

Open science and research at the Police University College



The Director of Education and Research of the Police University College has signed the Open science and research operating model, version 2.0 (POL-2026-29143).

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Open RDI activities at the Police University College

We have committed to the [Declaration for Open Science and Research 2025 - 2030](#) ¹. Openness supports the impact, quality and diversity of research, teaching, administration, development and innovation activities in a sustainable way. We promote openness in all our operations and implement it as follows ²:

- **Open operating culture**
Responsible openness is part of the Police University College's strategy and steering work, management and everyday practices. Evaluation practices, incentives and services support the openness of our operations.
- **Open access to materials**
Our research data and methods are as open as possible and restricted as necessary.
- **Open access to scholarly publishing**
The publications in our publication series are accessible and, as a rule, openly accessible. We also encourage open access publishing in the police's own and other external publication channels.
- **Open access to education**
We encourage the preparation, utilization and co-creation of open educational resources and educational practices so that they are part of daily work in higher education and enable continuous learning.

The Police University College's open science and research operating model (OSR operating model) outlines the principles for responsible openness in our work community and provides guidelines for daily work and processes. Commitment to the Declaration for Open Science and Research requires clear agency and practical measures in promoting openness. When implemented, open science and research will improve the quality and societal impact of the Police University College, promote education and strengthen the use of research in society.

1 Open operating culture

We have committed to an open operating culture and comply with the principles of the [Responsible Conduct of Research \(RCR\)](#) ³. [The Quality Policy of the Police University College](#) ⁴ (pdf) is the key mechanism that steers and develops our operations. Accordingly, one of our objectives is to act in a socially responsible, open and effective manner. [The quality management system of the Police University College](#) ⁵ provides a basis for maintaining and developing the structures and processes required for an open operating culture.

¹ <https://avointiede.fi/en/policies/declaration-open-science-and-research-2020-2025>

² The declaration is further specified by four national open science policies and their recommendations; see <https://avointiede.fi/en/policies-materials/policies-open-science-and-research-finland> and <https://avointiede.fi/en/policies-materials/recommendations-open-science-and-research-finland>

³ <https://tenk.fi/en/research-misconduct/responsible-conduct-research-rcr>

⁴ <https://polamk.fi/documents/25254699/33938795/Polamks-quality-policy.pdf/054b9964-b65a-d0f3-7e89-452ecc002a78?t=1681896321594>

⁵ <https://polamk.fi/en/operational-quality-manual>

Our RDI activities are as open as possible and as protected as necessary. The Police University College's open science and research policies are described in the [RDI policies and pedagogic policies of the Police University College](#) ⁶. Our everyday operations and cooperation are steered by the [Polamk code of community](#) ⁷, prepared jointly by staff and students, where we commit to act openly and to share information.

We carry out research, development and innovation activities mainly as projects, about which we compile information on the [Police University College's RDI project website](#) ⁸. An exception to this is reports that are classified and intended for use by the authorities because the information in these is not public. Even then, we will examine the possibilities to publish on a case-by-case basis. We encourage our staff, from the very beginning of RDI project planning and throughout the project's lifecycle, to consider how the ideas generated in the project, and the results, can be utilized inside and outside of our organization. The impacts of our projects improve when the results can be used as extensively as possible. The openness of RDI activities supports this goal.

Because of the nature of its mission relating to internal security and police operations, the Police University College differs from other higher education institutions in certain respects. The Police University College's mission restricts open access to such educational resources, research datasets and publications that contain information intended for use by the authorities, or classified information. These include the technical, tactical and operational methods and research datasets of the police that contain sensitive personal data.

In our operations, we comply with best practices in research data management, legislation, the financing terms that apply to our operations, regulations, and the Police University College's guidelines and regulations. We ensure the protection of confidential and sensitive information, data security and data protection. The Police University College also has an enterprise architecture group that examines our operations comprehensively and identifies dependencies between different functions. This is how we gain a comprehensive picture of operations, information, information systems and technologies, as well as the connections between them.

Communication is an integral part of projects, and it is recorded as one of the tasks included in the project plan or a separate communication plan, especially where several partners are involved in a project. The communication plan also takes into account the communication guidelines and needs of the funders and project partners and defines, among other things, the key target groups and channels for communication with regard to the openness and impact of the project. The operating models for RDI project preparation, implementation and utilization are recorded in the Police University College's project handbook. The handbook is available on the police intranet and is intended for everyone working in projects at the Police University College and in other police units.

The Police University College's Committee of Research Integrity ⁹ issues statements on the ethical acceptability of research projects in accordance with the guidelines of the [Finnish](#)

⁶ <https://polamk.fi/en/strategic-policies-and-quality>

⁷ <https://polamk.fi/en/university-college-community>

⁸ <https://polamk.fi/en/rdi-projects>

⁹ More information about working groups at the Police University College is available at <https://polamk.fi/en/working-groups>. In line with the Police University College's general policy, for example

[National Board on Research Integrity \(TENK\)](#) ¹⁰. A statement may also be requested from the Committee, if the research subject, research funder or partner so require or if the research results are to be published in a scientific journal that requires a prior ethical review. A permit is required for the use of police records for research purposes. A research permit ¹¹ is required when the information request for research purposes is targeted at police staff (interviews and questionnaires), the police's personal data files or secret, confidential or classified documents, such as regulations, orders, documents created in the course of police operations, and other official documents.

Anyone may propose to the Police University College a topic for a thesis, student project, research, development project or training subject to a charge ¹². The needs of partners and society are the starting point of our operations. As a rule, our theses are public but commissioned work may also be confidential. We emphasize responsible openness as part of everyday work in teaching and research, and the professional skills of personnel. Our staff members have received training and instructions on how to evaluate and process any confidential and classified information relating to educational resources, research datasets and publications. The decision on whether educational resources and research datasets are openly accessible, or partly or completely confidential, is made on a case-by-case basis.

The integration of open science and research practices as part of everyday work at the Police University College is an ongoing process. In order to promote and implement an open operating culture, we utilize the existing structures, processes and organs at the Police University College and integrate the principles and practices of responsible openness with them. We organize open-house events within the organization to learn about the work and personnel in different areas of responsibility. In-house openness is also supported by "workplace visits", which provide a low threshold to learn about a colleague's work.

We are aware that the prerequisites for implementing openness in everyday teaching and research include staff members' competences, that is, their knowledge, skills and attitudes, and support provided by the organization. The Police University College has several evaluation practices, incentives and services that can include elements that strengthen an open operating culture and the competences of its staff.

1.1 Research security

Research security is an integral part of an open operating culture and responsible openness. This refers to practices and principles that ensure research activities do not jeopardize the security of individuals, society, or the organization. Whereas openness and security are mutually supportive, tensions — such as excessive caution — may arise between them and must be identified and managed.

the names of working group members are not disclosed on external websites, and all contact takes place via official emails.

¹⁰ <https://tenk.fi/en/research-integrity-ri>

¹¹ More information on how to apply for a research permit is available on the police website at <https://poliisi.fi/en/use-of-data-for-research>.

¹² More information on submitting project proposals is available on the Police University College website at <https://polamk.fi/propose-a-project-theme>.

Security is built on shared responsibility that applies to all actors. The organization, projects and individual experts each bear their share of responsibility. Responsibility is also emphasized in multilateral cooperation: it must be ensured that information is not misused and that strategic information remains protected.

We comply with the security guidelines of the police in our RDI activities. In practice, this means, for example, security clearances, risk assessments, protection of the data structure and information systems, as well as the identification of strategic information and the prevention of misuse. We monitor security issues throughout the lifecycle of projects. If security-related changes arise during research projects, we discuss them with the financiers and potential project partners and assess the situation regarding the continuation of project work.

The research process is described comprehensively in the Police University College's project handbook ¹³, which is available to all police staff and students on the police intranet. The handbook outlines what is expected of our researchers and other project staff, including with regard to security issues in project work. Students and staff are provided with instructions and regular training, for example, in data protection and information security matters. Openness involves risks that must be prepared for by, for example, promoting critical media literacy.

2 Open access to materials

We are committed to appropriate data management, guided by the European Commission's policy of [FAIR principles](#) ¹⁴. The acronym FAIR describes ideal data management that defines the objectives for individual research data using the following keywords:

F - FINDABLE

A - ACCESSIBLE

I - INTEROPERABLE

R - RE-USABLE

The FAIR principles can be realized when research datasets can be identified individually as independent research outputs, they are sufficiently described, registered with a public search service and placed openly accessible at least as regards metadata. Interoperability is improved through the specified form of content description that facilitates readability both for humans and machines and through references to other resources, for example, by interlinking the parts of time series or research datasets created within one project. These measures support open access to data and the reusability of data and are an integral part of quality management. ¹⁵

¹³ POL-2025-2981

¹⁴ <https://www.fairdata.fi/en/about-fairdata/fair-principles/>

¹⁵ <https://www.fairdata.fi/en/about-fairdata/fair-principles/>

2.1 Data management

Good and responsible data management in line with the FAIR principles requires sufficient infrastructure and support services as well as appreciation of activities. A need for the service may arise, for example, from the financiers' requirement to publish the reference data of research datasets or prepare a data management plan in line with certain criteria.

Ready-made technical solutions are available in support of data management. The services of CSC – IT Center for Science Ltd. are compatible with each other. Data from the services is automatically transferred, for example, to the Research.fi platform used in the evaluation of organizations. Moreover, the Police University College is already using several services provided by CSC, including the Haka login and publication data storage service at [Research.fi](https://research.fi) ¹⁶.

2.2 Research datasets

We recommend providing open access to data accumulated in projects and storage for example in the [Finnish Social Science Data Archive](https://www.fsd.tuni.fi/en/) ¹⁷ whenever possible from the viewpoints of research ethics, legislation and agreements. It is not possible to provide the general public with open access to open data intended for use by the authorities or data that contains classified information. A large part of our data includes, for example, sensitive personal data or information of the operational procedures of the police, which means that this data must be processed in accordance with legislation and agreements and cannot necessarily be made openly accessible. Material that we are unable to open is saved and preserved at the Police University College in accordance with the project management plan. However, some of the Police University College's research datasets, such as the continuously implemented Police Barometer interview survey, are already openly accessible and available for use by other researchers in the Finnish Social Science Data Archive.

2.3 Police Museum's material

Part of Police University College, the [Police Museum](https://poliisimuseo.fi/en/frontpage) ¹⁸ preserves material related to the history of the police in Finland, particularly objects and picture material used by the police in their work. The Police Museum also preserves police archive material not included in the official archive and not preserved by the National Archives of Finland.

Since 2019, the Police Museum has been responsible for the collections and exhibitions of the Crime Museum, based on the premises of the National Bureau of Investigation in Vantaa. The collections include instruments of crime, investigation materials, crime scene samples, forensic investigation tools and equipment, and photographs.

The Police Museum's activities are regulated by legislation in force and the internal orders and instructions of the police. Museum activities are particularly influenced by data protection and copyright legislation and the confidentiality and classification rules and regulations that apply to

¹⁶ <https://research.fi/en/>

¹⁷ <https://www.fsd.tuni.fi/en/>

¹⁸ <https://poliisimuseo.fi/en/frontpage>

materials of the police. The Police Museum's operations comply with the [ICOM Code of Ethics for Museums](#)¹⁹ and [Ethical Code for the Police](#)²⁰.

Since 2009, the Police Museum has used a collections management system to which browsing access can be granted to security-cleared personnel working within the police administration. The Police Museum aims to obtain full rights of ownership and use to all material arriving to its collections. User rights can be limited based on the conditions imposed by the donor.

The openness of Police Museum exhibitions requires that the selection and display of collections pay particular attention to personal data protection, the confidentiality provisions of materials and the fact that the museum is open for visitors of all ages. Exhibitions at the Crime Museum, on the other hand, must take into account the protection of personal data and the confidentiality provisions of materials. The Police Museum can display its collections even outside its own exhibition premises, provided that the facilities and furnishings are suitable for displaying museum collections.

The Police Museum seeks to promote research activities focusing on its collections. The collections of the Police Museum are available for use by researchers, provided that museum ethics, personal data protection and confidentiality provisions, and the restrictions of use agreed with the donor, are taken into account. As a rule, original picture and archive material is not lent to parties outside of the Police Museum. By advance order, material can be researched on Police University College or Police Museum premises where the condition of the material permits this.

The Police Museum lends out objects from its collections internally to the police administration for displaying under the supervision of the museum's professional personnel. The objects can also be lent out to professionally managed memory organizations for use at exhibitions. Lending is always subject to a written agreement. Upon request, the Police Museum will provide, for a fee, digital image copies for use in publications across various media.

Exhibitions at the Police Museum are open to all. The Crime Museum is open to the police and key stakeholders only. Crime Museum collections can be displayed to the general public as part of the exhibitions at the Police Museum.

3 Open access to publications

A publication is openly accessible (Open access, OA) when anyone can read, copy and share the publication freely online for at least non-commercial use. The publisher may provide open access to the publication either in their own service or allow self-archiving (green open access), for example, in a publication archive. Alongside our own publication series, we favor a variety of forums, formats, and channels for publishing the results of our RDI activities. We encourage publishing in channels that offer open access or making publications openly accessible whenever possible and appropriate. Publications in the Police University College's own publication series, and self-archived copies are saved in the [Theseus.fi service](#)²¹. All

¹⁹ <https://icom.museum/en/resources/standards-guidelines/code-of-ethics/>

²⁰ <https://polisi.fi/en/ethical-code-for-the-police>

²¹ <https://www.theseus.fi/>

publications of the Police University College staff in various forums can be found in on place in the Research.fi online service.

The task of RDI activities at the Police University College is to engage in applied research and development work. The aim is to publish the results of applied research also in high-quality peer-reviewed scientific publication series and monographies, which requires being prepared for publishing fees. We take into account the funding to cover Open access publishing fees in the planning of RDI projects. Funds required for open access publishing have already been taken into account in the budgets of several international externally funded projects. We also cover open access publishing fees with funding within the funding framework for RDI activities.

3.1 Publications published in the Police University College publication series

As a publisher, the Police University College is committed to promoting the principles of the Finnish Association for Scholarly Publishing's [peer review guidelines](#) (in Finnish) ²² and the Finnish Advisory Board on Research Integrity's (TENK) guidelines for the [responsible conduct of research](#) ²³. We also act in accordance with the criteria imposed for the use of the peer-review label of the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies (TSV).

In our own [Police University College publication series](#) ²⁴, we publish studies, reviews, reports, and textbooks related to internal security and the police. The publications serve policing, police education and internal security, and their planning, management and development. We publish manuscripts in Finnish, Swedish and English that have not previously been published as such elsewhere.

The Police University College Publications Committee supports the University College's scientific research and publishing activities as part of the research, development and innovation activities as a whole. The Committee is responsible for the publishing process of manuscripts published in the Police University College publication series, including evaluating whether manuscripts submitted for publishing can be published, coordinating the evaluation of publications and ensuring the publishing process is in accordance with open access to publications.

The manuscripts submitted to our publication series go through an evaluation process in which a manuscript is examined from the perspectives of the Police University College's general and series-specific publication criteria. The author is provided with an evaluation decision and statement, irrespective of whether the decision is positive or negative.

The publications are mainly electronic online publications, accessible free of charge at Theseus.fi, Finna.fi and tiedejatutkimus.fi services. We emphasize open access publishing in our project publications. Publications intended for use solely by the authorities are an exception, but even then, we only publish those whose content is not confidential. We have prepared [Instructions for the author of the manuscript](#) ²⁵ for authors submitting manuscripts to the Police

²² <https://tiedekustantajat.fi/ohjeet/vertaisarviointi/>

²³ https://tenk.fi/sites/default/files/2023-05/RI_Guidelines_2023.pdf

²⁴ <https://polamk.fi/en/publishing>

²⁵ <https://polamk.fi/en/publishing>

University College publication series. These instructions contain information on finalizing the manuscript, submission, responsibilities, and the evaluation and publication process.

In addition to our own publication series, our staff members and students publish scientific and professional content in other channels. Publications by Police University College staff members or their reference data have been openly accessible at the tiedejatutkimus.fi service since 2016. We support the use of open scholarly publications by communicating broadly about the publications in line with the practices and publishing process of Police University College RDI communications.

3.2 Theses

In accordance with the [Police University College Degree Regulation](#) ²⁶, theses are, as a rule, moved to the Theseus database. Pursuant to the Copyright Act, students have the right to decide whether they move their theses to the open, or restricted repository of Theseus ²⁷. In respect of work stored in the latter, only the reference details of the thesis, including summary, are visible on the internet.

Visitors to the campus can read theses in the restricted repository on the designated terminals in the library. Other customers must, if they require access to a thesis in the restricted repository, submit an information request to the Police University College library. The registry will record the release of the thesis in the electronic document management system. A thesis is sent to the person requesting it by email free of charge. Prior to 2023, a thesis could be moved either to Theseus or to the library as a printed copy. Printed copies of theses are available for borrowing, and a list of them is available in the [Etsivä Finna collection database](#) ²⁸ of the Police University College library.

Under section 15 of the Degree Regulation, Police University College theses are, as a rule, public. However, if a thesis contains confidential information, the relevant appendices or parts will be removed from the thesis before it is moved to Theseus. In such cases, the thesis is archived in its entirety, including the confidential sections, in the electronic document management system. An information request concerning a confidential thesis can be sent to the official email address of the Police University College registry.

3.3 Scientific articles

We encourage the publishing of scientific articles in open access publication channels or to provide open access to the publication whenever possible and appropriate. The Police University College library has written guidelines on the open access publication of scientific articles ²⁹ and the library will assist authors in matters concerning open access publication. We recommend that evaluation of the possibilities of open access publication already when selecting a

²⁶ <https://polamk.fi/en/teaching-and-learning>. The Police University College Degree Regulation (POL-2025-73525) entered into force on March 1, 2026.

²⁷ The Police University College started to use the restricted collection in Theseus on September 6, 2022, when the National Library of Finland added several different universities of applied sciences to the service at the same time.

²⁸ <https://polamk.finna.fi/?lng=en-gb>

²⁹ Guidelines on the open access publication of scientific articles (POL-2022-21908) is available on the police intranet on the Publications site.

publication channel. The primary option is to make the publication available directly in the publisher's service. Where this is not possible, the library can assist in determining the requirements under which the publication may be self-archived in the Theseus.fi service. We do not self-archive publications that are openly accessible in the publisher's service.

4 Open RDI integrated education

RDI integrated education refers to the entity of research, development, innovation activities and education. At the Police University College, education and teaching take place in close cooperation, especially with police units, and the aim is to describe the phenomena of the operating environment and solve practical problems through RDI activities and open education. Our students implement small-scale projects relating to the development of working life, that can be converted into credits to form part of the student's degree. However, it must be noted that the development of police operations cannot be transparent and public in all cases.

The aim of theses is also to develop and innovate so that the results could be widely utilized in working life, and repeatable. Our aim with openness is to achieve more transparency for research results and higher social impacts. By open RDI integrated education, we facilitate the transfer of competence and knowledge we produce for everyone to see and utilize, should they so wish. Co-creation together with working life and stakeholders enhances the quality and reliability of our work and increases social impacts.

At the Police University College, we publish the results of RDI projects and theses, as a rule, with open access and share them with higher education institutions and on a broader scale to society, for example, as publications and in seminars and educational events.

At the Police University College, RDI integrated education is possible, for example, in externally funded projects, assignments and theses. In many projects, we prepare training packages relating to the themes of policing, including the prevention and investigation of cybercrime or domestic violence. We also support cross-institutional studies between higher education institutions and enable students from other higher education institutions to participate in certain courses at the Police University College.

5 Support for open research and teaching

Our aims for open science, research and education are achieved when we take them into account as part of our everyday activities. The Police University College's open science and research operating model provides an organization-level direction for measures that promote openness, quality and transparency. In our own work, the implementation of the principles of openness comes naturally when the instructions, tools and support services are in good order.

We monitor and evaluate the OSR operating model as part of the Police University College's quality management system. Monitoring helps us to identify how openness is implemented in the areas of operations and where new solutions or reinforcements are needed. The evaluation results support the continuous development of our operations and help to direct our internal and

external services. The evaluation also ensures that the Police University College's operations are in line with the national Declaration for Open Science and Research and the rest of the higher education sector.

5.1 Services

We support our staff and students in activities based on open science and education. We provide tools, services and advice in the Police University College's various functions and organs. Services include document management, international mobility, open access publishing, educational resources and digital teaching solutions, information security, research integrity, project management, and support for communications and publication production.

Users receive guidance according to their own needs, such as the data sources of the thesis, the storage of research data, copyright issues in publications or the production of digital content related to teaching.

We seek to ensure equal access to services that support open science and research. Legal services, library services and research permit services are also available in Swedish. In addition, the instructions for manuscript authors, the Police University College website, operational quality manual and instructions for students are available in Finnish and Swedish. All services are available for research, teaching and RDI staff, regardless of the stage of their career or position.

Functions

Administration services

- archiving, document management, data protection, information requests and research permits

International unit

- international student exchange and cross-institutional studies, international staff training and exchange programs

Library and information service

- open access to publications (Theseus and scientific articles), publication register (JUSTUS - Publication Information Reporting Service), self-archiving (green open access), maintenance of search services and guidance on how to use them (e.g., Etsivä Finna and e-resources databases), dataset description and requests for information from a restricted collection

Competence units

- open access educational resources (Police University College students access to e.g., Moodle and eOppiva)

Student services

- student projects, student exchange and cross-institutional studies

Police University College studio

- filming videos, recording podcasts, organizing online teaching, making and supporting other communication productions

Police Museum

- museum ethics, research data management, data protection and copyright

ICT management

- data storage and information security

RDI activities

- research data management, publication series, project management, agreements, copyright, research integrity

Communications

- press releases and news coverage of education and RDI activities, internal and external communications; Support for students' social media and blog publishing.

Organs

Police University College working group on open science and research (OSR group)

- serves staff and students in matters related to the theme and in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of OSR activities at the Police University College. An introduction to the group and members' contact information can be found on the police intranet.

Police University College Publications Committee

- guides the manuscript provider in finalizing the manuscript to be submitted to the Police University College's publication series, as well as in the evaluation and publication process. The Publications Committee also helps with topics related to the copyright of publications and publication communications.

Research Integrity Committee and research integrity support persons

- provide guidance on topics related to research integrity.

Our website has a section on [ethics and open science](#)³⁰ as well as contact information for dealing with the theme. The services take into account the accessibility criteria required by law.

5.2 Monitoring and evaluation of the operating model

We monitor the state of the Police University College's open science and research as part of the [Police University College's total quality management](#)³¹ The development of the operating model can be monitored through its version numbers, which are compiled in the electronic document management system. The latest version of the operating model is available on the Police University College website in Finnish, Swedish and English.

We record the development needs we have identified in relation to open science and research in the Police University College's electronic workspace. There are five areas for development: open operating culture, open materials, open access publishing, open education, and support for open research and teaching. A supervisor-level responsible person and a target schedule for the implementation of the development measure have been defined for each development area. Progress of the development measures is also monitored at the management team level. We publish information on the progress of open science and research activities in the Police University College's annual report and the police's sustainability report.

The Police University College is involved in the monitoring of the state of open science and research in research communities. Monitoring carried out in even-numbered years verifies how the objectives of the national declaration and policies are achieved at the Police University College and at the national level. Monitoring supports the development of our operations.

³⁰ <https://polamk.fi/en/ethics-and-open-science>

³¹ <https://polamk.fi/en/operational-quality-manual>