ARTHUR TROOP SCHOLARSHIP - one of my favourite life opportunities for self-improvement.

It is never too late to learn new skills and develop yourself. Personal development is always helping me to set my goals and reach my full potential. Traveling abroad, learning in an international environment and meeting new people from all over the world has always been my priority. That’s why I am more than happy writing this small report with the aim to share my experience.
Being a member of the INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION gave me the opportunity to apply for a scholarship, which had been published at the national IPA web site (IPA Skopje). After a couple of direct contacts with the management team of IPA Skopje, who were very happy for my interest, I received all the instructions on how to fill in the application form and apply for the ARTHUR TROOP SCHOLARSHIP 2019. After a couple of months I was informed by IPA Skopje with the happy news that I got the scholarship together with 11 other members. I immediately took action to decide what the best training course or seminar would be for me. In the end I downloaded the catalogue of seminars that the “The information and education centre GIMBORN Castle” (IBZ) was offering. There were many training courses offered and it was very difficult for me to decide which the best option for my self-progress was.

As a police officer in NCB INTERPOL Skopje, currently I am dealing with violent crimes and terrorism, and because of that and according to the fact that today’s world is filled with different kind of conflicts, community crises, acts of terrorism, and while the challenge of conflict prevention, mediation, and resolution is essential, I realized that the seminar “Disaster and Crisis Management, the challenge of dealing with disaster” offered by IBZ Gimborn would be very helpful for my daily work challenges. The seminar “Disaster and Crisis Management, the challenge of dealing with disaster” 19/10, started on the 11th of March 2019 and ended on Friday the 15th of March 2019.

Crisis management is a strategy designed to help an organisation, group of people, or an individual to deal with a sudden and significant negative event. A crisis can occur as a result of an unpredictable event or as an unforeseeable consequence of some event that had been considered a potential risk. Crises and disasters disrupt the normality and implicitness that pervade the public agenda. This applies to crises evoked by natural hazards as well as to man-made crises and disasters. Crises and disasters bring out the best and the worst in human beings: with greed and selfishness on one side, and helpfulness and compassion on the other. Modern societies dispose of complex structures enlisting public, private, and non-profit organisations to meet the challenges that come with crises and disasters. The seminar provided an overview on the current research on disasters. It looked at the role of law enforcement personnel in disaster response, at the collaboration between professionals on the scene and the public. It also focused on the psychological stress within victims, as well as in professionals (police, firefighters) and the role of resilience in the aftermath of disasters.

The seminar was chaired by Yvonne Taylor – a police inspector and PhD candidate. On the first day, 11.03.2019, the IBZ team welcomed us warmly and introduced the seminar chair and agenda, incorporating the opportunities to organise discussions and exchanges outside of the official seminar programme. The topic of the afternoon session was training for mass disasters (demonstration and discussion). The second day, 12.03.2019, the morning session was dedicated to disaster victim identification and body recovery in road traffic collisions involving multiple fatalities, delivered by Dave Taylor, Senior Forensic Collision Investigation in the North Yorkshire Police. The afternoon session included a topic focused on social media and crisis communication with lecturer Marc Kaufhold, information specialist at the University of Siegen. On the third day the morning session was taken by Ute Dommermuth, police chief inspector at the Police headquarters in Cologne, who spoke about the crisis Management by the Police of North Rhine Westphalia in special police deployment situations, with the example of Cologne, Germany. The afternoon session was dedicated to
virtual reality training with Kyle Hardcastle, detective constable at the London Metropolitan Police. On Thursday 14.03.2019, Mr. Jean Pierre Devos, first Commissioner at the Headquarters of the Federal Police in Belgium, explained his personal experience and actions taken after the 22/3 Brussels Airport Terrorist Attack. In the afternoon session, Dr. Katja Schulze spoke about human conduct in crises and disasters. On the last day 15.03.2019, Michael Thomas Qalter Senior spoke about how organisers can minimize the risks.

For this wonderful opportunity that included the scholarship I was awarded with, I would like to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to the INTERNATIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION.

With respect
Milica IVANOVA -IPA member and ARTHUR TROOP SCHOLARSHIP Awardee