engagement with the community.

This exchange strengthened cross-border collaboration and reinforced the importance of community-focused policing.

25-26 March 2025



5. Sharing Community Policing Practices – Brussels Police Visit to Lisbon

In April 2025, a delegation from the Brussels Local Police (POLBRU), including First Commissioner Luc Poplimont and Commissioner Jerryd Raman, visited Lisbon to learn about the city's Community Policing Model.

Organized under the KOBAN project, the visit included meetings with the Lisbon Municipal Police (PML), the Forestry Police, and local partners who help implement community policing.

The delegation joined the Alta de Lisboa community policing team and observed how officers work closely with residents. They also met with the JDL Project (Youth Design Lisbon) and the PER11 Residents' Association, both supporting youth and community-led improvements.

This visit highlighted the value of exchanging best practices across Europe to strengthen trust between police and communities.

18 April 2025



6. KOBAN Project was proudly presented at the National Contact Point – NCP Meeting 2025 of ENLETS in Warsaw.

On April 9–10, the KOBAN Project was proudly presented at the National Contact Point (NCP) Meeting 2025 of ENLETS in Warsaw, held under the auspices of the Polish Presidency.

Susanne Van der Veen & Patrick Padding introduced KOBAN's work on the future of community policing, contributing to two days of dynamic discussions on security innovation, counter-drone strategies, and Europe's preparedness for emerging challenges.

9-10 April 2025



ACTIVITIES

EVENTS & MEETINGS

7. KOBAN 2nd General Assembly - The Netherlands

On April 23–24, 2025, the KOBAN Project held its 2nd General Assembly in the Netherlands, hosted by the Dutch National Police (NPN). The two-day event brought together partners, law enforcement professionals, and community stakeholders for strategic discussions, field visits, and knowledge sharing.

Day 1: took place at Utrecht Police Headquarters, where Work Package leaders shared project updates. Chief of Police Yvonne Hondema delivered an inspiring keynote on the future of Community Policing in Europe.

A neighborhood bike tour followed, offering first hand insights into local policing efforts and community

partnerships, ending at Utrecht's AI-powered police station.

Day 2: featured a visit to the Zaandijk Zaans Police Department and two COA centers, highlighting collaboration between police and asylum services. After a cultural break at the Zaans Museum Café, final presentations and a conclusive discussion set the course for the next project phase.

The Assembly ended with renewed energy and a shared commitment to building safer, more connected communities across Europe.

23-24 April 2025



8. KOBAN Stakeholder Workshop - Poznan, Poland

The KOBAN Stakeholder Workshop was held on 14–16 May 2025 in Poznan, Poland, hosted by Polish Platform for Homeland Security (PPHS).

The three day event brought together police practitioners, project partners, and security experts from across Europe, the workshop created a space for open dialogue, critical reflection, and forward-thinking collaboration. From the outset, focusing on understanding the real-world needs of law enforcement and the communities they serve, grounding every conversation in practical challenges and lived experiences.

As the workshop progressed, it moved from context and needs analysis to exploring a wide range of potential solutions, both technological and non-technological. Examination of which innovations hold real promise, identified capability gaps, and discussed which approaches are ready for piloting at the local level.

The discussions were dynamic, honest, and constructive driven by the shared goal of ensuring that innovation in community policing is not abstract, but user-centered, scalable, and rooted in operational reality.

18 April 2025



ACTIVITIES

WEBINAR - WORKSHOPS

1. KOBAN Cultural Awareness workshop

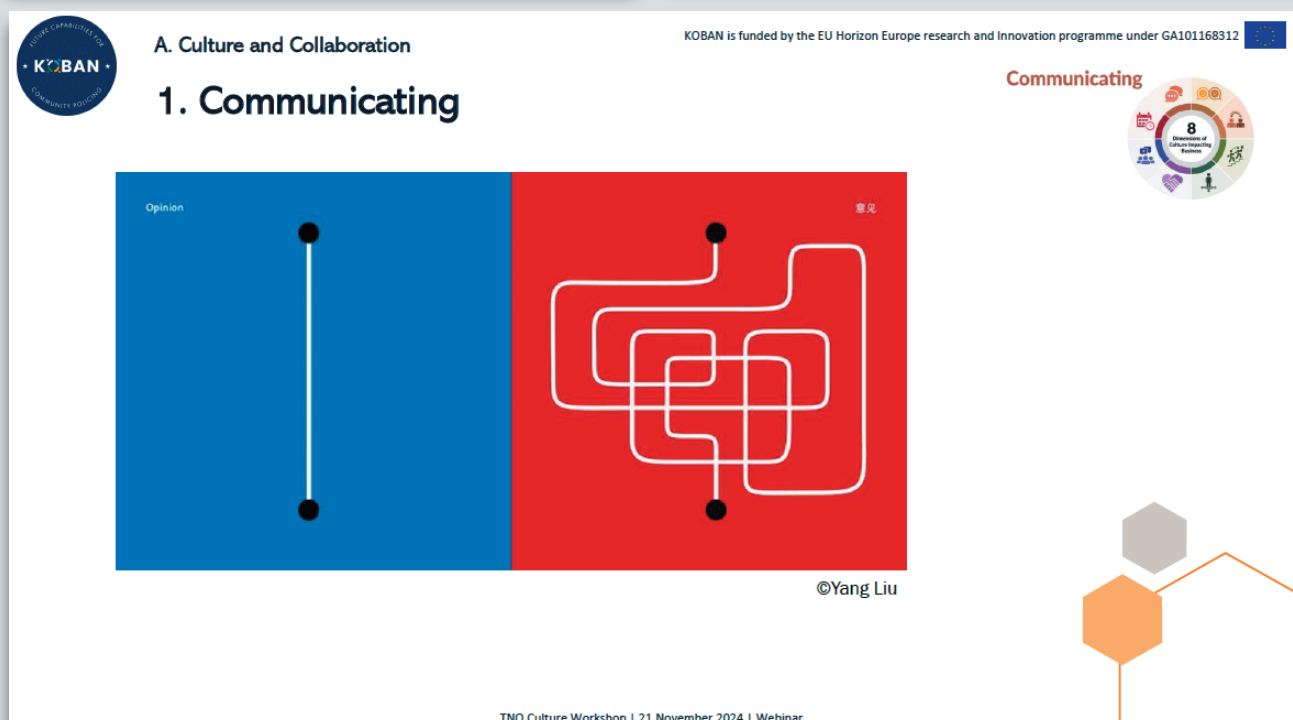
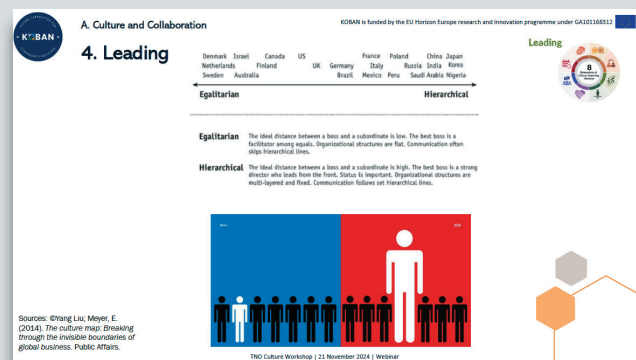
On 21 November 2024, the KOBAN project held its first Awareness Workshop – Webinar, hosted by TNO's Dianne van Hemert and Julia Broderick Hale. The session brought together partners from across the KOBAN consortium to explore the essential role of culture in effective collaboration and CP.

The workshop aimed to raise awareness of cultural diversity within the KOBAN consortium, explore how culture shapes community policing across different

contexts, and gather insights on how cultural factors influence collaboration and engagement with both broader communities and sub-groups.

The workshop highlighted the importance of cultural sensitivity in building trust, fostering cooperation, and innovating within diverse environments. It served as an important step forward in aligning KOBAN's collaborative efforts with the realities of local communities across Europe.

21 November 2024



2. Awareness Raising Workshop!

“From Primary to Tertiary Prevention through Community Policing: Reflections on a Criminal Justice Rehabilitative-Oriented Approach”

Organised by IPS and NPN – on the 31st of March 2025, under the KOBAN project, the awareness-raising workshop gathered 34 experts and professionals to explore strategies for strengthening crime-prevention efforts through community policing, resilience building and promoting sustainable alternatives to incarceration.

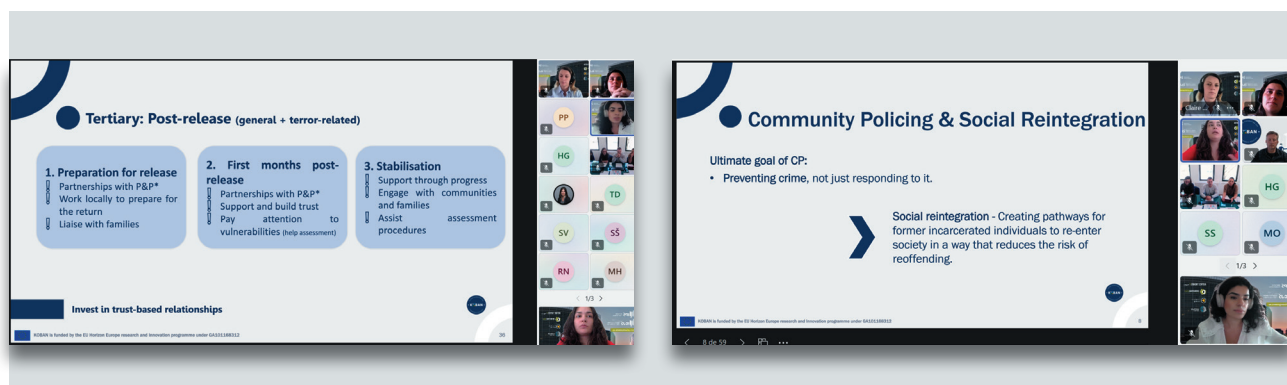
The workshop emphasised the key role of collaboration between LEA's and communities in supporting reintegration pathways and public safety.

Highlights of the discussions focused on the evolving

role of police as connectors rather than just enforcers, emphasizing their importance in supporting the successful social reintegration of offenders.

Participants also stressed the value of inclusive, trust-building initiatives to enhance public safety, the need for comprehensive local prevention strategies to strengthen community resilience especially against radical or extremist viewpoints and the crucial role of multi-agency cooperation in improving the effectiveness of non-custodial sentences.

31 March 2024



3. “Best Practices CoP-IOM” Workshop

“Best Practices CoP-IOM”, organized by IOM - UN Migration was held on the 17th of April 2025.

During the workshop, partners exchanged best practices and shared experiences related to the Community Policing without Borders platform (funded by the European Union's Rights Equality and Citizenship Programme (2014-2020)) - IOM Belgium

and Luxembourg initiative. Discussions were held about previous Community Policing practices, exchanging valuable insights, photos, and even videos, offering inspiration for future activities within the project.

It was a truly insightful and engaging discussion, strengthening collaboration and knowledge-sharing among all project partners.

17 April 2024



FEATURES & PUBLICATIONS

◆ [Article](#) - *“Review and reform: Next generation community policing”* by Andrew Staniforth, Policing Insight - 13th November 2024

Andrew Staniforth explores the evolving challenges of community policing in both the offline and online worlds. As issues like radicalisation, fraud, and exploitation increasingly move into digital spaces, the European Commission is supporting new initiatives to modernise community policing. Among them, Project KOBAN stands out by leveraging technology and social science methodologies to promote citizen engagement and foster cross-border collaboration, helping shape more effective and unified CP strategies across the EU.

◆ [Article](#) - *“Insider threat trends: Priorities for policing”* by Andrew Staniforth, Policing Insight - 14th May 2025

An article by Andrew Staniforth in Policing Insight explores the growing challenge of insider threats in law enforcement, highlighting the role of the European PRECRISIS (GA: ISFP-2022-TFI-AG-PROTECT-02-101100539) initiative and the importance of projects like KOBAN. With emerging risks from AI technologies such as deepfakes and exploited chatbots, safeguarding police personnel, data systems, and sensitive locations has never been more critical. KOBAN contributes to strengthening modern approaches to vetting, recruitment, and operational security across Europe.

◆ [Article](#) - *“AI in Service of Connection and Trust: I no longer wanted to criticise from the sidelines, but contribute at the table”* by Marc Schuilenburg, Erasmus University Rotterdam - 6th May 2025

In an article from Erasmus University Rotterdam, Professor Marc Schuilenburg discusses the evolving role of AI in policing, emphasizing a shift from predictive control to fostering connection and trust. He highlights initiatives like ethics tables, where diverse stakeholders collaborate to ensure that AI tools uphold public values such as privacy and accountability. This approach aligns with projects like KOBAN, which aim to integrate technology with community engagement to enhance public safety.

◆ [Press](#) - KOBAN’s KoM on Valencia local news, En directe - 2nd October 2024

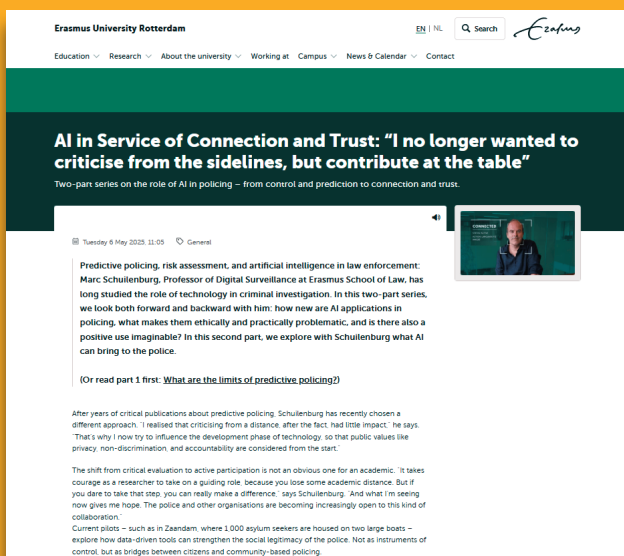
The KOBAN Kick-off Meeting was featured on Valencia local news – “En directe”, marking an important step in enhancing community policing through prevention, accessibility, and the integration of innovative practices and technologies.

◆ [Press](#) - KOBAN’s role was featured in Valencia local press - 26th February 2025

KOBAN was featured in local news and press for its growing impact at the 5th USEC Awards Ceremony on 26 February in Madrid. Our partner, PLV, was recognized for the GAMA Group and IMPROVE project (GA:101074010), with Chief Commissioner Jose Vicente Herrera highlighting KOBAN as a key initiative in advancing community policing through innovation.

- [Europa Press](#)
- [Valencia Plaza](#)
- [Hoy Diario](#)
- [El Periodic](#)
- [Crónica Valencia](#)
- [Microsoft Network \(MSN\)](#)





CONSORTIUM

No.	Participant organisation name	Short Name	Country
1	NETHERLANDS POLICE	NPN	NL
2	STOWARZYSZENIE POLSKA PLATFORMA BEZPIECZENSTWA WEWNETRZNEGO	PPHS	PL
3	NEDERLANDSE ORGANISATIE VOOR TOEGEPAST NATUURWETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK TNO	TNO	NL
4	IANUS TECHNOLOGIES LTD	IANUS	CY
5	SAHER (EUROPE) OU	SAHER	EE
6	FUNDACION CENTRO DE TECNOLOGIAS DE INTERACCION VISUAL Y COMUNICACIONES VICOMTECH	VICOMTECH	ES
7	ETHNIKO KENTRO EREVNAS KAI TECHNOLOGIKIS ANAPTYXIS	CERTH	EL
8	TIMELEX	TLX	BE
9	MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR	FIMOI	FI
10	KOMENDA WOJEWODZKA POLICJI Z SIEDZIBA W RADOMIU	KWPR	PL
11	AYUNTAMIENTO DE VALENCIA	PLV	ES
12	CAMARA MUNICIPAL DE LISBOA	CML	PT
13	QUALIFY JUST - IT SOLUTIONS AND CONSULTING LDA	IPS	PT
14	ERASMUS UNIVERSITEIT ROTTERDAM	EUR	NL
15	FORUM EUROPEEN POUR LA SECURITE URBAINE	EFUS	FR
16	POLICEJNI PREZIDIUM CESKE REPUBLIKY	CP	CZ
17	ZONE DE POLICE BRUXELLES IXELLES	POLBRU	BE
18	SHEFFIELD HALLAM UNIVERSITY	CENTRIC	UK
19	HOME OFFICE	HOME	UK





CONNECT WITH KOBAN



www.koban-project.eu/



www.x.com/KOBAN_Project



www.youtube.com/@KOBANProjectEU



www.linkedin.com/company/koban-project-eu



www.open.spotify.com/playlist/7J9P4uGCJUzqV7ZB4ZxDCs



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