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Report from the III International Polygraph Conference in Budapest

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On 19–20 May 2026, the III International Polygraph Conference was held in Budapest. The venue of the conference was the Grand Council Hall of the Riot Police at Kerepesi út 47–49, Budapest. The conference brought together representatives of the polygraph community from many countries, including Croatia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania, the Republic of Srpska, Slovakia, Poland, Belgium, Spain, Canada, and the United States.

The conference was officially opened by Maj. Gen. Dr. Szilvia Tomin, Director-General. In her opening remarks, she welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of international cooperation in the development and practical application of polygraph examinations.

The first day of the conference was devoted primarily to methodological and practical issues related to polygraph examinations, as well as pre-test and post-test interviewing. After a brief summary of the First and Second International Polygraph Conferences, Shaun Smith from Canada delivered a presentation on single- and

multiple-issue tests. In his next presentation, he discussed the issue of anticlimax dampening. The presentations were followed by a question-and-answer session.

In the afternoon session, François La Fevre from Belgium presented a paper on the post-test interview and the use of the Méndez Principles. This was followed by a presentation by Goran Kojic from Serbia, who discussed the Scharff Technique as an upgrade to pre-test and post-test interviewing in polygraph examinations. The day concluded with a roundtable discussion devoted to the topics raised during the presentations.

The second day of the conference was largely technical and presentation-oriented. Solutions offered by polygraph equipment manufacturers were presented. Products were introduced by representatives of Stoelting Co., Lafayette Polygraph Co., and P.O.L.A.R. The P.O.L.A.R. system, a new product on the market manufactured in Brazil, attracted particular interest. The presence of several manufacturers allowed participants to compare different technical solutions currently used in polygraph examinations.

The scientific part of the second day also included a presentation entitled "Memory Distortions, Confabulation, and Their Impact on Polygraph Examinations," delivered by Michał Widacki, Ph.D., representing Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski Krakow University. The presentation addressed the issue of memory distortions, confabulation, and their potential impact on the course and interpretation of polygraph examinations.

An important part of the programme was also a criminal case presentation. It concerned a case involving the concealment of a child's body. In the course of activities aimed at locating the body and identifying the perpetrator, a two-stage approach was applied: first, a voice analyzer was used, followed by a polygraph examination. This concept appears to be sound, as obtaining consistent results from two such different methods of deception detection may strengthen confidence in the accuracy of the findings and, consequently, increase their evidential or investigative value.

The III International Polygraph Conference in Budapest was a valuable scientific and practical event. It provided an opportunity for knowledge exchange among specialists from different countries, the presentation of current directions in the development of polygraph examinations, and familiarization with the latest technical solutions available on the market. The meeting confirmed the importance of international cooperation in this field and the need for further discussion on standards, methods, and the practical use of polygraph examinations.