

# THE GREEK POLICE WITHOUT SOCIAL TABOOS

Original research surveys the attitudes of 1000 police officers

Do homosexuals, immigrants and the disabled have a place in the Greek Police Force? Will the police increase its legitimacy if it mirrors society? Or will there be communication problems and various reactions from the staff and society itself?

This is only a sample of the tough questions to which approximately 1.000 police officers are asked to reply in the following days, in the context of a study undertaken by the Research Institute of the Greek Federation of Police Officers.

## Roma

The survey's objective is to study the attitudes of the police staff, in the context of globalization and the transformation of Greece from a closed society to a multicultural one. The survey also aims to study the attitudes of police officers vis-à-vis society's most vulnerable – and different - social groups. Already, ethnic Greeks from Albania serve in the Greek Police Force, while it is expected that in the years to come, the children of economic migrants, having acquired Greek nationality will also enter the Police Force through the state university entrance exams. As far as the other vulnerable groups are concerned, the disabled are excluded by law, the Roma are rarely accepted, and employees “with different sexual orientations” are a rare phenomenon.

The questionnaires have already been sent with the comment that although the questions may represent ideas that are present in the Police Force, they do not necessarily represent the opinion of the researchers.

## Homosexuals

In its first part, the survey asks whether the Police, as part of the public administration, should offer a good practice example in promoting diversity through the employment of staff from social groups other than the majority one (white male Orthodox ethnic Greeks). Answers to questions such as the following are awaited with eagerness: Will corruption increase as diversity inside the force increases? Will the employment of immigrants increase expertise in intercultural issues? Will more diversity provoke reactions from heterosexual colleagues, or will it mean more work for all? As regards the organizational culture and the way in which individuals interact, the survey asks questions about the expressions used by police officers when they are talking of e.g. homosexuals who have come out of the closet, women who are victims of harassment, or persons with piercings, etc.