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# BELÜGYI SZEMLE



PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC PERIODICAL OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR



**ZSOLT PÁDÁR – MÓNICA NOGEL – GÁBOR KOVÁCS – GERGELY GÁRDONYI – PETRA ZENKE:**  
Special Challenges of Wildlife Forensics in Hungary

**ZSOLT LIPPAI – KUND REGÉNYI – KÁROLY CSATÁRI – TAMÁS NAGY:**  
Examination of the Budapest Party District from the perspective of private and public security

**TÜNDE PESTI:** Cop culture and its transmission within police organisations

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**NOÉMI EMŐKE BARÁTH:** Motivation and Attitudes Behind the Career Choices  
of Hungarian Student Police Officers in Light of Policing Models

**TAMÁS MOLNÁR:** Impressions on the Role of Environmental Criminal Law in Present Day Society

**BOOK REVIEW:** Behavioral Insight

volume  
**71.**

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# PREFACE

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**Dear Reader,**

*‘Growth means change, change means risk: you step  
from the known world into the unknown.’*

George Shinn

The second English-language online special issue of *Belügyi Szemle* in 2023 will feature more qualitative and professional developments and expansions for our valued readers.

In our last issue, we reported on the growing and deepening international networking of our authors and editorial team in the digital space. The next milestone in this joyous process in the life of our English-language issue is that we are now publishing not only domestic but also foreign studies in this issue. We hope to see a steady and dynamic increase in the number of scientific publications by foreign authors in our English-language publication in the upcoming years.

Although our first special issue for the international scientific community was published less than two and a half years ago, this issue contains our 100th article in English.

Our English publications are produced with the same care, professionalism and dedication as our Hungarian publications. Regarding this last issue, we would like to share with our English-speaking readers the good news that – according to Dr. Péter Sasvári, Associate Professor – that *Belügyi Szemle* has been ranked 15th in the national ranking of the journals of the Department IX. of Economics and Law of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. In parallel with the results achieved, we continue to strive for further quality improvements in the future.

Please welcome the second English-language special issue of *Belügyi Szemle* in 2023, which will hopefully provide our readers with a meaningful and enjoyable reading experience.

***Editorship***



# Special Challenges of Wildlife Forensics in Hungary

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## Abstract

The causal relationship between human interference in both climate change and decrease in biodiversity is unquestionable. This fact supports the need to act effectively against those illegal activities affecting wildlife. Hungary is also involved in wildlife crimes, but there is a noticeable deficit in the processes of uncovering these actions, gathering proof and punishing those responsible. In this study the Authors examine what role forensics may play in the fight against wildlife crime.

**Aim:** Present the characteristics of wildlife crimes and outline the main features of wildlife forensics.

**Methodology:** The current national and international legal background and norms and guidelines for professional conduct are surveyed. The Authors also reviewed the most important relevant Hungarian and international scientific literature.

**Findings:** One of the most important and vital tasks of modern civilization is the preservation and protection of the environment – with an emphasis on life



on Earth. As part of this process there is a place for law enforcement to detect, punish and prevent further criminal activity connected with illegal activities involving wildlife. In Hungary the major barriers to effective punishment of those responsible for wildlife crimes are primarily: the lack of forensic technicians with sufficient specialized knowledge and practice; missing specialized standard operational protocols; insufficient knowledge of biology within law enforcement; insufficient funding of non-human genetic laboratories and the lack of adequate non-human (genetic) databases.

**Value:** For the first time in Hungary, the Authors outline the basic characteristics of wildlife forensics.

**Keywords:** wildlife crime, wildlife forensics, non-human forensic genetics

## Introduction

The flora and the animal kingdom ensure the opportunity for a healthy human diet, provide aesthetic pleasure for humans and at the same time is an economically significant source of materials. Additionally, it has a significant influence on the culture of a given country or geographical region, which is most often due to the typical local endemic species. In recent decades, however, bio- and genetic diversity has sunk to risky levels in most places on Earth (Newbold, Hudson & Arnell, 2016). One of the reasons for this is that the environment necessary for human life has value not only from an abstract, philosophical, moral, aesthetic, ecological or genetic point of view, but also in that elements thereof are treasures that can easily be monetized. This situation is abused by many who desire to convert these values into cash – and a very significant amount of cash at that.

The term ‘wildlife’ is traditionally used to refer to the natural diversity of animals, plants and fungi. In general, local, domestic, and international organizations typically perform the majority of the work in connection with management and protection of wildlife, supported by the necessary legal background.

In the Hungarian legal system in the context of ‘*crimes against nature and the environment*’ it is hard to uniformly define the characteristics of the term ‘wildlife crimes’ (or ‘forest crimes’).

This term, however, indisputably covers all the events that may occur in connection with the illegal exploitation of fauna and flora (Sziebig, 2018). Together with the illegal destruction of endangered species – capture, collection, hunting, fishing, harvesting, extermination, processing (e.g. for traditional medical



products such as tiger pastilles, bear gallbladder, etc), direct or indirect poisoning – international illegal trafficking causes the most significant damage to involved species (Smart, Cihlar & Budowle, 2021).

These, mainly organized illegal acts are – after the illegal arms and drug trades – one of the largest illegal businesses in the world (Beiglböck & Walzer, 2019; Gouda, Kerry, Das & Chauhan, 2020; Smart, Cihlar & Budowle, 2021).

These illegal activities are a threat, not only to biodiversity, but also to the food safety, biosecurity, economy and national security of the countries where they take place.

These risks, taking into account globalization, cannot be considered to be exclusively domestic risks.

Consequently, international cooperation against wildlife crimes supports not only preservation of natural resources, but also may contribute to the investigation and elimination of local and cross-border illegal networks (URL1).

The individuals and organizations involved along with their international networks can in many cases also be linked to money laundering and terrorism, which directly affects international security (Smart, Cihlar & Budowle, 2021).

In addition to changing the local biosphere, the unchecked, illegal shipping, the ‘transfer’ of various processed derivatives and representatives of the animal kingdom (e.g. introduction of invasive species) also poses a danger – to biosecurity in a broader sense – to public- and animal health control as well as to food safety.<sup>1</sup>

Global epidemiological challenges arising from human interference in nature – which have often occurred in human history – also have an effect on the global economy. The effects of wildlife crime on the economy are not limited to recessions caused by pandemics, or the enormous costs of combating invasive species and new zoonoses.

It also has a direct effect on domestic economies by undermining legal animal trade, reducing the income from legal game hunting (due to the deterioration in the health of the local wild animal population), and also inhibits wildlife tourism and reduces associated incomes (Smart, Cihlar & Budowle, 2021).

The basic problem is that in so-called ‘inner’ phase of the criminal act, the conflict between positive and negative motifs does not fully manifest on either the procurer nor on the executor sides.

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1 Widespread zoonoses such as HIV/chimpanzee, Ebola/fruit bat and H5N1/poultry, which are caused by the extinction of their intermediate hosts and/or inadequate physical distancing of evolutionarily separated species – an example of which is the consumption of local bushmeats. It should also be mentioned that the COVID-19 zoonotic backtrace has been the subject of scientific discussions.

Namely, the procurers are generally well-off people who live physically distant from the affected biological region, cannot see the consequences and for the most part don't consider the drastic effect of their orders on the biosphere.

In the case of the perpetrators of the crimes – individuals or criminal syndicates – the main deciding factor is not that they understand the damaging effects of their actions, but rather that in most cases they can be sure that there will be no legal ramifications for their criminal activity (Beiglböck & Walzer, 2019, Purtil, 2020).

From the point of view of globalization, it is especially frustrating and risky that in the less developed countries these crimes are often also aided by governmental corruption ([URL2](#); [URL3](#)).

## Hungary's concern

Although Hungary is not an exotic country, it has – similarly to other countries – significant natural values.

These natural values, often literally assets, although they do not in all cases receive national protection, may be of significant importance to our country and thus their protection is of national concern.

There is a large degree of latency in the legal or illegal trade of protected wild species, but we can state that Hungary does not currently have a featured role in this market.<sup>2</sup> Although the trade in endangered species is currently not considerable, exploitation affecting the wildlife population (e.g. poaching) is significant.

In Hungary there are both old and new challenges pertaining to the ancient tradition of hunting. Among these, maintaining the purity of the sport hunt has particular prominence. It should be noted, however, that the translocation of the routes for illegal trade can occur at any time,<sup>3</sup> so the degree of involvement of our country may increase overnight. This indicates that there is definitely sufficient justification for paying close attention to this problem.

Hungary is committed towards wildlife protection. This is evidenced by the Hungarian accession to the CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), which regulates and coordinates the commercial market and trade of endangered species. Like all the members of the Visegrad Four – except for Poland – Hungary is not directly involved in the network of ICCWC (International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime)

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2 This business is one of hundreds of millions of HUF yearly (Harnberger & Zsigmond, 2020).

3 Due to a more efficient official control as an increased risk factor.

(URL4). Numerous Hungarian laws ensure the protection of wild animals, e.g. Act XXVIII of 1998 on Animal Protection and Tolerance, Act CII of 2013 on Fisheries Management and Fish Protection, Act LV of 1996 on the Protection, Management and Hunting of Wildlife, and the Related Implementing Regulation, and also the Act C of 2012 on Criminal Code (CC) by ordering to punish crimes such as damage to environment (241. § of the CC), damage to nature (242-243. § of the CC), animal cruelty (244. § of the CC), poaching (245-246. § of the CC) and organization of prohibited animal fights (247. § of the CC).

In Hungary, investigating environmental crimes in more straightforward cases is the responsibility of city police departments. In more complicated cases, the county police headquarters are in charge and, in some exceptional cases, the water police headquarters carry out the investigation.<sup>4</sup> If the crime is considered as an organized crime or if it has an international nature as defined in the Palermo Convention (or in some other cases), the Rapid Response and Special Police Service has the authority to investigate.<sup>5</sup> This board also examines whether the environmental elements have been damaged to such an extent that their natural or previous state cannot be restored or if the damage affects three or more counties.

The investigation of nature damage also falls under the jurisdiction of the Rapid Response and Special Police Service if it is committed against a wild animal or plant species covered by Council of Europe Regulation 338/97/EC and threatens the survival of the population of the living organism.<sup>6</sup>

In individual cases, the National Chief of Police may also refer the investigation not otherwise belonging to the competence of the Rapid Response and Special Police Service, if it is necessary in order to promote more effective action against organized crime and corruption, or in view of the perpetrator of the crime or the circumstances of the crime.

According to publicly available criminal statistics, between the second half of 2018 and 3 March 2022 there were 25 cases against environmental degradation, 495 against damaging of natural environment or habitats, 14 cases concerning illegal fishing, 3 poaching cases and 120 cases of animal abuse registered, illegal animal fighting was not detected. These data cannot refer precisely to wildlife criminal acts.

It should be emphasized that in the case of crimes committed against wildlife, a higher degree of latency can be estimated. Additionally in the type of cases

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4 Decree 25/2013. (VI. 24.) of the Ministry of Interior of Hungary, Annex 4., 3.1.–3.5.

5 Act CI of 2006 on the Proclamation of The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Adopted by General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000 in Palermo.

6 Decree 25/2013. (VI. 24.) of the Ministry of Interior of Hungary, Annex 2. 8.2.

of animal victims, it is often hard to clearly distinguish between ethically condemnable, legally prohibited and legally sanctioned human activities.

In Hungarian practice we have mainly encountered the following types of activities: unethical or illegal hunting, theft of harvested wild animals, illegal food trade in derivatives from wild animals, misuse and cheating involving game trophies, trade of various ingredients of traditional so-called medicines (Zenke, Egyed, Pádár & Kovács, 2015; Zenke, Egyed & Pádár, 2017; Zorkóczy, Lehotzky, Pádár & Zenke, 2021; Zenke, Zorkóczy, Lehotzky, Ózsvári et al., 2022) as well as deliberate abuse of strictly protected animals (Zenke, Egyed, Kovács & Pádár, 2019) or poisoning of wild animals/bird of prey (Angyal, Farkasné & Halász, 2016; Deák, Juhász, Árvay & Horváth, 2020).

In many cases these crimes may extend beyond the borders of Hungary. Nowadays recent challenges involve the cross-border moving, migration and reintroduction and resettlement of formerly endemic predator species (e.g. wolf and bear) or identification of their biological hybrids (e.g. wolf, golden jackal and dogs) (Szives, Zorkóczy, Lehotzky, Somogyi et al., 2022).

When evaluating the economic damage caused to wild or bred prey populations it is more and more frequently necessary to distinguish between the actions of wild predators and poaching by dogs – either stray or owned. Traffic accidents caused by wild animals, deterioration in health of the domestic wild animal population (e.g. African swine flu), abuses related to its official control, and the detection and prevention of other illegal activities are also acute problems (Földi, 2021).

## **Factors affecting the fight against wildlife crime**

Wildlife crimes are a highly diverse range of illegal activities. Due to this, various difficulties can be encountered during their detection, investigation and providing of evidence.

Related literature reveals the difficulty in evidentiary procedure with a wide range of cases such as that concerning the poisoning of an endangered species of vulture (Rendo, Iriondo, Manzano & Estonba, 2011), traditional ‘medicines’ (Byard, 2016; Jabin, Singh, Ghosh, Basu et al., 2019; Linacre, 2021), or the tracking of sauna wood materials obtained from illegal logging activities (He, Marco, Soares & Yin et al., 2019; Roman, Gangitano, Figueroa & Solano, 2020).

Part of the complication stems from the high diversity and number of affected fauna and flora. Making it even more complex is that the criminalization of

nature, wild fauna and flora can be approached from differing – anthropocentric, biocentric and ecocentric – aspects (Ege & Howe, 2020), which obviously has an effect on characteristics of the legal process (Ege & Howe, 2020).

Compared to crimes committed against humans, those committed against animals are usually of lower priority in the eyes of both society and the authorities (Smart, Cihlar & Budowle, 2021; Linacre, 2021). Also, legal regulation governing smuggling and requirements for import of wild animals or derivate products are peripheral in many countries (Gouda, Kerry, Das & Chauhan, 2020).

Although for several organizations the legal background stipulates obligations relating to nature, environmental and wildlife protection, the regulation often also contains contradictions. Due to the laborious and diffuse cooperation between involved entities, the low degree of efficiency of professional intervention, the lack of definition and development of competency as well as responsibility these organizations are often not able to effectively perform their functions. Insufficient biological knowledge in law enforcement agencies and legal departments as well as a lack of human and material resources contributes to perpetrators of wildlife crimes often going unpunished (Beiglböck & Walzer, 2019; Gouda, Kerry, Das & Chauhan, 2020).

The lack of success in decreasing ethically objectionable or criminal activities not only reduces the chances for prevention, but also causes non recoverable economic damage and contributes to the decline in quality of the given wildlife populations (Zorkóczy, Lehotzky, Pádár & Zenke, 2021).

Thus, the authors believe that the targeted and reasonable development, maintenance and support of wildlife forensic capacity should be provided for in Hungary similarly as in other countries (Smart, Cihlar & Budowle, 2021).

In addition, we suggest the development of a complex, special legal and professional background for wildlife crimes which effectively can aid in detection, investigation and verification. In this framework, the regulation should integrate valid international experiences as well as facilitating the special studies, trainings and continued education of selected units and officers from different authorities.

The adequate and transparent legal regulations of the process as well as solution of forensic and legal demands and requirements which are often different from the challenges of anthropocentric forensics provide for more efficient action against wildlife crimes. This can reduce the chance of those, frequently unbased, confrontative opinions of several public groups such as hunters, conservationists, farmers and trekkers and in addition guide their different expectations towards a common and cooperative solution.

## Wildlife Forensics

### *Basic forensics questions*

In contrast to most types of crimes, the most typical basic question in connection with wildlife crimes is that of whether a crime has even been committed rather than that of who did it (McFadden, 2020).

The first criteria for the effective application of the adequate legal act is the determination of the cause of death (Nishant, Vrijesh & Ajay, 2017) and the taxonomical identification of the individuals, remains or derivatives of the incriminated species.

The death of representatives of wild fauna and flora can be caused by humans or by natural events. In the case of non-natural causes of death, those caused by legal activities (e.g. legal hunting, fishing, logging) or effects of the artificial environment (such as electrical wires, traffic, artificial objects) must be differentiated from those caused by illegal activities (e.g. illegal trapping, poaching, poisoning, trafficking).

For wild animals, the timeline of revealed ante mortem data and suitable examination of the related territory/environment by a forensic veterinarian specialist greatly supports the reasonable discussion and establishment of causal links based on tentative hypotheses (Garcês & Pires, 2020). The first step of forensic identification is, similarly to the analysis of drugs, microfibres or paints, the determination of significant ‘group’ characteristics which in this process equates to identifying the incriminated species (Burnham, Curtis, Trail, Kagan & Moore, 2015).

Accordingly, in wildlife forensics ‘WHAT’ instead of ‘WHO’ is the most frequent primary question (Moore & Frazier, 2019). The step of individualization (‘WHO’) may also arise. However, in connection with matching/exclusion in a given crime the question of ‘WHERE? (FROM WHERE?)’ is generally more often required. This answers the question of the biogeographical origin of the given species/remains, whether it is from a natural or unnatural (e.g. captive) habitat, from a region legally used for hunting/fishing/logging etc., or was perhaps involved in international trafficking. The demand for determination of sex, and number of incriminated species and individuals (‘HOW MANY?’) can arise in wildlife cases just as in human analogues. Additionally, at the start of the investigation it must be determined whether the relevant case data is already present in another case which can indicate that it fits the pattern of a ‘SERIAL CRIME’ (Nyitrai, 2021).

## Crime scene investigation

As can be seen from the above, the range of crimes with which wildlife can be connected – both directly and indirectly – is extremely wide. Consequently, this also means that a high variety of locations can be involved.

Species from fauna and flora as well as a great variety of remains, derivatives and processed products can be found in vastly different locations and environments (e.g. desert, forest, creek, ocean, etc.), involving extremely varying natural, artificial, open-air or isolated places (e.g. buildings, equipment, shipping or storage containers/rooms, cryostorage, boxes, internet sites, etc.) which can significantly affect and alter the discovering, selection, collection, preservation and storage of evidences (Cooper, Cooper & Budgen, 2009; Potter & Underkoffler, 2021).

In many cases, determining cause of death, or even detection of the animal connected with the crime can be problematic (Beiglböck & Walzer, 2019).

Since crimes may involve multiple, even physically separated locations and spaces within the affected species' natural or artificial habitat and environment, the question frequently arises as to whether the crime can be connected with more than one potential crime scene.

It is important to understand that wildlife and 'classic' crimes scenes may differ. This means that it may be difficult to recognize and detect that a given location is even in fact a crime scene.

Thus, in most cases, special professional skills are required to recognize these crime scenes as such (Parmalee, 2018; Beiglböck & Walzer, 2019).

Due to the differences inherent in illegal acts against wildlife, it is not obvious to everyone that they are even at a crime scene. While it is relatively easy to recognize the location of illegal logging, discovery of the remains or corpse of a wild animal does not necessarily mean that one has found a primary crime scene.

Tracking devices (Angyal, Farkasné & Halász, 2016; Váczi, 2020), acoustic (gunshot) detection systems (Kalmár et al., 2019; Sigmund & Hrabina, 2021), poison and cadaver detecting dogs can help us to define and localize the crime scenes especially in the case of protected species. At the same time, it is often necessary to extend the crime scene investigation by, for instance, reconstructing the path of wounded/shot animals, or tracking down shell casings.

If we chance upon a wounded animal or an animal's corpse or remains, or even just traces indicating that it has been at that location, then from a criminalistic point of view it is essential that we specify their roles in the crime. Of course, in most cases they are the subjects of the crime, but they may also play an active role (for example, poaching with dogs or hunter birds). They may also serve as 'silent witnesses' in wildlife crimes.



Of course, in these cases it is not a verbal ‘testimony’, but the examination of evidences and traces such as bites, scratches, hoofprints, hairs etc. that may be left on, or near them during the committing of the crime can lead closer to understanding what happened, and their importance can be as significant as that of a real testimony (Pádár, Kovács & Kozma, 2020).

During a crime scene investigation legal and professional regulations must be adhered to (Cooper, Cooper & Budgen, 2009; Gárdonyi, 2014; Gárdonyi, 2019; Parmalee, 2018; Beiglböck & Walzer, 2019).

Securing and protection of the crime scene is of primary importance in the case of wildlife crimes as well. Since, due to their nature, these are most often open-air ‘living’ crime scenes, it is even more critical to perform the crime scene investigation as soon as possible.

Delay in the crime scene investigation increases its exposure to not only weather, but also to biosphere related effects such as microbial, floral, faunal factors (predators, scavengers, herbivores or mushrooms). This negatively impacts the detection and sampling of evidences which in any case can frequently only be carried out in the midst of such situations that already challenge the sufficient and efficient crime scene investigation (Cooper, Cooper & Budgen, 2009).

Since there are typically few witnesses at wildlife crime scenes, the importance of the crime scene investigation is even more prominent (Parmalee, 2018).

Numerous factors can impede the immediate investigation (for example discovering the crime scene, lack of witnesses), and it is also not rare for criminals to deliberately alter the crime scene, mutilate, move or remove the impacted animal or its remains (Zenke, Egyed, Kovács & Pádár, 2019).

Of course, wildlife crimes are not always first detected by the relevant authorities, which means that both the order and timing with which the various officers or departments of different powers, scope and license are informed of the suspected crime also depends on the discovering witnesses (Angyal, Farkasné & Halász, 2016).

The steps taken by the person first to discover the crime scene (weighing the danger present, evaluation of health or other hazards, delineation of zones and boundaries, securing and protection of the scene, fixation and documentation of transient information that would otherwise no longer be available during the following investigation procedures) has a direct, primary effect on the success of the investigation and substantiation of the crime. In the best-case scenario, the suspicious circumstances or events are first detected by a ranger or game-keeper with a degree of competence.

The gathering of crime scene data requires a specialized criminalistic way of thinking (Gárdonyi, 2014), since past events need to be deduced based on circumstances available in the present (Kovács & Nogel, 2017).



There is a real possibility that the crime scene has been altered, and this must be taken into consideration. At the 'live' crime scene of a wildlife crime, a vast number/amount of biological traces and remains are usually present before discovery of the crime event. This means that distinguishing between relevant and non-relevant trace/evidence/information can be of crucial importance.

There are several special requirements that arise for forensic officers and technicians working in the 'living', sometimes extreme locations of wildlife crimes. Although the investigation must begin immediately, it can rarely be planned for in advance, and the opportunities for a priori information are limited. It is also not enough to have a degree of legal/forensic skills, it is also essential to have ethological knowledge of the incriminated species for cognitive forensic reconstruction.

In addition to forensic technicians and officers with special training, it is recommended (and often necessary) that a crime scene investigation also involve other specialists such as veterinarians and biologists who have forensic proficiency.

Significant professional cooperation, even if not substituent in itself, can be provided by competent representatives of the affected local conservation or hunting organizations, or the owner of the given land (Cooper, Cooper & Budgen, 2009; Beiglböck & Walzer, 2019).

Although veterinarians with forensic experience play a role in animal crimes analogue to that of a human forensic medical examiner (e.g. determining the cause or time of wounds or death), the presence of the latter at the crime scene is very rare (Brownlie & Munro, 2016).

## Methods

Although nowadays the palette of forensic methods available has grown significantly, the use of these in the case of wildlife crime is not self-evident.

Most of the forensic equipment and methods used in the examination process of investigation of crimes committed against humans can also be adequately applied in wildlife crimes (Cooper, Cooper, & Budgen, 2009; Beiglböck & Walzer, 2019; Gouda, Kerry, Das & Chauhan, 2020), although the effectiveness and success of some methods may be reduced due to the peculiarities involved (Moore & Frazier, 2019).

In general, one of the deficits – and perhaps the greatest – is that the applied methods are commonly much less rigorous than their analogue or homologue applications in human forensics.

The difficulty in standardizing examination procedures and compliance to quality management criteria (Smart, Cihlar & Budowle, 2021; Linacre, 2021) is not only due to the number of incriminated species and their biological diversity.

In some countries, the level of government financing of those research sites having professional competence that extends to wildlife crime forensic examinations does not allow for the implementation of very expensive quality management systems.

Those professionals who have over the years gathered and organized species related knowledge – not based on forensic criteria – and who are used in an ad hoc fashion by law enforcement have, on the whole, had to manage with a very low budget.

From a forensic viewpoint, an inadequate crime scene investigation, the incorrect management, storage and transport of gathered evidences, and in the case of animals the lack of necroscopy (or insufficiency thereof), the suitable availability of initial- and investigative support as well as the lack of witnesses and the uncertainty of their testimonies present the largest problems (Angyal, Farkasné & Halász, 2016; Beiglböck & Walzer, 2019).

### *Veterinary examinations*

In the case of animals living in the wild, those examinations by veterinarians with forensic training and competence are, similarly to those by a forensic medical examiner (far earlier integrated in forensic practice), critical in the case of crimes resulting in the death of, or critical change in the health of animals (Brownlie & Munro, 2016; Beiglböck & Walzer, 2019).

Recognition of the signs, defects or damage to the corpse that indicate poisoning; differentiation between ante mortem and postmortem wounds; determination of the correlation concerning the formation of mortal injuries/wounds as well as the occasionally necessary carrying out of in-situ necroscopy are virtually indispensable for successful prosecution.

If the corpse or remains allow for it, determination of the impacted species can be done at the crime scene along with the estimation of the animal's age and time of death.

In the case of poaching, determining the pattern and distribution of livor mortis, hemorrhages and bruises may provide additional information concerning position changing, dragging or transferring of cadavers.

Although rarely – in the case of low power ammunition or weapons – the bullet may remain in the corpse, the relative stability of bullet wounds allows for sufficient ballistic reconstruction despite the decomposition process.

The necropsy should be performed in autopsy rooms just as in the case of human victims.

Supplementing traditional anatomical, histological and toxicological examinations, the most effective non-invasive imaging technologies such as CT (computed tomography) and MR (magnetic resonance) have recently replaced traditional radiology.

In context of the recent epidemiological challenges, the analysis of the zoonosis and parasites connected with the necropsy of invasive or illegally trafficked species is of particular importance.

However, in many cases the veterinarian/pathological examination is not really sufficient and the cause and circumstances of the animal's death can only be revealed by interpreting the summarized results of the entire investigation (Beiglböck & Walzer, 2019).

### *Identification, physical and anatomical characteristics*

In order to answer the basic forensic question of 'WHAT' is this, the taxonomical characterization of the animal individual must be performed – i.e. the species must be identified.

In some cases, the species affected by the crime can be easily recognized on the basis of its physical appearance or (special) traits using general (graduate level) biological, taxonomical or anatomical knowledge.

From this point of view, the recognition can be more difficult for non-local/endemic, migratory species, subspecies, invasive, unusual, rare species, or related hybrids and variations.

Even for those with an amount of professional taxonomical knowledge, identifying partial, degraded remains or processed derivatives presents a much greater challenge (Nishant, Vrijesh & Ajay, 2017).

Similar difficulties arise concerning those traces (e.g. hoof prints, scratch or rubbing marks) left by the given animal at the 'living' scene that may be modified or destroyed over time by environmental conditions.

In these challenging cases, those evidences (e.g. bones, trophies, hairs and other keratinous parts) which usually have morphologically distinguishing characteristics may be altered, including those incidents where these modifications are accelerated by human interference, with artificial manipulation and processes. Consequently, it is practically impossible to perform a successful morphological examination.

Combs made from whalebone, key rings from tiger claws, ivory chess pieces, fur- and leather fashion products, cosmetics or traditional 'medical/magical'

products – the forms of these items leave little chance for successful physical identification, even on the microscopic level.

In addition to considering the relatively simple, fast and inexpensive traits of classic morphological analysis it must be declared that the limits for standardization and lower resolution make it less acceptable for the criminal courts (Gouda, Kerry, Das & Chauhan, 2020; Nogel, 2020; Smart, Cihlar & Budowle, 2021).

The effective application of traditional trisology – the examination of footprints, hoof and paw prints, tire- and toolmarks – is often inhibited by the (weather) conditions at the open-air ‘living’ crime scene and trace contamination by multiple species/individuals. The TOD (Time of Death) can also be estimated using RNA stability and entomological analysis as well as by soil microbiome examination.

While isotope or trace element examinations, analysis of chemical composition with infrared techniques, or the combination thereof can provide information on the biogeographical origins, the ‘omics’-technologies can provide information concerning the diversity of wildlife adapting to the urban environment.

### *Molecular examinations*

Wildlife forensics and its methods currently focus on species identification, answering the question of ‘WHAT’, which is completed with the determination of biogeographical (population) origin and/or sex, and occasionally genealogical analysis.

In place of those less effective methods examining physical characteristics, today the more objective, standardized and validated molecular genetic methods have taken priority (Nishant, Vrijesh & Ajay, 2017; Gouda, Kerry, Das & Chauhan, 2020; Smart, Cihlar & Budowle, 2021).

Forensic genetic methods, like human forensic DNA analysis, can cover almost the entire range of biological remains potentially related to wildlife crimes. In addition, the analysis of minute amounts, or highly degraded samples (due to natural or artificial processes) is also possible (Pádár, Kovács, Nogel & Czebe et al., 2019; Pádár et al., 2020; Pádár, Kovács & Kozma, 2020; Nogel, 2022).

While the microscopic examination of hairs often found in connection with wildlife crimes requires well preserved hair structure (Nishant, Vrijesh & Ajay, 2017), even the DNA extracted from postmortem animal corpse long after the death can be successfully informative for identification (Pádár, Egyed, Konstadakis, Zöldág & Fekete, 2001).

In Hungary, non-human forensic genetics reaches back more than twenty years (Pádár, Angyal, Egyed & Füredi, 2001) and due to the nature of the country

has until recently focused primarily on game animals with trophy (Szabolcsi, Egyed, Zenke & Borsy, 2008; Szabolcsi, Egyed, Zenke & Pádár, 2014; Zenke, Zorkóczy, Lehotzky & Ózsvári, 2022).

Technological advances such as massive parallel sequencing can accelerate the amount and availability of genetic data, as well as providing more opportunities for examining bad quality, degraded or artificially processed evidence samples.

Non-human forensic genetics obviously also has its own limits due to the wide range of affected species and their mtDNA and nuDNA markers (Moore & Frazier, 2019; Smart, Cihlar & Budowle, 2021).

Although it can be stated that there is a significant amount of genetic data available for internationally endangered and protected species, there are also many species of endemic and national importance which have been relegated to the background during the scientific examination and data gathering.

In the case of crime related individuals from these species, the difficulty in obtaining species-specific genetic data and gathering information complicates the successful investigative and analytical process as much as the necessary steps for forensic validation (Zenke, Egyed, Kovács & Pádár, 2019).

In contrast to *Homo sapiens*, where with only one species the construction and synchronization of various genetic databases is relatively easy, the organization of the available sets of relevant data for representative wildlife species into a coherent, standardized, integrated forensic system has to date not been accomplished.

The opportunity for sampling, especially for endangered or protected species, can be in itself very complicated. This is further exacerbated by the genetic variance of species, as well as number of the examined traits and markers as well as the putative range of standardized analytical methods.

The necessary validation of certain forensic methods (e.g., allelic ladder construction) requires a representative population database of optimally two hundred individuals (Linacre, 2021).

The natural borders of habitats can limit the spread and wandering of species and may lead to the fixation of new genetic mutations, and in this way contribute to the development of distinct, local/regional genetic characteristics. This phenomenon stimulated the need for comparative genetic databases, of which, however, very few are available.

The concordance and combination of limited genetic data obtained from non-forensic institutional or museum comparative-collections – especially in the case of rare animals – with that of open source scientific (genetic), but not forensic, databases require careful attention and special caution since the applied methods for data gathering were generally not performed to meet forensic standards.

Based on the examination of existing databases, it can be concluded that the development of forensic databases operating in a quality control system is essential for the success of examinations (Gouda, Kerry, Das & Chauhan, 2020; Smart, Cihlar, & Budowle, 2021).

## Summary

In the fight against wildlife crime, while preservation of the natural condition of human habitats is a critical factor, the economic significance also cannot be ignored.

It can be declared that in Hungary, the appropriate institutional network and system having biological, ecological and forensic knowledge has not yet been sufficiently established. In addition, the accumulated professional knowledge necessary to ensure effective action in the fight against wildlife crime has not yet been synthesized.

Basically, the key to prevention, investigation and prosecution is the involvement and cooperative work of competent professionals during the entire process.

Compared to traditional anthropocentric forensics, a slightly different approach and way of thinking is necessary in wildlife crime. Development of a modern forensic background, which requires significant investment, is also imperative (Moore & Frazier, 2019; Gouda, Kerry, Das & Chauhan, 2020).

In wildlife connected domestic forensic practice there are few standardized methods or adequate laboratories with suitable technical and personal background.

Most examinations, due to domestic characteristics (Nogel, 2022) are organized by university research institutes, are performed in circumstances that although of high quality, do not meet international forensic standards (Smart, Cihlar & Budowle, 2021; Linacre, 2021), are often based on ad-hoc forensic experience of affected research groups (Smart, Cihlar & Budowle, 2021; Linacre, 2021). Although the involvement of these cooperating groups seems to be reasonable – e.g., veterinarians, researchers with (bio)morphological, population biological, or wildlife biological backgrounds – their lack of experience in the field of forensics means that they do not have the necessary theoretical, practical or cognitive proficiency (Pádár, Kovács, Nogel & Czebe, 2020; Potter & Underkoffler, 2021).

Based on this assessment, the following appear to be vital in the near future

- specification of competencies and their boundaries;
- specialized training of crime scene investigators;

- expansion and enhancement of the contents of non-human forensic genetic databases;
- developments in laboratories for non-human (genetic) examinations towards meeting the requirements of professional compliance as well as those of forensic standards (accreditation).

In addition to genetic analysis, AI and computer-based modelling may provide further opportunities for examination of other related evidences (traces and remains) collected at the crime scene, as well as data and information gathered by involved veterinarians.

The goal is for the quality and effectiveness of the fight against wildlife crimes to be equal to that of any other type of crime. To reach this, additional legislative steps are required. In the development of these specialized regulations, it will be necessary to place the focus on the peculiarities of wildlife crime and their related crime scenes.

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- URL1: *Interpol. Environmental crime*. <https://www.interpol.int/Crimes/Environmental-crime>
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# Examination of the Budapest Party District from the perspective of private and public security<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

**Aim:** The aim of the study is a presentation of the private and public safety problems of the challenging everyday life of a popular and well-known entertainment district – Budapest VII. District Inner Erzsébetváros, known colloquially as the ‘party district’.

**Methodology:** The authors of this study – law enforcement professionals – focus on the history of the Gozdsu yard, the organizational peculiarities of the preparation of music and dance events accompanied by disaster prevention. They are highlighting via domestic and international examples the role of law enforcement agencies, private security providers, auxiliary police and the municipal police, and examining the added value of supervision activities to create security.

**Findings:** Nowadays, with the outmoded paradigm of policing as a state monopoly, one can witness the necessary pluralization of policing, private security and civil policing coming to the fore, which is tantamount to breaking the monopoly of the state policing. The private security sector of our country began to develop after the regime change and has now become an indispensable

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player in the maintenance of public order and public safety. One of the most striking examples, in which all of this can be seen in action, is the implementation of intertwining private and public security activities related to the provision of music and dance events.

**Value:** Law enforcement scientists must strive to examine the emerging problems on as many levels and perspectives as possible, with sufficient scientific thoroughness. The methodological approach must be based on an inquisitive attitude that seeks to understand the social phenomena that frame the reality of policing at both an institutional and individual level. Their study helps with this.

**Keywords:** party district; securing music and dance events; private security; complementary policing

## Introduction

According to László Salgó, former national police chief after the regime change in Hungary, *‘The great freedom (...) suddenly fell on the Hungarian police. The organization behaved like a bird that spent most of its life in a cage, and as soon as its new environmentalist owner opened the cage, he was shocked: it is one thing to sing about freedom in relative prosperity (food and drink provided) and another to face life’s challenges (e.g. with a big black cat)...’* (Salgó, 1994). Examining the state actors in the creation of public security in the light of the changed life situation, we can conclude, in agreement with Géza Finszter, that the uncertain content of the issue of ‘official guarantee of public security and public courage, property and life security’ (Szabó, 1980) can result in fierce debates even today (Finszter, 2009). In our article, we examine one of the most striking examples of the official guarantee of the mentioned public security, wealth and security of life, the maintenance of the security of the most well-known domestic ruin pub area, the ‘Party District’ located in the heart of Budapest.

## Ruin pub history

Erzsébetváros, which is a small area in downtown Budapest but has a significant population density, has a registered residence of 51,000 citizens in just two square kilometers. The district includes Külső- and Belső Erzsébetváros and Ligetváros, whose population consists mainly of Hungarians, but there are

also Bulgarian, Gypsy, Greek, Croatian, Polish, German, Armenian, Serbian, Romanian, Ruthenian and Ukrainian ethnic municipalities ([URL1](#)).

In Erzsébetváros, there are 1,207 buildings older than hundred years, most of which are located in the historic Jewish quarter ([URL2](#)). Apart from the Dohány Street Synagogue, dreamed up by Frigyes Feszl, it is also home to several famous buildings, such as the New York Palace Hotel and the University of Veterinary Medicine, but at the same time, it lacks huge spaces that attract large crowds. Despite this, every year millions of foreign and domestic people seeking fun visit the part of the district, the so called 'Party District'. In that part of the city, which had already deteriorated physically and socially in the decades before the system change, many of its buildings became empty and unused. The biggest contemporary risk to public safety in the deteriorating district used to be the appearance of some homeless people and drug users hiding there, but recently, that has changed significantly.

The current Budapest ruin pub phenomenon began in 1999, when Pótkulcs ['Spare key'] pub (Kelemen & Mitev, 2016) opened its doors and hosted photography and other art exhibitions by contemporary artists. Pótkulcs created the basic standard for ruin pubs to this day, a catering unit built in old, decaying apartment buildings, with an unique and battered style, representing an inner-city, cultural tourist attraction, which also accommodates concerts and exhibitions. After that, ruin pubs of a similar quality were opened in empty buildings, apartment buildings, or in the courtyards of apartment buildings, many of them are still operating today. From there, a straight road led to the creation of the largest entertainment district in our country, which is accompanied as a shadow by the presence of new problems that threaten public order and public security.

## **Gozsdu-yard**

It has been named after Manó Gozsdu, a Romanian official and lawyer. In 1915, based on Győző Cziegler's plans, a courtyard with 40 apartments and 60 shops was built on the Király Street area he bought ([URL3](#)). During the Second World War, it was part of the Pest Jewish ghetto, UNESCO declared it a part of the world heritage, and after 1947 it was nationalized. Having reached its final form in 2009, it currently consists of seven old buildings and six courtyards, to which a new building was added, connected by a steel bridge. The courtyard, which is easily accessible by public transport, by car and on foot ([URL4](#)), also has a number of popular AirBed & Breakfast, i.e. 'airbnb' apartments ([URL5](#)).

In Gozsdu-yard, there are more than 14 catering units that can accommodate and entertain a significant number of guests and can stay open even after midnight, while another nearly 250 units in the district only have licenses until midnight, not to mention the 5 event holding licenses of larger entertainment venues that can accommodate more than 1,000 visitors at a time. This has a negative effect from the point of view of the population, while from the district council's side, it has a positive effect by establishing supervision fees and business taxes, because the local district council's 46/2013. (IX.6.) decree determines a supervision fee of HUF 20/person/night – for opening hours – which is tied to the capacity or the number of guests registered in the operating license. The municipality can spend the supervision fee to finance additional public safety and public cleanliness tasks, and reports annually on these spendings to the district council. The quarterly supervision fee was set at an amount ranging from HUF 5,000 to HUF 240,000, the collection of which is far from smooth. On the one hand, due to the pandemic situation, the collection of the fee was waived in several cases for the sake of the sustainability of the stores, and on the other hand, the said decree does not prescribe any sanctions in case of failure to pay the fee, so the willingness to pay has also become to be incidentally.

9/2013 (II. 22.) municipal decree on the opening hours of shops at night was created to deal with complaints and problems from the public. This decree does not prescribe specific tasks for the owners of catering establishments to maintain and promote public order and public cleanliness, or only a small number of them. Here we also have to talk about the local referendum of February 18, 2018, initiated by the Élhető Erzsébetváros [An Erzsébetváros to Live] (URL6) group, which ended without results, in which they sought answers how the population felt about the opening hours of shops between midnight and six in the morning. Out of 43,520 eligible voters, 6,918 went to vote, and of the votes cast, 4,572 said that shops should close at midnight (URL7). People living outside the area of Inner Erzsébetváros were not bothered by this problem and could have been driven by lack of interest when they did not take advantage of this opportunity. At the same time, it is also a fact that the registered residents with the right to vote do not live according to the way of life in the district, a very large percentage of the apartments are operated as 'airbnb' or sublets.

25/2020 (VI.25.) municipal decree on the night opening hours of shops was also created under pressure from the public. This decree already regulates in detail (URL8) the operation of catering units that are open between midnight and 6 a.m. – in the event of conditions serving the interests of the population wishing to relax. By this we mean the use of the so-called limited-compressor, a performance control tool for controlling an application within a given interval, which



guarantees the public-friendly nature of the music service. The noise threshold value must be set in such a way that the noise load does not give rise to complaints from the public. This standard also stipulates the use of self-retracting or photocell doors in the case of a capacity of less than 100 people, while for a capacity of 100 people or more, it defines exit and entry with a hatch system.

As practicing law enforcement professionals, we can say that in the case of a music and dance nightclub operating regularly, with adequate security personnel, techniques and measures, the occurrence of a possible disaster – commonly known as the West Balkan – can be reduced to a minimum. On 15 January 2011, the disaster at the West-Balkán nightclub in the former Skála Metro building on Budapest’s Nyugati Square claimed three lives and injured 14 people. A number of regulatory and organizational deficiencies were revealed as the cause of the accident; as a result of this, Government decree 23/2011 (III. 8.) on enhanced safety of music and dance events was created. Unfortunately, the case is far from unique, considering, for example, the tragedy of the nightclub Colectiv in Bucharest on 30 October 2015, where a fire broke out and 26 people died on the spot, while another 38 people died in the hospital from various infections ([URL9](#)). *Gazeta Sporturilor*, a fact-finding Romanian magazine, proved in its documentary that the nightclub did not have an official permit, had no emergency exit and was not suitable for using indoor pyrotechnics, and that the fire was caused by the internal sound isolation material catching fire ([URL10](#)). However, disco tragedies caused by similar fires have occurred in many parts of the world, of which the most serious so far can be called the accident at the Coconut Grove nightclub in Boston on 28 November 1942, where the lack of emergency exits claimed the lives of 492 people ([URL11](#)).

## **Making the events of the party district safer**

In locations connected to the party district, crimes against public space, riots, or crimes against persons primarily occur, the causes of which are also related to the presence of entertainment venues. During the COVID–19 pandemic situation, the entertainment venues were temporarily closed, with the introduction of the curfew, the statistical numbers decreased, but the total crime data stagnated. Crimes in public spaces declined, replaced by domestic violence, acts against property – burglary, theft – and internet fraud. In order to reflect human ingenuity, during the curfew, bicycle food couriers committed the most car catalytic converter thefts (they hid the electric saw required for the crime and the stolen items in the box used to transport the food), while prostitution and illicit

drug abuse, which were considered standard crimes so far, were transferred to the walls of private homes.

With the reopening, criminal groups specializing in drug trafficking, prostitution, and organized crime appeared again. The trade in ‘real’ drugs – due to the increased police presence – no longer takes place in or around entertainment venues, while those who sell ‘fake’ drugs, the so-called ‘something’ dealers, are increasingly active. These are criminal groups that primarily try to sell baking powder or marjoram as a drug to foreigners. A small amount of marijuana is added to the upper part of a larger quantity of packaged marjoram, thus deceiving the customer with the characteristic smell. If the chosen victim of ‘Something’ dealers answers in English, offers and prices are listed for him. Although the contact is open on the part of the perpetrators, often ignoring all caution and prudence. The latency of the cases is reinforced by the fact that the injured victims, for understandable reasons, do not contact the authorities and do not even dare to complain about the poor quality goods.

At the same time, one must also talk about the sometimes inadequate level of service provided by the private security providers responsible for the security of the shops in the party district. It is a regrettable fact that personal and property security service providers mostly only manage incidents that occur on private land entrusted to their supervision, and what happens nearby on the open street is considered outside their competence. At the same time, the implementation of effective security measurements within the protected object rarely happens with sufficient empathy and communication skills adequate to the situation.

## **Increased police presence**

There is a clear social expectation towards the police that the public order and public safety of the party district should be maintained, consequently, in order to prevent violations, in addition to the district police, the staff of other police bodies – Rapid Reaction Police Force, Metropolitan Police Public Order Department, Rapid Reaction Police Force National Investigation Bureau – were directed there. Until the outbreak of the COVID–19 pandemic, 50-70 uniformed policemen and -women patrolled the quarter every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. As an interesting result of the police demonstration of force, riotous violent crimes were transferred from the streets to entertainment venues, the legal handling of these crimes often exceeded the preparedness of the security service provider’s staff.

Employees of partner authorities – Municipality, Disaster Management, National Directorate General of Aliens Policing, National Tax and Customs Administration, National Food Chain Safety Office, Labor Inspection – are also involved in the implementation of police inspections. During the COVID–19 pandemic, with the enacting of the curfew and the closing of the country’s border, party tourism also ceased, so the checks also took a backseat, since the criminal circles that previously dealt with drug distribution and prostitution almost completely disappeared from the district. From the second half of 2021 – despite the fact that several high-end restaurants did not reopen – tourism began to show its old face again and criminals well-known to the authorities reappeared, so the police also paid more and more attention to the prevention of crimes, and increased controls. As an interesting point, we would like to point out the inspection of the Blended Sky and Vicky Barcelona entertainment venues in Gozsdu-yard on 21 november 2021, which are highly published by the press ([URL12](#)). In the course of the coordinated action, 452 people were subject to measures, and 20 people were arrested for various crimes – drug consumption, live-in traffic, immigration law violations, violations, etc. – for committing it, as well as numerous infringement reports and on-the-spot fines were imposed.

In addition to classic crimes, new criminal behaviors have also appeared in the party district, the target audience of which is made up of foreign tourists and the presence of entertainment venues. The unique picture of organized crime is shown by the presence of the already mentioned ‘fake’ drug sellers (‘Something’), as well as men and women prostitutes, whose goal is not only to provide physical pleasure, but also to acquire the property of their costumers. People who sell themselves for money are mostly transported to the district by minibus, for which the nearby ‘pimps’ can be held responsible for organized trips. The fact that prostitutes conduct the business of forbidden lust by using door codes purchased from postmen, usually inside buildings, makes it difficult to prosecute the violation of the law.

While dealing with the situation, the police must also be quite flexible, because new groups of criminals appear more and more, and many innovative tools must be used to detect and eliminate them. Thinking about the use of permanently installed police cameras or the deployment of sectoral patrol districts and uniformed police officers, dividing the incriminated and most infected areas into parts, directing a larger number of police patrols on foot performing preventive tasks to the scene, preventing criminals from gaining ground. However, as a negative result of the measures, we have to consider the transfer of criminal behavior to other parts of the district, even to neighboring districts.

## Complementary policing and party district

In Hungary, the police lost its monopoly position during the identity transformation in the decades following the regime change. As the policing as a state monopoly paradigm is transcended, one can witness the necessary pluralization of law enforcement. That means that private security and civil law enforcement are coming to the fore, breaking the monopoly of the state police (Kerezsi & Nagy, 2017). The free market economy, the advance of private property after the regime change and the amazingly growing demand for protection, necessarily called for the creation of private security companies operating on business basis. The private security service providers whose activities supplement and relieve public security – with the growth of their professional and business experience – are becoming more and more important in all areas of value and asset protection. Nowadays, in addition to the security guaranteed by the state and its law enforcement agencies and provided in the framework of official services, there is security offered as a commodity by the actors of the private security market as a product, the creation – protection and maintenance – of which is a service realized as a result of the purposeful activity of private security (Finszter, 2012).

The police is part of the public administration (Balla, 2017), its mission is to maintain the internal order of the state, as well as public order and public safety, to protect the members of society and its fundamental values by preventing, averting and interrupting illegal acts that violate or threaten them, as a last option even by using legitimate force. Accomplishing the above mission is an extremely complex and diverse activity, which cannot be expected exclusively from a sole state organization dedicated to this. Fulfilling the mission of the police and creating security can only be achieved as a result of social cooperation and collective effort, in which, in addition to law enforcement agencies, municipalities, private security companies, social voluntary crime prevention associations, and auxiliary police also play an important role. This can be called a complementary law enforcement system, in which the activities of state bodies are supplemented, supported, and assisted by market and civil organizations (URL15). In the next part of our study we examine the activities of complementary law enforcement actors contributing to the security of the party district.

### Auxiliary police

In Hungary, more than 60,000 special constables, gathered in approximately 2,000 associations and 20 capital and county associations carry out their crime

prevention tasks voluntarily in their free time (Christián, 2018). However, the operation of the Budapest Auxiliary Police Association shows a particularly interesting picture, because despite their valid cooperation contracts with the Metropolitan Police, and police districts V, VI, VII and VIII, independent, active auxiliary police activities are not carried out (URL13). In the district VII, there are currently six auxiliary police organizations, the number of active members of which does not even reach 10 people per organization.

As an interesting service experience – with the far-reaching recognition of the activities of the members of the auxiliary police – using the joint work of police and auxiliary police in another city district of Budapest, called Zugló. We note that in the absence of adequate foundations, the planning of a joint future without obstacles and expecting excellent results rests on shaky foundations. And in order for an auxiliary police organization to obtain sufficient financial and moral support, it must prove its productive attitude, ability and activity. If its activity falls short of this, then – in the absence of adequate financial and moral support – one will not have the opportunity to reach the level where you can participate effectively in the maintenance public order and public safety of the settlement.

It is very important to point out that the auxiliary police, without any financial compensation, undertakes to maintain public order and public safety on a voluntary basis, primarily in the settlement in which he lives. As we have already mentioned, due to the advance of subletting and AirBnB, the population of the district VII consists of the older age group or young people who have no ties to Erzsébetváros, which is used as a temporary accommodation. The district basically lacks local patriotic young people whose activities could contribute to the prevention of crimes in public areas and the creation of security. For the youth of our materialistic world, financial recognition of their work is very important, so only a few people volunteers to do without financial service for the sake of society and the creation of a safer environment. As a painful point of interest regarding the attitude of today's young generation to public service, the fact that the auxiliary police officers assisting in the implementation of increased inspections of the party district come from other district's associations. As soon as they hear that the task must be performed as a foot patrol (meaning: without a service vehicle), the number of volunteer applicants drops significantly. And the district auxiliary police organizations are represented almost exclusively upon case by case request (although it is also true that their district council support does not carry relevant elements either).

Examining the power of the auxiliary police to relieve the burden in the district, it can be concluded that its role is minimally effective, and they do not

currently take an active role in making the party district safer. At the same time, despite the lack of sufficient personal and material conditions, we consider their participation in crime prevention important and indispensable in the mission of creating our common security.

## **Private security and law enforcement**

It is a fundamental fact that guaranteeing the security of music and dance events can be classified primarily in the scope of activities of service providers belonging to the private security sector, while the task of the police is the mandatory response to crimes or extraordinary events that take place there. Based on the service experiences related to the district under discussion, it can be said that the members of the security services usually resolve fights and riotous behavior in the entertainment venue by using violence and throwing the inappropriate people out onto the street. And a very large percentage of the victims of fights do not file complaints against the opposing party, but against the staff of the security service, this often legitimately, based on the video footage recorded by the available surveillance center. The fight is often generated by members of the security service, so an increased control by the police should also cover the activities of personnel and property protection employees.

It is a sad fact that the already mentioned increased control extended to the 10 security personnel working there, 6 of whom did not have identity cards and property security badges, and 2 people were subject to criminal proceedings (meaning: they could not have, but still had security badges). 2 out of 10 people were produced for possessing a device particularly dangerous to public safety; devices such as gas sprays, spring knives, unlicensed gas and stun guns, as well as brass knuckles (a device that increases the force of the punch, which is a forbidden weapon in Hungary) were found in their possession. Following their detention, a fine was imposed in an expedited procedure. It is shocking that among property guards that were checked only one was unimpeachable.

The security service of the Gozsdu yard is currently operated by a foreign-owned asset protection company, while some restaurants within the yard employ their own security personnel. These security services compete with each other and sometimes get involved in territorial disputes. The asset protection companies clearly did not aim to make the events safer, rather they wanted to gain an economic advantage in the party district. These companies are solely responsible for the ‘security’ of the restaurants with which they have a contract. In several cases, it happened that they did not intervene in the riotous act that took place

in the nightclub right next to them, saying that the owner did not pay them for the security duties.

The police inspections of the party district showed that these security providers cannot play an active role in making the music and dance events safer, they do not help the police in any meaningful way, and currently no task can be delegated to them. This creates an extremely interesting situation, as already in 2008, Hungary was one of the ten European states in which, as a result of market opening, there were more private security providers than state security agencies (Tóth, 2017). And in 2021, the number of domestic private security companies was 6,371, while the number of issued personal and property security badges was 96,665. (Accumulated data provided by the Administrative Department of National Police Headquarters on 6 September 2021.) In our opinion, with this finding, we pointed to a highly sensitive problem that exceeds the limits of the scope of this study, and its treatment requires special legislative attention.

## **Municipal police**

A guest coming to the Erzsébetváros entertainment district and meeting a large police force may rightly ask the question, is public safety so bad that it requires the involvement of so many policemen to maintain it, or does the Hungarian police have such a large number of human resources? Based on this, it is also a particularly exciting question what effect it would have on the number of crimes in public areas in our country if the police did not strive for increased police presence, but for deeper cooperation with residential communities while minimize police presence.

In our study, we feel it almost obligatory to note that in the spring of 1990, the Hungarian Government, which had left behind the socialist form of government, asked the Swiss multinational TC Team Consult to support the reorganization and democratization of the Hungarian police (Gottlieb, Kröszel & Prestel, 1998). The undeservedly forgotten and only partially realized program – accepted by the government and the police at the time – stated that police organizations are forced to continuously improve. A successful police organization in the future must set competition requirements and put the performance of single security providers in competition with the rivals. Executive performance must be specified where, in accordance with social expectations, the most success can be expected, but at the same time, costly security and escort activities must be transferred to civilian companies. Citizens must be empowered and encouraged to act independently, so that they don't just wait for the actions of



the public administration (and at the same time, control over the bureaucracy is increasingly falling on the citizens). The actors should strive to move from the current reactive situation to a proactive problem-solving role, with the goal of creating safety as a product together with social institutions and the population (Gottlieb, Krözsel & Prestel, 1998).

But returning to today's reality, as we mentioned earlier, the large number of entertainment venues operating in the party district could be a significant, but insufficiently prioritized, source of income for the municipality – from the supervision fees on the one hand, and from the additional taxes on the other hand. However, the supervision fee to be paid is negligible, in addition to the billions of local government revenues received annually from parking and business tax, which enables the maintenance of the nearly hundred people – strong municipal police directorate.

In the following, we will deal with the activities of the Erzsébetváros Municipal Police Directorate (hereafter: ERI) under the professional supervision of the police. The municipal law enforcement body, which was renewed in 2020, takes a special role in maintaining the public safety of the district. Comparing its staff – 94 planned and 70 existing – with the staff of the police department of the district police station, we can see almost the same numbers, of which only 10-12 people occasionally participate in enhanced inspections.

Act LXIII of 1999 on public space supervision (hereinafter: Kftv.) § 1 (6) states: 'The task of the supervision, or the supervisor acting on behalf of the supervision, may be established by law, government decree, or the decree of the municipality. The decree of the local council may establish a task that is not referred to the competence of another body by law or government decree.' As a result, the primary task of the so-called public area supervision is to protect the order and cleanliness of public areas, as well as to more effectively prevent and sanction violations of the law that disrupt the order, and to protect municipal property, so this is primarily the purpose of municipal regulations:

- regulation of the legal use of public lands owned by the municipality;
- regulation of the order of operation of catering terraces located on public land owned by the municipality;
- regulating the opening hours of catering shops/entertainment venues;
- regulation of the basic rules of community coexistence and the legal consequences of failure to comply with them due to the application of sanctions if the regulations of the municipality are not followed.

In addition, according to Szabs. tv. (Act II of 2012 on infringements, infringement procedures and the system for registering infringements), in the case of a local



government provision prohibiting the consumption of alcoholic beverages in public areas, sanctions can only be imposed according to Szabs. tv. Violation of the ban on the consumption of alcoholic beverages is classified according to 200 § 1a.

Based on local council regulations, the public area inspectors cooperate with the commercial authority (municipal clerk) in checking the opening hours of entertainment venues and catering establishments if they observe a violation of the rules, and initiate administrative proceedings at the local government due to the violation of the regulation. Primarily, the existence of a public space use permit for the establishment of catering terraces, the control of compliance with the provisions of the permit, their authority, and measures in the event of terrace construction without a permit and expansion beyond the scope of the permit. At the same time, if they experience an illegal act or behavior that gives rise to action regarding the operation of shops and terraces, including illegal acts committed in connection with the operation of shops, such as consumption of alcoholic beverages in public areas, violations of public cleanliness rules, disturbing the peace, they will take the measures within their competence – imposing on-the-spot fines, and reporting. Taking these tasks into account, it can be seen that the ERI has no obligation to take action or control in relation to entertainment venues that organize music and dance events located in the party district.

The tasks of the public area supervision are carried out together with the police or in parallel – by performing the tasks assigned to them – alongside or under the control of the police. When making music and dance events safer, public space supervision could only be entrusted with a specific task if the law currently defining their task system were amended. The legislator specifically assigned only those powers to the public space supervision that are necessary for the execution of our basic activities. With a possible amendment to the law, their authority to take action could be extended, for example, to additional traffic violations, to those that are currently only the responsibility of the police (e.g. bus lane, walking on the sidewalk, residential-rest zone, etc.). Additional powers could be given to the public area supervision, speaking about problems arising in the vicinity of real estate affected by construction, which occur on public land. According to the current regulations – since they arise from the violation or failure to comply with the obligation contained in the building permit – they fall under the control of the construction authority. At the same time, it seems advisable to find a solution – in the direction of expanding the powers of public area supervision – for cases, where the criminal behavior does not take place on public space, but its undesirable results occur on public space (e.g. littering through the window of a house, dust pollution resulting from work inside the property, illegal burning of rubbish, etc).

As long as the law specifically framing the basic activity is not amended, the staff of public area inspectors can only participate in the implementation in cooperation with the control tasks of the Police. The fundamental obstacle to the fulfillment of the control tasks is the name ‘public area supervision’ itself, since the Police is responsible for the protection of the order and cleanliness of public spaces, as well as the more effective prevention and sanctioning of violations of the law that disturb the order, the protection of municipal property. Consequently, the implementation of control activities related to music and dance events is not possible within the current legal framework.

Overall, it can be said that the current legal regulations do not allow ERI to take an active part in making music and dance events safer. The tasks assigned to them are regulated by law and regulations, and they cannot exceed them. Thanks to the legal regulations, there are violations of the law that mean that the two organizations are obliged to take action in parallel, but there is no such violation, or only a system of tasks, that can only be delegated to the supervision of public areas.

## Summary

In our study, we gave a non-exhaustive look at one of the most visited areas of Hungary and the police duties that are associated with it, and which are little known to many. We highlighted the fact that it is high time to share the tasks of maintaining public order and public safety falling on the police with complementary law enforcement agencies and service providers belonging to the private security sector. We examined the possibility of whether the current legal regulations are suitable for delegating police tasks, as well as whether the existing legislation is ripe for change, which also includes making events safer.

In our opinion, the creators of the council decree on making music and dance events safer remained in debt by including specific sanctions in the norm. We recommend that by revising the 23/2011 council decree, in addition to the safety plan, the content requirements of the fire protection regulations should also be determined. Further changes are also needed in relation to the handling of deficiencies encountered during the inspection, as we do not consider it sufficient that the authority can only use the suspension of the event or the banning of the event after non-compliance. The amount of the fine should definitely be adjusted to the income of the event and not determined in general, since the amount of income varies between events, so the imposed fine should also be proportional to that.

The current legal environment does not tie the organization of the event to a school or professional qualification. It is a fact that there are already specialized training courses in this field, but at the moment learning how to organize an event is an empirical process, anyone can do it if they consider themselves suitable for it and have sufficient personal knowledge. The organization of an event expected to be attended by at least 150 people at the same time would be tied to a state-recognized qualification, taking into account that the organizer assumes civil liability for damage or personal injury in the area of the event.

We would expect auxiliary police, who take an increasing part in assisting the professional work of the police, to have the same legal knowledge as the police, therefore we feel that it is particularly necessary to transform the theoretical and practical training of special constables for joint and effective cooperation between police officers. For the time being, the special constable functions as a signal, he uses signals to the members of the authority in the field of social crime prevention, but he is not armed with anything other than his civil rights. We recommend that the special constables join the police training within the framework of a modular training, and acquire the basic legal knowledge that can be tested on them together with the police. An opportunity should be created so that the new special constables can provide practical service together with the police students participating in the practical training, so that a high-quality contact system could be formed from the very beginning.

It would also be necessary to rethink the legal background and operation of the private security services, which plays a prominent role in organizing events, maintaining order, and managing situations that arise there. In order for these service providers to be able to operate efficiently and effectively in relation to the task system, the related training would also need to be transformed. We would certainly take the theoretical training out of the hands of private schools with an unverified background, even lacking professionalism, and refer it to the competence of the National Police or the University of Public Service. In this way, we would close the loopholes that create the opportunity for some property guards to obtain a certificate of qualification even without training, so we could also contribute to making the market profile clean.

During the theoretical training, property guards should also be given the opportunity to receive specific training, for example event insurance, value transport, or property security training. We would make it mandatory for security guards who are involved in the security of events with a capacity of more than 150 people to have a professional qualification, and we would also stipulate that only event security guards can be contracted for such events. The practical training should be carried out at a state-accredited asset protection company or at state organizations with extensive experience in event insurance.

The employment of event security guards with language skills and communication training in entertainment venues in party districts would put property protection and the perception of Hungary in a new perspective.

By expending sufficient energy and creating the appropriate funding background, with legislative amendments, the municipal police could take a huge burden off the police's shoulders, and legally and professionally functioning personal and property protection would significantly improve the public security situation by more effectively protecting private property. However, as long as it is not possible for the legislators to meaningfully deal with these problems that are present on a daily basis and the appropriate level of real professional management and control is waiting for them, the current situation will remain and the execution of the tasks will remain within the competence of the police.

The scientific demand for change and improvement, the combination of dogmatics and practice, was discussed at the III. Faculty Day of the Faculty of Law Enforcement of University of Public Service (URL14). The above-mentioned motto is echoed in many of the lectures of the conference entitled 'Position evaluation in law enforcement'. During the presentation of the article 'Ockham's Razor and the Police', Zoltán Balla emphasized and urged the need for better changes that cannot be postponed any longer. In agreement with him, we close our material with his words: *'For this reason, within the framework of this study, my efforts can only be limited to raising some of the questions I consider controversial here and now, and as a result of this confrontation, by recording the legislative and theoretical problems of the subject area, I can provide further research and solution alternatives to develop it – with sufficient professional humility – to stimulate those who are open to the development of the emerging law enforcement science.'* (Balla, 2020).

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## Online links in the article

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URL1: *Általános közzétételi lista*. <https://www.erzsebetvaros.hu/page/altalanos-kozzeteteli-lista>

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# Cop culture and its transmission within police organisations

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## Abstract

**Aim:** To study the way in which cop culture is transmitted, by examining the phenomena and cases that have been identified in the main areas of police culture: professional characteristics, values, canteen culture, code of silence.

**Methodology:** The author uses qualitative research, document and content analysis.

**Findings:** Research in the main areas of cop culture shows that deviant behaviour is rarely achieved by immediate action, by showing ‘example’. One possible mode of transmission is mainly through verbalisation, which may be a kind of testing phase, followed by deviant behaviour. The detection of such cases is made more difficult by the characteristics of the police profession – (uncritical) loyalty, need for trust, conformity or empathy – thus helping to maintain and reproduce an inappropriate cop culture.

**Value:** Describes the role of morale in cop culture and police profession.

**Keywords:** cop culture, moral, transmitting cop culture, cop behaviour

## Introduction

The field of cop culture, in my opinion, includes phenomena related to the activities carried out in the police profession, individual and human responses to challenges and organisational frameworks, and often to the different ways in which formal measures are implemented. The emergence of such a culture – phenomena that may or may not be in line with the aims and values of



the organisation – can be identified not only in police organisations, but in any organisation. In case of police organisations, however, it is particularly important to study this area because of the role they play in society and the legitimacy they have received.

In the majority of cases, new recruits have no practical experience of the police, many of them choose the police profession because of crime films, the hope of an exciting and eventful life (Kovács, 2020). However, the films do not adequately reflect on the expectations of the police in a democratic state, the background knowledge and the formal boundaries that are necessary to perform police duties, to ensure unity of action and to maintain public trust.

The examination of the field cop culture provides an insight not only into the phenomena – it's appropriate or inappropriate forms – but also into the way in which it is transmitted. Last but not least, the study of the phenomena reveals the conformity of the members who enter the organisation and the need and importance of belonging to the group in the police service. The identification and appropriate management of behaviours that are inconsistent with the organisation's aims and values, and the promotion of the right phenomena, are in my opinion of crucial importance in police organisations.

## **Cop culture and its transmission**

The separation of organisational culture – police culture and cop culture – gives a broader insight into the police profession and the everyday life of the police than the official rules and regulations of the organisation (police culture). The focus of such studies is mainly on observations related to everyday activities, and the target group is mostly the police officers in the field of executive policing.

In the field of cop culture, I think we can distinguish three main areas: (1) the professional characteristics and values of the police officers, (2) the canteen culture (story-telling), i.e. the transmission of stories and anecdotes, (3) and last but not least, the blue wall of silence, which explores the withholding of information and the silence of police officers.

While in the international literature the cop culture is seen as the main obstacle to change (Chan, 1996; Benson, 2001), in Hungarian research in this area is still underrepresented in the police science literature. However, the research, studies and observations of Hungarian researchers, experts in the field of police science confirm the phenomena observed worldwide in the case of professional members, police officers of the Hungarian Police, since the police profession can be said to be universal in many aspects. In most cases, the difference is the



area of police culture, the social structures of the country or the challenges the police face and responses given to them.

In the police profession, we find countless values. *'Values are people's opinion about how things should be done well – that is their preferred norms and forms of behaviour.'* (Horváth, 2012). In most cases, the organisation defines values for its members to follow, such as professionalism, integrity, compassion and dedication, which guide individuals in their daily work. However, the values defined are not equally distributed within the organisation. *'The organisational culture also selects these according to what the community needs to do and what form of cooperation is required. Activities that require professionalism emphasise talent, while others demand loyalty, perseverance, discipline and tolerance of monotony. A body whose task is to prevent danger cannot be without courage. In the case of complex organisations based on the division of labour, there may be a need for all of the values above.'* (Finszter, 2014).

Different values are highlighted along the different service branches. In the public safety branch, *early conflict detection, avoidance of violence, cooperation*, in the law enforcement branch, *risk-taking, courage, will to win*, and in the criminal branch, *hiding, false appearances, intuition, tolerance of tension, analytical and evaluative skills* (Finszter, 2014) are values that facilitate the performance of the members' role in the organisation.

The organisation also tries to reflect its values to the outside world, since the police's slogan – e.g. *'We serve and protect'* in Hungary – conveys values such as safety, empathy, support and sacrifice. In order to exemplify the profession, the police forces, including the Hungarian Police, include the necessary moral values in codes of ethics.

The values identified in the observations and research – such as courage, comradeship, loyalty, or the negative values of being closed, cynical, suspicious, etc. – can also be distinguished by taking into account whether they are more related to the organisation or its members (which civil society members identify with the professional personnel so with police officers). A closer examination reveals that we are mainly confronted with values derived from the behaviour of the members of the organisation, which do not always correlate with the values of the organisation. On the other hand, individuals within an organisation may move towards different values, as with any other organisation.

When society perceives bias or police brutality, for example, researchers tend to focus on the negative values revealed in the field of cop culture, although there are also many positive characteristics. It is not the aim of this article to list and explain all these characteristics, but I believe that the separation of external observations and internal experiences contributes most to understanding

both the transmission process and the (human) response of members of the organisation to the police profession.

Positive attributes such as safety, camaraderie, empathy, support, caring, teamwork, loyalty, sacrifice or negative attributes such as cynicism, closed-mindedness, biases, prejudice, non-scientific tactics, and overly conservative, alienated, suspicious, authoritarianism, all only make sense in context (McCartney, 2015).

The safety that the organisation provides for society, for citizens, has a different meaning for the police officers within the organisation. On the one hand, it means the safety (job safety) that comes with the profession, and on the other hand – and this is the more pronounced interpretation from the point of view of cop culture – the support that (more experienced) members provide to their peers/partner, a kind of safety nets. For new members, this is even more important, because it helps them to avoid dangerous situations, protects them from critical mistakes, helps them to cope successfully with daily professional challenges and stress, and provides stability and safety, knowing that they have the support of more experienced colleagues to rely on. Not least, the information they share can often be a lifesaver in a more critical situation later on.

Positive attributes such as camaraderie, solidarity, sacrifice, *'logical thinking, perseverance, courage, obedience and discipline, organisational loyalty, helpfulness, self-control, sacrifice, service,'* (Kovács, 2020), teamwork, empathy and caring, all contribute to an individual feeling comfortable and safe in the organisation. They are protective factors, allowing police officers to survive, cope with stress and process what they have experienced.

Police officers take an oath that *'they shall carry out the duties assigned to them in accordance with the law, obey the orders of their superior officers... and protect public safety and public order, even at the risk of their lives.'* (URL1).

In the case of police officers, the adjectives 'alienated' and 'closed' take on a different meaning if we are familiar with the police culture of the country, the rules and expectations of police officers, such as the impeccable conduct of life test in Hungary, which (usually) makes police officers selective about whom they trust and with whom they maintain contact. These standards determine all aspects of their lives.

The perceived suspicion and mistrust on the part of police officers also takes on a different meaning when we consider that, as a result of what they have lived through, experienced – or heard from their colleagues – they see many more situations and phenomena as potentially dangerous than civilian members of society. Last but not least, they are also trained to recognise, react quickly and manage conflicts, and are bound by professional secrecy. These examples highlight the complexity of the topic and the importance of context.

Research that examines prejudicial behaviours manifested by members of the police force – assaults, use of language, and disproportionality in action – often focuses on the ‘negative’ characteristics of cop culture and examines these characteristics only in a negative context. I think this can lead researchers astray because it lacks the perspective of members of the police organisation, whether individual (human) or professional. Of course, the support, camaraderie, loyalty and solidarity that members of the organisation can count on and trust each other in almost any situation, the ‘bonding’ between police officers takes a negative form when this interconnected set of ‘values’ covers up unethical or illegal deviant behaviour within the organisation, often even in front of the head of the unit.

Uncritical loyalty to more experienced members can put the newcomer to the organisation at risk. Loyalty has a very high importance in police professional but uncritical loyalty means being loyal to someone just because of their membership of the organisation (police), without taking into account their actions and the (negative) consequences of those actions on oneself, the group or the organisation (police). So, I think that if the newcomer is not critical about the more experienced member and his/her actions, and chooses to be loyal to him/her because of his/her membership in the group (police), it can lead to unwanted situations.

The values and characteristics shared in the organisation and in a given group – appropriate and/or inappropriate from the point of view of the organisation – are, I believe, passed on by positive and, less often, negative ‘example’ on one hand, and on the other – and in my opinion the more dominant one –, mainly through verbal transmission, through storytelling. This phenomenon is what the literature calls ‘canteen culture.’

As well as values and norms, it is natural in the life of an organisation to transfer work experience, especially from older colleagues to younger ones. *‘Memories, successes and shared experiences are both indelible and immutable. That is what makes them unique. Traditions and legends keep them alive. Those who follow enrich the legacy of those who have passed on through their experiences, their values. However, new knowledge and practices can strengthen or weaken the previous knowledge.’* (Horváth, 2020). The stories that police officers tell each other not only have a social function, but also a purpose.

As there are no formal standards for everything, members of the police often use tried and tested practices based on daily experience, informal tricks that are not always shared with other members of the organisation but may be shared by the instructor earlier in their training, or even by a fellow student. This is why, in my opinion, training is an area of key importance, so that members entering the organisation are critical of even the ‘informal’ tricks and methods told by

more experienced police officers and compare them with the knowledge they have acquired in training.

The analysis of storytelling often leads to the conclusion that such stories are mainly oriented towards action, extremism and the telling of ‘war stories.’ (Rantatalo, 2018). (Any) member of an organisation observes his or her environment closely and tries to follow the values and norms that are transmitted to him or her by other members of the group (this is called conformity). If the organisational culture relies strongly on respect for authority and conformity, then, for example, the prejudices fostered by the organisation soon become the beliefs of the newcomers (Finszter, 2018).

On one hand, stories can convey value and experience, serve as an example to follow or ‘*show the way in a difficult situation,*’ (Kovács, 2020). and thus, an experience heard can be a life-saver in a critical situation in the future. On the other hand, the narration of an incident experienced can also help members to process a traumatic experience, as police officers are often confronted with events that are not or rarely shared, so the detailed discussion of experiences and opinions of others can also play a supportive role in their lives, acting as a protective factor in their lives. With other words a storytelling has knowledge, value sharing and transmission function on one hand, and a ‘therapeutic’ function on the other.

Storytelling can also have a different role depending on to whom, what and why is being told, and in what context or field it takes place. It is also important to observe the use of terminology. Each job or profession has its own specific language. Police officers also use jargon, which is ‘*the uniqueness of terms used in the organisation; the use of abbreviations, acronyms, understood only by members of the organisation.*’ (Kovács, 2020).

In the ‘internal’ space, when police officers talk among themselves, we can also observe negative expressions and cynical comments. The purpose of the humour used by the police officers, whether it is to relieve tension, to entertain or to detach their own feelings from the stories, remains to be explored by researchers. Story-telling becomes a negative activity mainly when a story is shared that contains an incident or revelation (e.g. a prejudicial expression) or value which is legally, morally or ethically reprehensible from a police professional and organisational point of view. I believe that such situations can lead to a belief in the rest of the group, and especially in a new member of the group, that the story told is accepted in the organisation and thus may become fixed as accepted behaviour (or values) at police activities. Such a (verbal) situation may subsequently create a normative environment that may provide a basis for deviant behaviours that are not accepted either by society or by the organisation, the police.

Smith, when police officers frame their stories in reports according to the law and evidence, notes that he is not suggesting that they are lying, but that they need to learn how to phrase them in order to avoid getting in trouble in court (Smith, Burnett, & Petersen, 2014). Scalia presents the negative canteen culture through a case, in the four dimensions created by Robert Reiner – isolation, cynicism, police mission, political conservatism – by analysing the case documents, police reports, audio recordings, court hearings (Scalia, 2021). In his opinion, isolation manifested itself in the labelling of people and situations, and the description of physical appearance – in the studied case – revealed the racism of the police officers. And the statements made by the police in court in relation to the case contain a dimension of cynicism and police mission.

However, Waddington warns that the verbal culture of police officers should not be confused with what they do. Being verbal is necessary for them to make their own interpretation of their actions and their role (Waddington, 1999). The story told by the police officers reveals a lot. The values of the individual, the practices he/she follows and, in my opinion, how the narrator interprets the role of the police in society, the philosophy behind that role for them. Last but not least, through storytelling and ‘role modelling’, unfortunately, it also enables the transmission of inappropriate values and behaviours within the organisation.

The group’s misconceptions of solidarity, camaraderie, loyalty, and the need and necessity for support, the absolute trust – based on often uncritical loyalty – required to face dangerous situations, often encourage members to remain silent in everyday work, which the literature calls the ‘blue wall of silence’.

In the police literature we can find several terms such as ‘Blue Wall of Silence’, ‘Blue Curtain’ or ‘Blue Code of Silence’ which refer to the observed phenomenon of police officers (blues) not giving out the information they have (especially information about their work or about each other).

We can also find the right and wrong manifestations of this within the organisation. From the point of view of the police and police officers, this silence may have a (positive) policing purpose ‘...when we do not make a statement or occasionally disinform, in the interest of the investigation, we are not »silencing« or »misleading«, but protecting the interests of the community, under a legal mandate.’ (Janza, 2010).

The Police guidelines are also very clear in this aspect, lying or using information or events for other manipulative purposes is not allowed in situations inside or outside the organisation. ‘Without being exhaustive, it is necessary to speak of those that have a specifically destructive effect, the effects of which cannot be counteracted by the collective. It is unacceptable to exclude employees from information, to use it manipulatively or to lie; it is unacceptable to make communication one-way...’ (Horváth, 2020).

The reason why police officers in most cases do not disclose the cases they have experienced is related to the police culture and regulations, since police officers are (legally) bound by confidentiality (Horváth, 2016; Janza 2010). Last but not least, members of the police also have a duty to preserve the reputation of the police (a ‘rule’ that can also be observed in other organisations).

The negative form of silence is most often manifested when police members do not report or disclose to their superiors acts or deviant behaviour that they perceive to be incompatible with police professionals or organisational values (Kozáry, 2017), or do not make incriminating statements to the court, thus concealing the truth.

This, however, has several dangers for both the individual and the police. Such behaviour can put an individual into unwanted situations that can result in the loss of their job. They can also damage the integrity of the police as an organisation and undermine public trust in the police. According to Behr’s approach, in such cases, both speaking and listening are related to trust. The most prominent reasons why police officers choose silence being the ‘Code of Honour’, not to reveal their colleague to others, and fear of ostracism, exclusion, and dependence on the discretion of others to tolerate certain things – and often not big things – implicitly and not to report them mutually (Behr, 2009).

I think a more serious case is when a group culture develops within an organisation – and we don’t need to think of a large group here, it could be a group of two patrol officers – that deprives those who speak out against the unethical/deviant behaviour they are experiencing of the opportunity for promotion or even makes the person unable to progress within the organisation until they are ‘quit’ (dismissed from service).

Of course, to understand negative silence, I think it is equally important to take into account the nature of police work, that in certain departments – e.g. riot and response services – police officers spend a lot of time together, almost living together in the police areas they are assigned, and during operations this interdependence is further enhanced, sometimes literally protecting each other’s lives, so that in the course of their daily work they develop a very strong bond of trust (which they need and require to perform their duties).

On the other hand, they are also aware of the consequences that by making (allegations) against their partner, they risk their advancement within the organisation, or in the worst case, their livelihood, because the individual may lose their job and last but not least their support in carrying out daily tasks.

Nevertheless, there are cases where members (of the right values) break this silence, and there are examples worldwide where the inappropriate cop culture is exposed by them.

With regard to the regulation of police forces, including the Hungarian Police (police culture), the only theoretical option for an individual following the correct behaviour, based on the organisational framework and regulations, is to report deviant behaviour to his/her superior, which the police officer above also used.

In practice, however, according to Kardos' research (in the field of corruption) and my experience, there may be several cases, ways where a person does not identify with the wrong values represented by the group. On one hand, he/she may give informal feedback directly to his/her colleagues, or he/she may remain silent or even leave the group, e.g. goes to another unit.

I think his/her decision and reaction will be determined by factors such as the size of the group, the nature of the activity they are doing, the morale and experience of the individual, the procedures the organisation has in place for such cases and, last but not least, his/her personal situation (e.g. where he/she lives, his/her marital status).

Kardos, in his research on corruption, notes that as a consequence of reporting deviant behaviour openly and formally, in many cases the group will ostracise the member, the way he describes it is *'if he reports to his commanders, the »old foxes« who are more experienced in the service will ostracise him, discrediting him with made-up reasons in front of the leaders. All in all, they give the impression to their commanders that the person in question is not a person to work with, i.e. they do their best to get their colleague out of their team.'* (Kardos, 2016).

This also suggests, in my opinion, that older members with lower morale are using the so-called 'imprinting' method. The leader is misinformed about the individual, so the leader will have an established image of the person before necessary steps can be taken to protect themselves (and the organisation). This means in practice that the individual with lower morals informs the supervisor first (misinforms). This information contains misinformation about either the incident or the values of the higher moral person. A (false) image of the event or the (higher moral) person is thus formed (imprinted) in the supervisor's mind. When the individual with the right morals takes the necessary steps to protect himself (and the organisation), he/she will have a much harder task, if he/she succeeds at all, to change the supervisor's opinion. This can only be avoided, in my opinion, by the supervisor looking behind the incident and revealing as many objective facts as possible about the incident (or the individuals). Perhaps by listening to both members at the same time about the incident from the beginning.

So, despite the theoretical possibility of reporting deviant behaviour to a superior, practice shows that in such cases – if the group culture/moral is not right – the follower of good morals rarely emerges as the 'winner'. The (more routine)



persons involved usually question the values of the individual with higher morale that are considered paramount to the survival of the day-to-day within the organisation and by its members – e.g. loyalty, camaraderie – or, in milder cases, note that the individual is ‘disrupting the group-dynamic,’ and try to make him or her ‘look bad’ to the supervisor/leader. Yet I believe that an individual must signal his or her disagreement at the time of verbal expression, primarily informally to his or her colleagues, or else he or she may fall into the situations I have outlined above.

In Behr’s view, there are few protected opportunities within police forces for officers to pass on information without revealing their identity, so an independent investigative body, a complaints office, would be needed ([URL2](#)). However, a recent British study has suggested that negative silence may also be due to lack of trust in the process itself, i. e. how to report perceived abuse? Anonymously or by name? The results of the research showed that British police officers are more willing to put up with working with a ‘whistle-blower’ than to trust an anonymous system ([Westmarland & Conway, 2020](#)). A further question is whether those who report will be ‘punished’ for their silence so far? Is disciplinary action taken only against the ‘offender’ or also against the one who remains silent? As a possible outcome of the proceedings, will ‘only’ the ‘offender’ be dismissed, or also the one who remained silent? The answers to these questions, however, point back to the area of police culture, to the regulated nature of the police and require further research.

The transmission of cop culture is rarely addressed by researchers, who usually formulate their theses in one of its fields.

According to Smith and his fellow researchers ([Smith, Burnett, & Petersen, 2014](#)), it is the practice of storytelling in the police that generates and re-produces organisational knowledge, sometimes promoting organisational learning. To this end, they have developed a model for the use of storytelling by members of the police force in the following cases and for the following purposes: (1) political field: organisational learning, ‘big man’ stories, hero stories, war stories, stories of power or oppression; (2) educational field: organisational re-learning, work-based, morality tales, ‘dumb cop’ stories, investigative stories; (3) social field: stories by a café, good cop/bad cop stories, resourceful cop stories, (with a superior) rebellious cop stories, acceptable stories; (4) legal field: laws, regulations, codes, narratives set in a legal framework; (5) evidence field: investigation, police reports, logic and reasoning, oral evidence, how to be fair; (6) therapeutic field: learning from bad stories, re-telling mistakes, repentance, telling new stories, ontological (existential) fitting.

In their view, these six areas are closely linked, because the political field is the ideological basis of the organisation, the educational field covers the main



stories and how they are learned, the social field covers how they fit into the organisation, the legal field shows how the official stories are developed and the evidence field covers how they are told. And the therapeutic area deals with the recovery process, if that is needed (Smith, Burnett, & Petersen, 2014). These six fields are practically in circulation and serve organisational renewal through storytelling.

Kardos, in his research on police corruption, notes that small police communities – the immediate police-professional milieu – are created within the organisation, with the police officer's norm-following or norm-breaking behaviour being formed by adopting the general patterns of behaviour there. *'The strength of the collective effect means that the professional community will not tolerate a person who does not accept the community norms for a long time.'* (Kardos, 2016). *'... if the police officer who is prone to norm violations is placed in a norm-following environment, where the commission of violations is not a practice, he will, in the course of his duty, become a follower of the community's rules and commit norm violations to a lesser extent than his own »inclinations«.* *The converse of the »theorem« is also true, of course. So, in the case where a norm-abiding policeman is placed in a small police community where norm violations are accepted and practiced, then over time the individual will be »integrated into the norm violations« and will give up his own moral order.'* (Kardos, 2016).

Kardos thus also shares Finszter's theory of conformity, i.e. that the adaptation to a group, the will to fit into it, will have an effect on the development of appropriate or inappropriate behaviours.

In my opinion, in the case of deviant behaviours, transmission is rarely achieved by 'leading by example', as police officers are well aware of the appropriate and inappropriate behaviours through their training. I suggest that it is more through a process whereby the deviant first makes a verbal statement. So he/she tells (verbal) stories or makes comments in the presence of the newcomer, if he/she doesn't respond, or joins in with his own stories, or even laughs at them – then he/she goes through this 'testing phase' – and later he/she may be drawn into deviant behaviour.

On the basis of the above, I think that one possible way of transmitting the cop culture can be represented as follows. Verbally telling deviant remarks and stories that are incompatible with police values, which is also a 'testing' opportunity for the new recruit. In other words, the transmission of the values represented by the group through a 'canteen culture' and then, in the event of a 'successful test', the translation of this verbalisation into action, usually in the form of abuse or omission in the presence of the new member. It is then more difficult for the

new member to stop the process, because the ‘code of silence’ is triggered by the expectation of uncritical loyalty from the new member by members with lower morals or, in the case of protest, the removal of the new member from the group. This exclusion, in most cases, is achieved by questioning values (loyalty or comradeship) that are central to the lives of police officers. In such cases, the member with lower morals will often use the so-called ‘imprinting’ method to cover up his own deviant behaviour. It means that he (or she) will inform the leader first about what has happened or about the ‘character’ of the new member (with higher moral), so that the leader already has a (false) image of the incident or the individual with higher morals, which is much more difficult for him/her to change – if possible at all, as a new member.

The same model of transmission naturally occurs in the case of the right values, through verbal narratives and correct behaviour/examples and ‘critical’ loyalty, which always represent the interests of the organisation.

There may also be cases where deviant behaviour is not preceded by verbal behaviour and verbal behaviour does not always end in deviant behaviour.

Several factors contribute to the deviant behaviour, such as the norms of the members actively or passively involved in the activity, the control by the group or the organisation, the possible consequences for the participating member on the part of the group and on the part of the organisation, due to the police culture of regulation. On the other hand, stress, frustration, disposition, a given life situation/crisis, or even a lowered blood sugar level can be important factors in the conversion of an attitude into a deviant act. Exploring these will play a role in the assessment of individual cases.

If I look at cop culture from a moral perspective and consider the police culture as the moral framework that underlies the appropriate and inappropriate values and behaviours of the organization, I clearly conclude that individuals who follow an inappropriate cop culture have lower morals than the organization. Failure to recognise these processes, the dominance of individuals following the inappropriate cop culture, the removal of a member following the correct (higher) morality, or the perpetuation of the inappropriate cop culture, not only causes problems in effectiveness or the external perception of the organisation, but also can become a determinant of who stays with the group/organisation. This will ultimately affect the future moral composition of the organisation and lately the trust in the police.

There are, in my view, several key intervention points to prevent this process.

On one hand, it is the individual’s responsibility to distance himself or herself from verbal manifestations and to recognise deviant behaviour as soon as possible (which can be developed through training).

It is the responsibility of the supervisors/leaders, especially the middle management in daily contact with the executive officer, to recognise and respond appropriately to perceived i.e. verbal/written or action bias, to recognise and support the member with higher morale, to create a normative environment in the group or organisation that is in line with the police culture (the legal and ethical standards of the police).

At the organisational level, there is the possibility to identify and develop an internal system, accepted by the members, which allows the reporting of what is detected by the member with higher morale, without consequences.

In my opinion, it is not enough to punish inappropriate behaviour; an objective system for rewarding appropriate behaviour should also be developed. Last but not least, the responsibility of those who train people for the police profession can prevent the spread of inappropriate and help to spread the right cop culture in the organisation.

## Conclusion

If I consider police culture as the moral framework of the organisation, then the member who follows the inappropriate cop culture clearly has lower morals than the organisation. Many narrow the field of cop culture to the observed phenomena of appropriate and inappropriate behaviours, only to identify and disseminate the phenomena and classify it as part of the field of police ethics.

I am convinced that the education of this area belongs much more to the field of leadership theory, because it is not ‘only’ about the knowledge of appropriate and inappropriate behaviour or phenomena, but rather about the whole process of transmission and the recognition and proper management of processes within the group, which clearly belongs to the tasks of leadership.

Research in the main areas of cop culture – police professional characteristics/values, canteen culture, code of silence – shows that deviant behaviour is rarely achieved by immediate action, by showing ‘example’. Their transmission, their ‘inheritance’, is mainly achieved through the creation of a normative environment – created by the members – and small groups, even of two or more (e.g. two patrols), which allow deviant behaviours to be carried out and concealed within the organisation. In most cases, the mode of transmission is verbal communication first, which can also be seen as a testing phase. The reporting of later deviant behaviour is often blocked by the code of silence, which can be seen as uncritical loyalty, which means being loyal to someone just because of their membership of the organisation (police), without taking into account their

actions and the (negative) consequences of those actions on oneself, the group or the organisation (police). Further research is needed to identify the other factors behind silence in some cases and in some groups, such as conformity, empathy for each other, the same ‘fate’, the same morality etc.

Both police officers and leaders need to be prepared to recognise and interrupt the processes underlying inappropriate cop culture, inappropriate behaviours, not least the misinformation often used by members of the police force who follow inappropriate cop culture.

I am therefore convinced that education in this field should play a prominent role for future police officers and police leaders in particular. In order to further support the existing supportive institutional background, I consider it of the highest importance that members of the police force receive adequate training in this field before they join the organisation, i.e. before their first practical experience.

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## Online links in the article

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URL1: *The Police Act*. <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=99400034.tv>

URL2: *Kameradenverrat ist eine Todsünde*. <https://www.jetzt.de/politik/rassismus-in-der-polizei-interview-mit-dem-polizeiwissenschaftler-rafael-behr>

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# Digitalization – competence and its connections

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### Abstract

**Aim:** The author intends to present in his study the impact appeared – on organizations and individuals – in connection with the emergence of the digital world. He considers it important to show the interconnectedness of the triad of the environment, the organization and the individual.

**Methodology:** In the study, the need to change the examined topic is presented through the definition of concepts related to managerial competence, using a wide range of research methodologies.

**Findings:** Through the description of the general main competencies, it illustrates the development of digital competence, its development, as well as the changes in leadership competencies that are of paramount importance for the future of the organization.

**Value:** The author in this study draws managers' attention to the fact that the sustainability and competitive advantage of today's organizations depends on their ability to adapt to the conditions dictated by the changing environment.

**Keywords:** organization, digitalization, competence, digital competence

### Introduction

Digitalisation is now permeating most areas of social, economic, cultural and political life. For decades, it has been continuously, almost imperceptibly, infiltrating our daily lives through the technical and technological possibilities provided by innovation. The incomprehensible amount of information has turned our normal lives upside down. The former personal administration has been replaced by the on-line system, the range and quality of services have changed



sharply. Processes that seemed unthinkable have now become automatism for almost all strata of society, regardless of gender and age. Most of the people who have been socialized in this world can acquire much more diverse, broader and deeper knowledge than previous generations. The digital world affects people in a much more intense and stimulating way.

## Competence

First, what is the meaning of the word competence (Berényi, 2012):

*'In today's vernacular, the word competence has a double meaning: 1) competence, authority; 2) expertise, competence, aptitude. [...]*

*The quality and qualification of the concept of competence in relation to each person acquires meaning in the competent, [...] words. The word competent means: 1) competent, entitled; 2) professionally competent, suitable. [...]. Competence is not synonymous with skill but ability to successfully solve complex tasks in a given context. The concept includes the mobilization of knowledge, cognitive and practical abilities, social and behavioral components and attitudes, emotions and values alike.'* (URL1).

When interpreting competences, we must also look at the role of the environment. All competences appear in some kind of organizational environment, so the changes that have occurred in them also greatly affect the competencies. We have two options: one is to look for our existing competence, a task that we can perform. And according to the second, for the task to be performed, we should look for the competencies and individuals who carry these qualities. A cycle is formed in which organizational goals are realized through the individual, with the individual having the competences that are important to the organization: *'the totality of a person's knowledge, skills, abilities, behavioral and behavioral traits, by which the person will be able to effectively perform a specific task.'*<sup>1</sup>

*'For the acquisition, development and application of the competencies of individuals, the basis for training [...] and work, (getting a routine) [...].'* (Pató, 2006).

## Digital competence

The need for digitalisation is nothing new on the part of man. More and more devices and systems have appeared and are appearing in our lives and we have to cope with their simultaneous use, the rules for their management and application.

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1 Act CI of 2001 on Adult Education § 29 10.



Digital and information dumping, on the one hand, is a manager of growth and development, and on the other hand, if its users are not sufficiently prepared and do not make effective enough use of the available opportunities, this can hinder growth. Each organization must invent, form the most suitable interface for its functioning, which is characterized by a harmonious balance of the processes taking place in the organization and employees. Not all organizations necessarily have to strive to develop digital systems. There are also organisations, not a small number of them, for which they need to take the first steps by digitising their existing systems. There are a lot of organizations that are based on and deal with digitalization and IT, in these cases it is the development that is important, the development of newer systems and their testing and further development, while for those who use it only as a tool, it is important to adapt the systems.

Nowadays, not digital tools, systems, etc. limit development, but the lack of competences and the inadequate level of the individual's competence that is the barrier to development. The forms of the machine, IT emergence of digitalization and individual competencies interact with each other. They form a unified system in which the development of one of his competencies brings with it the development of newer methods, methods, tools. As things appear and have already been applied in practice, they have an impact on the development of individual competence.

When examining competencies, it is essential to present the appropriate inter-relationships among the many competencies that help to understand the structure of the system. The EU has identified 8 key competences for lifelong learning that are also characteristic of the knowledge society:

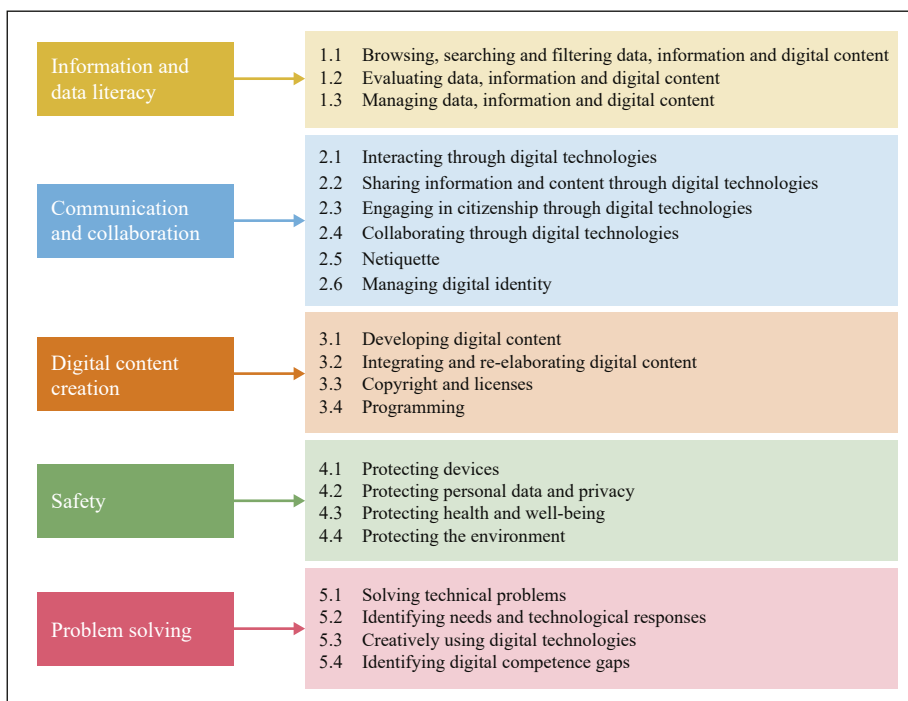
- 1.) Communication in the mother tongue;
- 2.) Communication in a foreign language;
- 3.) Mathematical, scientific and technical competences;
- 4.) Digital competence;
- 5.) Mastering learning;
- 6.) Social and civic competences;
- 7.) Initiative and entrepreneurship competence;
- 8.) Cultural awareness and expressiveness.

Key competences cover the whole area of life, they work in a system, some of its elements interact with each other, reinforcing each other, assuming each other's existence. The existence of digital competences as a way forward for other competences to prevail. It is not enough to have technological knowledge, but rather to use it consciously. The range of organizations and workplaces that are

organized only for the existence of this competence is much wider. A significant number of organizations operating in our society are merely users of this knowledge, using it as a tool in their daily activities. However, I think it is necessary to note that it is essential to apply this knowledge thoroughly and confidently.

The European Commission has created the European Framework for Digital Competence (DigComp) for its citizens, in which it defines 5 areas, with 21 additional layouts:

**Table 1**  
*The DigComp Conceptual reference model*



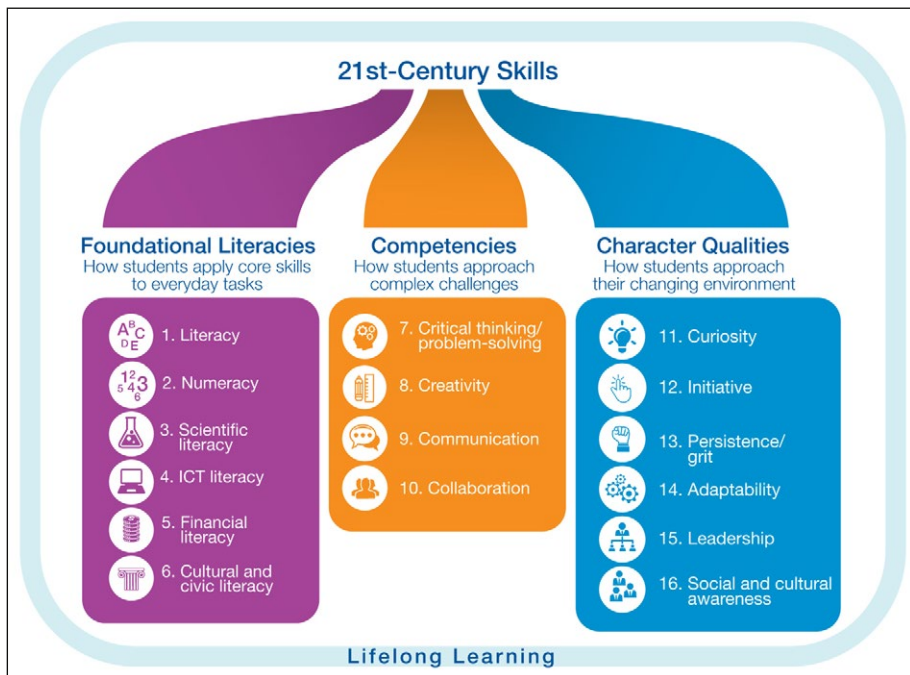
Note. URL2

In the digital world, in order to remain competitive and efficient, the development of organizations is essential. When examining organizations, we can distinguish two types of competences, on the one hand, organizational, according to which it is necessary to identify weak areas of the organization that need to be improved, those points where there is a need to make the necessary changes. It is necessary to identify the organizational development competencies that

contribute to effective work. On the other hand, the individual, which include the competencies expected of employees. It is through them that the further development of the organization is realized. These core capabilities have already been collectively known as ,digital' competences by other international organisations besides the EU, including the World Economic Forum.

Presentation of the educational competencies of the World Economic Forum (2015) in the 21st century:

**Table 2**  
*Skills for the 21st century*



Note. URL3

As a result of digitalisation, changes in the environment have had an irrevocable impact on the organisations operating in our society and the leaders who govern them. New organizations were formed, which also brought with them the emergence of new professions, which set new expectations for employees. In the new world, new competencies have emerged, flexibility, responsiveness and change management have become more valuable, and the old ones have been transformed, shifting the focus in all areas of life to the digital world.

The organization, the environment of the organization and the individuals operating in the organization are in close contact with each other. They interact with each other in a complex/dynamic way, influence each other in this way. There is not complete harmony between the change of organisms and the environment. The environment also changes regardless of the organization. The only question here is how much the organization wants and able to track these changes. Each organization is made up of individuals, so the changes that have occurred here affect each other more than in the previous example. Individuals seek to realize the goals of the organization in an organizational framework. The change of organization and individuals also brings with it a change in the operating framework of the organization (Busse & Böttger, 2021).

### **Digital world leadership competencies**

In general, in the case of an organization, the role of a leader is complex, he must be endowed with countless abilities. Just a few characteristics: innovative thinking, empathic skill, sincerity and honesty. All of them guarantee the success of the organization, the satisfaction of employees. In order for this to be truly realized, it is essential for managers to acquire the necessary level of managerial competencies and to continuously develop them.

*‘If you know who you are, you can use it to your advantage.’* What does this mean? Nothing but the importance of self-knowledge and self-evaluation, which is one of the leading competencies in the present. We must be aware of our positive and negative qualities, we must be ready to change or improve them, in this way we benefit our organization and act in its favor. In this case, one of Fayol’s 14 principles can be found, the primacy of achieving organizational goals over one’s own interests. In other words, if we see our own abilities clearly, we support our organization first and foremost. A well-functioning organization provides a framework for the individual’s further development.

Just a few important questions that the manager still needs to address. It must be emphasized that one must see and discover the possibilities in others and encourage and support them, the emergence of knowledge transfer. They must monitor the constantly changing environment and be able to keep up with it. Motivating the younger generation, facilitating their integration, creating a workplace atmosphere that effectively contributes to reducing turnover. The complexity of the leadership role can also be seen from these few examples.

The process of becoming a leader is multilevel, in which currently important competencies are built and complemented. Keeping stairs during the process

is important. After defining the goal, it is to create an 'I image'. The next step is to assess existing, expected competence elements and determine the necessary training program and to complete the process. Perhaps we go through this path to a good leader, which is of paramount importance. After all, the manager's current emotional and intellectual state, properties and characteristics are decisive for the organization, management and employees.

In our current age, we need to further develop the usual motivational schemes. Old methods can remain, such as reward, disciplinary responsibility, performance assessment system, etc., this does not necessarily mean that our employees become motivated. We can say that even the current system of performance assessment has not fully fulfilled its hopes. There were radical changes in our accelerated world, in the basic human competences. Much more emphasis should be placed on creating an incentive, inspiration, creative and innovative workplace atmosphere. Creating this is a guarantee of interaction between the leader and the subordinates and the availability of the manager. Do not think that the quality of the workplace atmosphere was not important until now. Nevertheless, many leaders did not keep it, they did not emphasize enough, thinking of subordination, the bureaucratic system will solve everything. Fortunately, this is not the case, generations are increasingly demanding it, and life is more and more enforced by leaders in the right XXI. century thinking and attitude. The need for development, the need for workplace progress, and the importance of career are becoming increasingly important for staff. On the one hand, the need for the quality of the workplace atmosphere was not triggered by digitalisation and the appearance of young generations in workers, which had been in the past decades. I go on, we can't say that there were no leaders who had emphasized the above, but were not enough. On the other hand, not with the appearance of quality should develop the ideal organizational forms and frames but it should appear at managers as a basic need. The digital world and its aforementioned competencies have been present in our society for more than a decade, constantly shaping and shaping it. We cannot claim that we have not had enough time to prepare for the changes.

There are serious changes in the leadership. Instead of the usual directors, delegates and control roles, individuals/ leaders who declare the organization's goals are characterized by strategic vision/ goal orientation. The tasks to be performed are voluntarily undertaken, organized into a team and responsible for their actions, assuming responsibility and risk taking. In the latter case, the leader appears as a team member who, leaving behind the old roles, creates an excellent, motivating workplace environment, an atmosphere, supports individuals initiative, development, makes a feedback and able to apologize.

It exemplifies the changes in leadership roles, that we previously considered a merit of the leader who had given the same position through the leadership of many years, even decades. In its characteristics and properties, there was no change or only a small amount, and nothing had encouraged him to develop. In the present circumstances, it can be expected and even required against the manager to measure himself in other areas. With this, you have new experience. As a natural process, we should consider the importance of some of the existing leadership competencies with the new assignment, while others are intensified and even new. This leader will have over time and experience other areas, a wider vision, and more thorough competencies that meet these requirements. He will be a much more professional member of his organization. Today we can no longer talk about a lifelong position, not the age or the years spent in the organization will be decisive.

The role of the leader in the organization will be determined by its competences. Based on the new view of management science, change in the relationship dynamics of the leader and the subordinates must be changed. There will be confidence, commitment, identification with the leader, loyalty, flexible adaptation towards the leader's role, and team thinking and team work will be strongly characteristic.

It is of paramount importance to get to know the changes in the environment and to develop a way of thinking that helps to rapidly understand the processes and ensure responsibility. Digitalization should not only be based on the development of technique and technology, but also use the exceptional, sole opportunities in human resources. The implementation of digital transformation into employees (managers and subordinates) will not be successful without education, training, support. In the midst of the changes, not only organizations have transformed into 'agile' organizations, but also leadership competences, which allow leaders to renew from time to time and be able to play different leadership roles.

Every manager and every employee are different, so it is not possible to raise the same expectations towards everyone. Members of the younger generation should be treated differently. You should not handle the new entrant equally with your old staff, but you also have to do a different attitude to an experienced but demotivated colleague (who has lost motivation). Individual competence elements should be established depending on the structure and functioning of the organization. Each leader and employees will achieve their goals in different ways, but in an organizational framework.

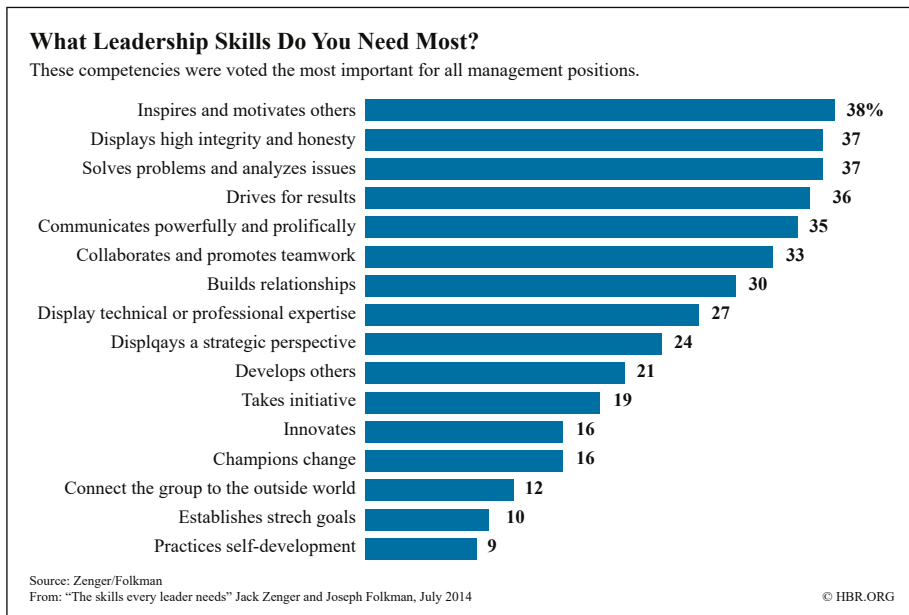
Most leaders in different situations act instinctively, experience and observe, and make their right or incorrect decisions. One, however, it is certainly a good leader who already has leadership competencies, but is constantly training, open

to new methods, procedures, and follow the changes in the environment. These leaders are called ‘agile’ leaders in the digital world, whose main competencies can be determined by 3 approaches. It is important to consider:

- 1.) The requirements of the employee staff against the manager.
- 2.) Leaders see themselves, what positive and negative qualities they have, how much they are aware of them. The supervision, which means self-knowledge, should be mentioned here. So the manager needs to see clearly which area to change and how well it is prepared. Only the human being who is aware of themselves can influence and change others.
- 3.) It has paramount importance how we think about the question of defining a ‘good leader’, and how important from the point of view of the leadership.

A research by Jack Zenger and Joseph Folkman (URL4) has been processed by 16 competences listed, which best describes the ‘good’ leader. The leaders and their associates, as well as subordinates, were asked about the study that at different management levels that are necessary and have the greatest influence on the successful activities of the leaders.

**Table 3**  
*The skills leaders need at every level*



Note. URL4

Inspires and motivates others; Displays high integrity and honesty; Solves problems and analyzes issues; Managements for result; Communicates powerfully and prolifically; Collaborates and promotes teamwork; Builds relationships; Displays technical or professional expertise; Displays a strategic perspective; Develop others; Takes initiative; Innovates; Champions change; Connects the group to the outside world; Establishes stretch goals; Practices self-development.

After the evaluation of answers, they stated that the result of the research had been expected. The competencies selected depended not only on management levels but also loaded positions and workplace conditions. The graphs showed the first seven competences in the order of importance, which shows that there were no great differences, so they are needed at almost every leadership level. It can be stated that these are basic competencies in our present age. For the rest, it can be stated that almost half of them were evaluated. It has been found that not all competencies need the manager at different stages of their professional careers. However, there are so-called critical competencies that if you wait to have them can be too late. Senior leaders want to discover these skills in future leaders, such as the existence of a strategic approach.

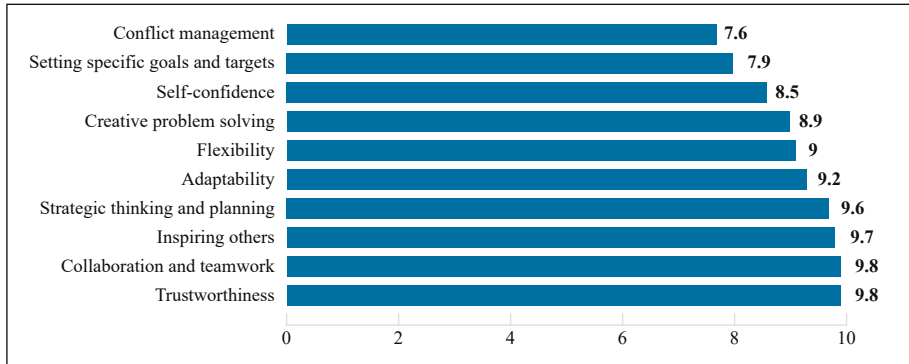
Changes in competence and development have already begun and continues today. Changes occurring are faster than 20–30 years ago, as our world is changing faster as a result of the 4 industrial revolutions. Examination and analysis of changes are essential for defining future trends. The results provided by the research help to determine the right directions of the change and can serve as a starting point in the development of employees' competences.

Dimitra Iordanoglou researcher, as a result of a two-stages European and US study, shows the summary results of the figures below. In its research, geographical location, the difference between leadership levels and the gender of research subjects are also important. It can be stated that in view of the above mentioned ingredients, every leader needs skills at all levels.



**Table 4**

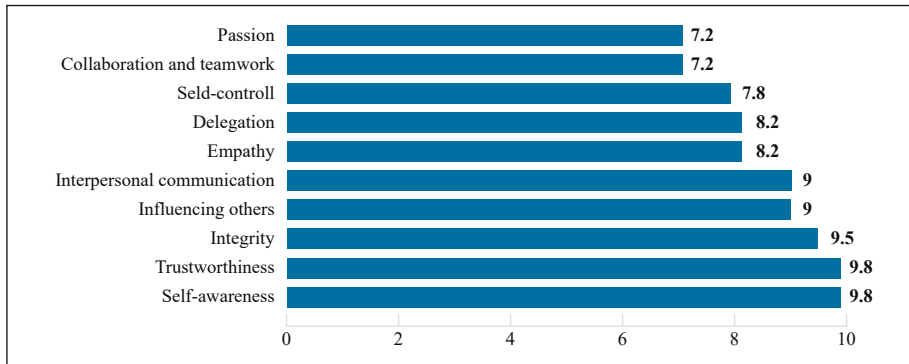
*Important leadership skills for future leaders – european sample*



*Note.* Iordanoglou, 2018.

**Table 5**

*Important leadership skills for future leaders – U.S. sample*



*Note.* Iordanoglou, 2018.

According to the two studies, it can be easily stated that the changing environment has produced similar results regardless of geographical location. So there are worldwide transformation processes that are already underway. Greater emphasis is on self-awareness, reliability, influencing others, personal communication, flexibility, adaptability, strategic thinking and planning for the organized, and cooperation and teamwork. These competencies appear in parts of this study in the display of short explanations. Other competencies in the research are also important but they received smaller values from the above during the evaluation.

## Summarised

The successful organization, leadership and leading secret are complex, and consist of many factors and circumstances. The effectiveness of organization – we measure it with any indicators – depends not only on the use of technical tools, advanced technologies, innovative methods but also from leadership competencies that help their own development, motivation, proactive attitude of employees and sustainable development.

The sustainability and competitive advantage of today's organization depends mainly on their ability to add to the circumstances dictated by the changing environment. The appearance of new processes is combined with new requirements. It is not sufficient to deal with new competencies, and it is important to consciously develop existing ones and to reduce the differences between labor market players.

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## Online links in the article

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- URL1: *The meaning of the word competence*. [http://janus.ttk.pte.hu/tamop/tananyagok/curriculum/iii\\_1\\_a\\_kompetencia\\_sz\\_jelentse.html](http://janus.ttk.pte.hu/tamop/tananyagok/curriculum/iii_1_a_kompetencia_sz_jelentse.html)
- URL2: *Definition of Digital Competence*. [https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/digcomp/digcomp-framework\\_en](https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/digcomp/digcomp-framework_en)
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## Law and Regulation

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# Motivation and Attitudes Behind the Career Choices of Hungarian Student Police Officers in Light of Policing Models

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## Abstract

**Aim:** The article examines the motivation and difference between police attitudes. This is worth examining what policing models exist, what police staff and professional attitudes fit into them, and what career choice attitudes are associated with them.

**Methods:** In the research survey was used. The individuals in the sample were all accepted into higher education and undertook the basic training of full-time police officer training.

**Findings:** The Author enlisted eight law enforcement models, which were divided into four clusters. The examined framework can be characterized by different goals and attitudes and it was found that we cannot talk about pure attitudes. The plurality of attitudes may vary from one branch of service to another, which may lead to mixed attitudes among respondents. A significant part of the students who start their law enforcement training did not see a pattern in terms of police careers, and their motivations and attitudes. A preconceived police attitude can be observed, because when candidates enter the police organization and start practical work, the organizational culture inherits the accepted police attitude and this is when their ‘professional blindness’ becomes decisive.

**Value:** The study highlights the attitudes of police officer students at the beginning of their university education. The Author considered it important to find out in which patterns students entering training can identify with the values and views suggested by different law enforcement models. For this, the Author enlisted the help of eight law enforcement models. The different attitude contributes to society’s acceptance that the functioning of law enforcement agencies is understandable and provides feelings of security.

**Keywords:** police students, policing models, attitudes, motivation

## Introduction

Today, conscious career choices are not uncommon among young people. With the expansion of education, Hungarian high school graduates flow en masse into higher education institutions. This has a particular effect on the law enforcement education system. The prospective students take part in a specific recruitment procedure to become police officer candidates and the training then usually lasts three to four years. The admission procedure (Dsupin, 2021) is complex, as the central entry process is complemented with a psychological and physical assessment as well as a career orientation interview, and these together form the final admission result (Farkas & Malkócs, 2022). The development of personality and professional competence in accordance with the career requirements take place continuously during the training (Malét-Szabó & Takács-Fehér, 2021). Getting to know the social background and career choice motivations of prospective police officers is especially important for the institution providing the training (Baráth, 2022; Erdős, Magasvári & Szabó, 2020; Magasvári & Szakács, 2021). All this process ensures for the training institution that after the admission procedure, students not only acquire theoretical knowledge, but also their attitude is formed.

The institution offering the training should be *'aware of the motivations, attitudes and values of its students in order to increase the efficiency of the training'* (Bjorgo, 2017). Rapid changes in the information society make it all the more necessary for the police officer training to meet professional expectations under conditions that provide future police officers with commitment and professionalism in the labour market, specifically in the law enforcement sector. The values developed during the training determine the attitudes according to which the police officer will perform his/her duties later.

It is assumed that a significant proportion of police officer students, just like other higher education students, have different attitudes towards their future profession. We consider professionalism that determines quality of work as a basic value among Hungarian police officer students, and this deserves attention during police officer training.

The aim of the Hungarian longitudinal survey of the international RECPOL (Recruitment, Education and Careers in the Police) research presented in this study is to reveal the knowledge, attitudes and beliefs of students entering the training programme about their chosen career and to monitor the impact of

training on students' personality, values and career orientation (Bjørge & Damen, 2020; Inzunza & Wikström, 2020; Bäck, Vallès & Padyab, 2017; Bäck, 2020).

The pillars of our own research are based on the above mentioned RECPOL research, but we use knowledge derived from law enforcement models that emphasize the different values and goals of a career in law enforcement. We examine how values and motivations of Hungarian police officer students are separated from each other, how the police officer attitude develops and what elements it consists of. We assume that young individuals coming from different family backgrounds bring different values when choosing a career, and this in turn reveals which law enforcement model explains these values. In the following sections the conditions for the development of the models and their inherent values are presented.

## **Policing models and attitudes**

In order to differentiate between police attitudes (Baráth, 2020), it is worth examining what policing models exist, what police staff and professional attitudes fit into them, and what career choice attitudes are associated with them. The emergence of different policing models was aided by the surfacing of more serious public safety problems from the 1960s, and this opened up the door to research that explored the specifics of policing and thus induced organizational and operational changes. Kozáry (2007) describes eight law enforcement (or policing) models. We briefly present the peculiarities of these models, and then analyze which attitudes are prevalent among police officer students. There is a rich literature available that describes policing models, but the categorization system in the present study is based on a different criteria. The aim is to avoid simplification and explore attitudes towards the police organization comprehensively. We assume that different eras held different social expectations towards police officers and while these expectations reinforced and transformed each other, they also led to the police-attitude that is prevalent today.

## **The War Model**

The first policing model was defined in the era of 'war on crime' from the 19th century to the mid-20th century. This era was characterized by conflicts between social groups. The task of police officers during this period was to implement isolation and they were given a special role in segregating those involved in

behaviours and lifestyles that were classified as abnormal. The definition of abnormal behaviour was not clear, as law enforcement agencies decided what was classed as uncivilized and rebellious behaviour. A police officer was considered an honourable citizen. The police intervention, the organization itself took on military features. It is also important to note that the police differed from the military in that the military was constantly present on the streets and was seen by fellow citizens. Their mission can be summed up by waging war on crime. They did all this with the aim of exercising social control over certain individuals and groups who were suspicious. This suspicion was based on prejudice and was a characteristic of police work. Subjectivity was fully present during police interventions. Prejudice is broadly interpreted, and it could have been extended to the rest of the population. The broader population also projected prejudices. The civilian population's view of police officers (Bitner, 1970) of this era was that 'those who fight evil themselves do not live up to the ideas they defend,' Krémer concludes. Consequently, mutual prejudice yielded an adverse effect, and the police occupation in fact did not have the characteristic features of esteem and respect. Citizens did not see police officers as defenders of social peace and public order, but only as defenders of the power of the upper classes.

## **The Efficiency-based Professional Model**

The second model is the efficiency-based professional policing model. This era spans encompasses the period of reform that took place in the United States of America in the 1950s. In this model, efficiency is inseparable from the modernization of the organization. According to Vollmer (1936), the efficiency and quality of policing can only be increased if knowledge in education is raised to higher levels while this is also accompanied by keeping pace with technical progress. Vollmer considered it important to consolidate professional values, as he believed that professionalism contributed to increasing the prestige of police work and this had the positive effect that can be felt when consolidating public safety. Empirical research also came to the fore during this period and provided an opportunity for scientists to conduct research within the police force and other similarly closed organizations. The period under discussion was defined by a continuous and visible police presence, immediate response to emergency calls, and preventive patrols. The expectation of a police officer was to acquire and utilize the knowledge gained in education and to enforce a dominant position.

## **The Order-maintaining Model**

The police forces operating in the 1960s and 1970s are characterised by the order-maintaining policing models. According to Goldstein (1977), the main goal of police officers of this era is to maintain order and peace in their district, and to check and respond immediately to emergency calls. The police saw themselves primarily as the guardian of peace and not the law (Perez, 1994). This model, according to which the primary task of a police officer was to maintain order, had its effect until the 1990s. All other tasks, such as criminal investigations, were subordinated to law enforcement. The attitudes of a policeman according to the law enforcement model were determined by the preservation of democratic values in the course of their work. The expectations of a police officer changed significantly: in addition to physical strength, the importance of vocational training and the existence of social sensitivity have increased compared to previous eras. Law enforcement commanded a skilled and professional workforce. Wilson (1973) likened the patrol to a bricklayer who acquires his professional knowledge not from generally written knowledge but through practice, considering that his knowledge of the patrolled area and involvement with the citizens who live there make him a real police officer. It is also characteristic of the policeman of the era that they strive for independence, while boldly using their discretionary power and decision-making ability. The organization of the police force has an extensive control over society and on its events, as opposed to the characteristics presented in the War Model presented earlier. The policing image had also changed, and the paramilitary characteristics became less apparent. Policing attitudes of the age are characterized by the importance of interpersonal relationships.

## **The Service Model**

The fourth model is the Community Policing model, which can also be interpreted as a Service model. It was typical of the 1980s when the relationship between the community and the police underwent significant changes. We can look at this phenomenon as a kind of reconciliation, as the police began to consider the needs of the community. Friedmann (1992) created a model for community policing. According to this, police officers build their professional principles on relationships with communities and viewed the work of the police officer as a community service. U.S. law enforcement has been incorporating elements of this model into their operations since the 1920s. The real breakthrough came in the 1980s,



when close co-operation between the police and the population became prevalent. This has brought with it several positive social changes, as co-operation between citizens also improved significantly. Measuring the effectiveness of the police force, it was found that the number of reported crimes increased during this period. This phenomenon can be seen as social trust, as the citizen making the report trusted the police in that the procedure would reveal the circumstances of the crime and their perpetrators. This co-operation requires the decentralization of power and the sharing of decision-making responsibilities. It presupposes the insight on the part of the police that social peace cannot be maintained alone without the involvement of the population. Measures arising in the course of policing can be interpreted as problems of the community within the framework of the role of the service provider. This model can only be realized if citizens see the police officer as a member of the community who helps them deal with problems as a service provider. The policing and service models are not much different in terms of organizational performance. The essence of the discrepancy is that the service model is more sensitive and pays more attention to the protection of more vulnerable groups (e.g., young, old, poor, homeless). This model assumes a well-developed and sensitive police officer in terms of police attitudes, who integrates into the life of the community and can maintain personal and everyday relationships with the civilian population with the local community. The model of community policing was a defining innovation of the twentieth century, also paving the way for contemporary law enforcement work (Korinek, 2006).

## **The Problem-oriented Model**

The fifth model concerns problem-oriented policing. This model is, in fact, an improved model of community policing, as the third model is based on the work of Goldstein (1977), who does research in law enforcement and interprets its theoretical and practical application. The difference from the previous community model is that this model aims to reform the whole police work and operation and put it on new foundations. The characteristic of his approach is that he considers the maintenance of public safety to be decisive, and expert work and scientific analysis to be a working method. Problem-oriented policing attitudes include a multidisciplinary interpretation of problems, a conscious knowledge of the solution toolkit, and the pursuit of justice to protect public safety. Law enforcement agencies using this model can be characterized as encouraging and using a number of legal means in addition to the use of police presence and coercion to achieve their goals.

## **The Zero Tolerance Model**

The sixth model is known as Zero Tolerance (Kelling, 1982), in fact a modern version of the War Model that is very popular in the 21st century. Its creation can be traced back to the community police presented earlier. Among the police attitudes that can be linked to the model, we can find those values that focus on punishment, are aimed at sanctioning the offender, and do not tolerate any violation of norms. The strategic focus is on police action and not on crime prevention. Rigour and fight against consistent fight against offenders characterize the representatives of this model. The main means of action is punishment, to which deterrence is attributed. The policing aspect of the trend can be attributed to Chief of Police Bratton, who represented the values of community policing in New York in the 1990s, believing that a visible police presence in public places would reduce the number of violent crimes.

## **The Data Acquisition and Data Processing Model**

The seventh model describes data-driven policing. This is the data collection and data processing model. In this framework, the operation of the police is characterised by collaborative task performance, where the systematic collection and evaluation of data connects previously mentioned community policing with the best practice of the problem-oriented model. It can be seen as a new policing model based on evidence-based scientific methodological principles. The main purpose of this law enforcement model is to facilitate data collection and data processing for the sake of addressing community problems. The exchange of data between the different agencies should be smooth in order to ensure a satisfactory quality of analysis. This analytical accuracy can be refined by further training and education of specialists and analysts. The typical police attitude in this system can be characterised by people who organise and discover connections.

## **The Administrative Model**

The eighth model we distinguish within law enforcement is the Administrative Model. Organizational science and public administration distinguish between a deconcentrated model and a municipal police model. If we want to separate the organization according to tasks, competencies and levels of responsibility,

then we distinguish between centralized and decentralized police. The two definitions appear to be the same but contain different conceptual elements. The formation of the U.S. FBI is a system of police institutions that perform centralized activities as defined by the local government system. This model does not define efficiency as a measure but assumes that there are tasks that can be done better centrally and that there are service tasks that make local intervention more successful. If we examine the division of powers, we can see that legality, transparency and control are the determining factors between the different levels. If decentralization does not go hand in hand with the strengthening of democratic values, the elements which guarantee the rule of law may be weakened. The centralized system is continental, while the decentralized model can be found in the literature as the Anglo-Saxon model.

## **Characteristics of the Hungarian police**

Of the eight models described, the Hungarian police can be characterized as a deconcentrated law enforcement body with a strong centralization of powers. Its management is independent and it carries out its activities under the direction of a national police chief. As a strategic goal, it can be described as a reactive police force (Finszter, 2020). In terms of division of labour, the public security and criminal sectors are separated. It has isolated, militaristic features within the administration. Its operation is based on the principles of hierarchical organization and unconditional obedience. It is a repressive type of organization, it is endowed with official authority, which is in the middle of the modernization process (Finszter, 2018; Vári, 2022; Kerezsi, 2020). The ideal policeman is someone with a high degree of professionalism, theoretical and practical knowledge, who sees their career as a profession.

## **The development of the police attitude**

The eight models listed can be combined into four significant and divergent clusters in which police officers have different attitudes. Along with the interpretations of these groups, the police attitude outlines what today's police officer is like and what values and points of reference they carry when choosing a career. The individuals who believe in the values of the war and zero tolerance model, are characterised by repressive, hierarchical, dictatorial attitudes and are endowed with low-level organizational empathy. The professional model based

on efficiency and the data processing model are close to each other and require a policeman who embraces paramilitary values, is open to theoretical knowledge and scientific methods, who considers legal regulation important and is skilled in finding effective solutions. The police officer who trusts in the values of the community and the problem-oriented police model, should be a rational person who is socially sensitive, considers community values and respects the rule of the law. The policing model exhibits classic policing attitudes: it values practical expertise more than theoretical, and it assumes a policeman who is ready to make independent decisions and prioritizes interpersonal relationships.

## **Law enforcement professionalism**

Professionalism is based on knowledge and is characterized by specific professional and social values that presuppose a special vocation (Kleisz, 2000). Its main characteristics include expertise, responsibility, and corporate spirit. Huntington defines professionalism as when civil society is obedient to civilian control. This can be seen as a concept of functional professionalism. According to professional theories, the essential elements of professions are that individuals in the profession possess knowledge that not everyone has, but only those who have mastered the theoretical and practical elements of the training. Entry into the profession is part of a specific, unique process, with defined standards, codes of conduct and rules. Practitioners of the professions can also be characterized by social recognition.

Considering the classifications of professions, policing is one of the auxiliary careers, in the sense that the police officers assist those in need during their work, such as doctors, teachers, social workers, priests, firefighters and military trainers, although there are significant differences in the nature of the work, the target groups and working equipment. Police work is a practice-oriented profession, and the right balance between theoretical, scientific-based knowledge and competence-based training can only be acquired in practice. The skills of a police officer are based on special knowledge (Janza, 2008). Through experiential learning, we can train professionals who protect society.

The professionalism criteria can be discussed from several viewpoints. Of these, we consider the following values to be outstanding:

- the length of vocational training is based on scientific training;
- adherence to rules of conduct and professional ethics;
- consolidation into a professional organization;
- the activity serves the public good;

- the professional activity is organized in an altruistic way;
- professional authority;
- expects individuals to trust their professional competence;
- high degree of collegiality;
- income is not a measure of success, pay depends on the level of education and other criteria;
- practitioners are also expected to apply general and abstract knowledge, so the activity cannot be fully standardized.

## Discussion

The efficient operation of public administration is now a basic expectation for the members of society. In order to achieve this, the possibilities provided by science can be called upon in order for the public administration – and thus the police force – to adapt to the needs of the era. Efficiency – by simplifying the conceptual definition – should be understood as the level of subjective sense of security and social acceptance, i.e. the level of integration (Magyary, 1931). The effectiveness of policing can also be observed in the professional competence of police officers and their commitment when carrying out their duties. Citizens feel safe when those working in law enforcement (Szabó, 2014) are endowed with skills that allow legitimate physical violence, and are professionally educated, whilst being conscious of the social purpose of their work and professional guidelines. Police work can be described by several individual and professional attitudes and competencies, including professionalism. Law enforcement has developed the ‘theoretical foundations for the professional implementation of guarding public safety’. Breaches of professionalism reduce the social status of police work, whilst increasing police crime and abuses of legitimate violence. This, in turn, leads to an increase in complaints against the police, and a decrease of social trust in members of the organization.

Stone and Travis (2012) summarize the four new principles of the professionalism of the police. These are accountability, legitimacy, innovation and national coherence. The components of true professionalism are a collection of expertise, principles and practices that are recognized and respected by members of the profession. This new professionalism can facilitate effective police cooperation within and outside of the organization. A well-communicated new professionalism can help citizens of different communities understand each police measure and assess the needs and problems that the police need to pay more attention to enjoy the trust of the community. This new professionalism will help all of us

to understand the workings of the law enforcement, how it got to this point, and where it is headed. Knowledge, understanding and practice are vital for good policing, and this common set of skills determines the professionalism of the police. The first professionalism in the United States was embodied into community policing. Decades ago, Géza Finszter (2018) derived the negative findings, which by now worsened: policing is the area of public administration that is most vulnerable to daily improvisations, political battles, and it is the most deprived one of a strategic approach and public service professionalism. The duality of the system's relationship to professionalism can be seen here as the centralized-decentralized police operation. To put it simply, a decentralized police force is closer to the citizens, and consequently is more socially integrated, while a centralized police force is closer to the professional ideal.

## **Research data, methods**

The research project RECPOL was launched in 2010 in Norway. The first survey was based on the StudData questionnaire, which was developed by the University of Oslo. In Norway, this study is also used for examining twenty professions – similar to the Graduate Career Tracking System (DPR) research in Hungary. The first RECPOL survey in 2012 involved seven European countries: Belgium, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Scotland, Sweden and Spain. We joined this research network in 2016 with the Hungarian sample. Our first data collection took place in August 2017, with a sample of students entering university education. The main questions of the research are grouped around the social and career choice backgrounds of police officer students and their understanding of their professional vision. They also examine the students' expectations regarding police training. The data collection took place in four stages:

- at the beginning of training;
- at the end of training;
- three years after completing the training;
- and six years after completing the training.

The members of the law enforcement organization are members of a specific organizational culture and hierarchy, which is based on education and training. The in-depth understanding of the hidden attitudes is achieved with the use of the RECPOL research questionnaire, as it examines an individual's attitudes towards training and their long-term vision. The RECPOL research also helps us to compare law enforcement trainings internationally and measure their

outcomes. Considering the social and economic differences between countries, in case of a comparative analysis, the formation of students' attitudes is standardized. The questionnaire used in the present study implements the so-called attitude scales which are measured responses using the Likert scale. This type of measurement tool has been developed so that respondents can indicate their agreements or disagreements about specific items, statements and feelings to varying degrees.

In the present study, we analyse the Hungarian RECPOL sample, specifically the responses of full-time police officers studying in higher education. We investigate what attitudes they have towards their profession. The characterization of law enforcement models and the different professional models provide a basis for capturing attitudes and values.

## Results

After describing the police models and attitudes, the results of the Hungarian RECPOL survey – a sample of 176 respondents – will be examined. The individuals in the sample were all accepted into higher education and undertook the basic training of full-time police officer training. 68% of the respondents are male and 32% are female. In terms of age distribution, 5% are over 21 years old, 12% are 21 years old, one third of respondents are 20 years old, almost half are 19 years old and 8% are 18 years old. 93% have no work experience and only 6% have worked for more than one year. 17% of the admitted police officer students came from a vocational high school and 78% of them were admitted from a grammar school. 2% had a tertiary education and 7% of respondents started some form of tertiary training that they had to stop due to the police officer training. It is an important finding that almost 90% of the students do not have a direct family member or parent working in the police profession. In the course of career socialization, education and training activities, the key element is which career image the student later brings into the police career.

25% of the respondents' fathers have tertiary education and 70% have secondary education. The educational level of mothers is different, half of the respondents' mothers have a secondary or tertiary education. Regarding the socialization arenas, we asked students about the type of neighborhood they grew up in: nearly 40% of them grew up in a rural area or in a small village, 25% in a small town and 22% in a city but far from the city centre or in a city but far from downtown.

## Police attitude and analysis of models

During the analysis, the outcomes of different models were classified separately, as previously summarized. We made a distinction between (1) an ‘all-encompassing’ model of efficiency and data collection that emphasizes professionalism, (2) a ‘service provider’ model created from a conglomerate of community policing and a problem-oriented model that emphasizes community and fundamental rights, and (3) a warfare model that focuses on toughness and determination, and a model that ‘responds’ to the values of the zero tolerance model and the ‘classical’ framework attitude (4).

**Figure 1**

*Law Enforcement Models, attitudes and main values*

Attitude	Law enforcement model	Main value
All-encompassing	Efficiency and Data Collection	Professionalism
Service provider	Community and Problem Oriented	Partnership
Responsive	War and Zero Tolerance	Robustness
Classic	Order-maintaining model	Paternalism

*Note.* Create by author.

The ‘all-encompassing’ attitude includes values that require professionalism: reading professional journals, being persistent of wanting to stay in the profession, being emotionally attached to the police career, wanting to belong to a law enforcement organization, and being filled with pride. In the analysis, the dominant elements in the all-encompassing attitude are strong professional commitment (20%) and belonging to the organization and feeling proud (40% and 40%). One-fifth of the respondents can be included in this cluster.

We created the ‘service provider’ attitude with a mix of several variables, all emphasizing community values. The importance of assessing police work and the need for a trade union is reflected in these values, as well as the fact that it does not have a retaliatory attitude against perpetrators, but rather it gives them an opportunity. Collegiality and professional openness, sensitivity to social problems characterize police officer students who hold a service attitude. 40% of the responding students fall into this category.

A ‘responsive’ attitude presupposes an individual with firm values. These individuals are not lenient and permissive with offenders, they are in favour of prosecution and are prejudiced in their actions. 60% of respondents have such views and values.

When measuring the ‘classical’ law enforcement attitude, we classified those with: the attitude of the police officer as a protector of the state, the importance



of respect, adopting common sense when interpreting the law and those who believe that policing is based on experience. Half of police officers think it's natural and acceptable to be noticed based on their appearance. The vast majority of respondents do not take kindly to offenders and agree with their prosecution. Nearly three-quarters of respondents have such attitudes.

## Conclusion

The aim of our research was to explore the attitudes of police officer students at the beginning of their university education. We considered it important to find out in which patterns students entering training can identify with the values and views suggested by different law enforcement models. For this, we enlisted the help of eight law enforcement models, which were divided into four clusters. The examined framework can be characterized by different goals and attitudes and we found that we cannot talk about pure attitudes. The plurality of attitudes may vary from one branch of service to another, which may lead to mixed attitudes among respondents. A significant part of the students who start their law enforcement training did not see a pattern in terms of police careers, and their attitudes and views were studded with stereotyped ideas based on the information obtained from a wider circle of acquaintances. We can observe a preconceived police attitude, because when candidates enter the police organization and start practical work, the organizational culture inherits the accepted police attitude and this is when their 'professional blindness' becomes decisive. Our further research is investigating this phenomenon. Furthermore, it is also worth examining how these initial attitudes are transformed and standardized in practical work. Will this be a conflictual or consensual process, or will it be a divisive one? Analyses of our research have shown that full-time police officers start their training with a pluralized police attitude. According to professional theories, the essential element of the profession is that individuals within the profession possess a knowledge that not everyone has, but only those who have mastered the theoretical and practical elements of the training.

Professionalism can be considered the cornerstone of the police profession. In the course of our analysis, it was revealed that behind the visible signals, there are many attitudes, which are also influenced by the system of social and organizational expectations. The explicit need for professionalism appears with different emphasis in the different law enforcement models and their strategies. Professionalism as an attribute accompanying the operation of the police force is also worth evaluating in the comparison of central-hierarchical versus

decentralized models. It should also be noted that professionalism is primarily task-specific in importance and less pronounced as a feature of general policing. In addition to the local decentralized municipal police in modern Western states, central police with a high level of professionalism can be present at the same time. Nowadays, the professionalism of the Hungarian police force can be observed in the case of police officer students because they are working on the acquisition of theoretical and practical knowledge, to which professional specifics are added as the training progress. Such specific element is, for example, keeping ethical values in mind during work. This attitude contributes to society's acceptance that the functioning of law enforcement agencies is understandable and provides feelings of security. In an organization where professionalism is central, work can be done smoothly, transparently, and predictably.

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# Impressions on the Role of Environmental Criminal Law in Present Day Society

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## Abstract

**Aim:** One of the defining features of modern society is the legitimate fear of the impacts of environmental damage. The consumerism and the resulting over-production are the root causes of environmental challenges that threaten our very existence. This study aims to investigate the role of criminal law in environmental protection.

**Methodology:** Empirical analyses were conducted on the contents of finalized criminal cases in Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county and Csongrád-Csanád county from the years 2009 to 2018.

**Findings:** The findings reveal that the primary role of environmental criminal law is to safeguard regulations related to environmental use. Analysis of Hungarian criminal cases involving environmental harm and damage to nature show that the majority of cases were not related to production or manufacturing practices.

**Value:** This study presents a theoretical model that categorizes actions causing environmental harm into four groups, irrespective of their legality. Drawing on empirical evidence from criminal and administrative procedures, the study suggests potential directions for future regulatory actions.

**Keywords:** environmental protection, environmental damage, green criminology, environmental criminal law

## Introduction

The society of 19th century, built and based on consumerism, has brought not only economic development and prosperity, but also more and more apparent



environmental harm. The effects of the rapid devastation of the ecosystem have drawn the attention of criminological thinking since the 1960s. This new trend that has crept into corporate crime was coined by Lynch 'green' criminology, referring to the constantly degrading natural environment (Goyes & South, 2017).

The United Nations Conference on the Human Environment which was held in Stockholm in June 1972 provided a platform for NGOs which emphasized the importance of environmentalism as well as marked a turning point in environmental politics. The emergence of the environmental crisis has been clearly displayed in the tendency, that by the 1980s environmental crimes – showing a particularly large variety – in most legal systems became criminal offences. In the decades that followed, countless research was done on the topic, which justify the reinvestigation of cases that belong to environmental crime and establishing them on criminological foundations, while paying particular attention to the ineffectiveness of the institutional reactions that have attempted to handle these cases. However, the great diversity of environmentally harmful offences makes it difficult to have a systematic approach in this. This is further substantiated by the large variety of criminal cases and the diverse criminological research. To begin with, I will outline the main trends in green criminological research, and then attempt to set up a theoretical model which can divide the rather heterogeneous group of environmentally harming offences (which include ones that are damaging to nature itself). This model is based on calibrating the degree of severity of the danger an offence poses onto society itself and through these hopes to provide a possible direction for future legislation. The fact that the European Commission evaluated the Environmental Crime Directive (Directive 2008/99/EC) in 2019 and 2020, then adopted a proposal for a new Directive on the protection of the environment through criminal law, to replace the 2008 Directive on 15 December 2021, gives actuality to the topic.

## **Areas of research in green criminology**

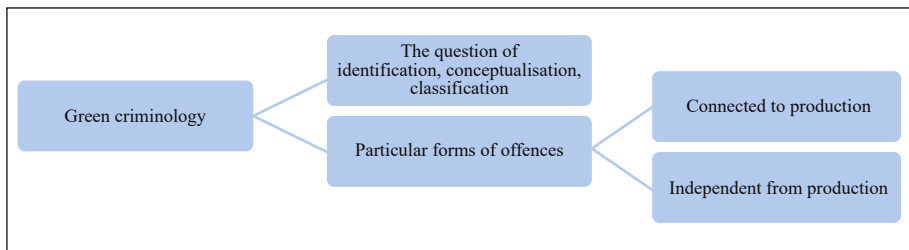
References in green criminology can be grouped into two major categories or branches. One branch is attempting to identify green criminology itself by classifying and categorising our criminological knowledge of environmental harm. It deals with such topics as the definition of environmental crime, their characteristics, typology, the methodology of environmental measures in legislation and problems that occur during criminalisation. The other significant branch concentrates mainly on the particular criminal offences that occur. These works

appear to be more puzzle-like and often reflect the diversity of regulations of specific nation states. Their topics focus on two main areas:

- a) Normative infractions connected to production processes;
- b) Criminal offences independent from production.

The theoretical background of offences connected to production is based on our risk society, the monitoring of deviances reflecting the criminological view of white-collar crime. The research of offences and behaviour that are independent from production examines mainly the illegal trade of endangered species. This latter research is more developed since international action to criminal offences against wildlife does not affect the economic interests of specific nation states. The infractions of environmental criminal offences in such situations mean the breaking of particular international agreements whether this concerns the participating parties or specific persons (from these particularly relevant the CITES /Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora/ – describing agreements on trade of these). Dealing with such problems – just like in case of migration – requires a holistic approach and wide international cooperation, therefore this research provides several ideas that are worth considering.

**Figure 1**  
*Areas of research in green criminology*



*Note.* Created by the author.

Multitudes of researchers concentrate on a particular locale at a given time, and analyse dogmatically the environmental delictum which is in effect there or unfold the practices of law enforcement of the same. In order to ensure and increase the effectiveness of institutional reactions two theoretical models have been designed for the prevention and handling of deviant behaviour. The imperative model emphasises the authority of the state while the cooperative model sees cooperation as the solution (Niel & Aaron, 2005).

## Categorisation of environmental crime

László Pusztai puts environmental crime into the category of economic crime building on Merton's strain theory. As such, environmentally harmful offences are identified as normative infractions connected to production (Györi & Inzelt, 2016). Building on this thought I would like to take it one step further in the categorisation of environmental crimes with the predisposition that all human behaviour is guided by purpose or is directly connected to such behaviour. In my opinion an offence is connected to production if two criteria are present at the same time. One, that the act is done through or within a legal entity or company. The other, that these acts bring financial gain, whether directly or indirectly, to the offender. These two criteria create four groups within environmental criminal offences (shown in *Figure 2*).

**Figure 2**  
*Categorisation of environmentally harmful offences*

		PLACE OF OCCURENCE	
		ORGANISATIONAL	OTHER
MOTIVE	FINANCIAL	<b>I. GROUP:</b> Offences connected to production: a) industrial b) economic offences in agriculture and forestry	<b>II. GROUP:</b> Offences motivated by financial gain and committed on a personal level, or outside of legitimate business, e.g. in organised crime.
	OTHER	<b>III. GROUP:</b> 'Green-collar' crime: offences committed within a legitimate business, typically with the goal of saving time.	<b>IV. GROUP:</b> Offences committed on a personal level, mostly with the goal of satisfying a need, often connected to culture.

*Note.* Created by the author.

Offences belonging to the first group are the most serious since their effect on ecology is the greatest compared to the others. Within this group the two sub-groups should be noted:

- a) offences connected to industrial production;
- b) offences in agriculture and forestry.



## Characteristics of offences connected to industrial production

The criminalisation of behaviours connected to industrial production pose the greatest challenge in their descriptions. These, apart from the use of organisational framework, have particular attributes. The differences are described in the following table.

**Table 1**  
*The two subgroups of behaviours connected to production*

	<b>INDUSTRIAL</b>	<b>AGRICULTURAL</b>
<b>PART OF ENVIRONMENT DIRECTLY AFFECTED</b>	Water, air	Soil, biota
<b>THE RELATION BETWEEN BEHAVIOUR AND ENVIRONMENTAL HARM</b>	cumulative	direct
<b>CARACTERISTICS OF CONSEQUENCES</b>	mobile	localised
<b>TYPICAL HARMFUL BEHAVIOUR</b>	emission / overuse	logging / machinery working on the land
<b>OCCURENCE</b>	continuous	cyclical
<b>ORGANISATIONAL FORM</b>	complex	simple
<b>PERCEPTION OF CAUSED HARM</b>	underrepresented	Overrepresented
<b>SPREAD OF CONSEQUENCES IN SPACE</b>	global	Local, regional
<b>PLACE OF BEHAVIOUR</b>	Often cannot be exactly specified	Typically, easily specified
<b>RANGE OF PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES</b>	Relative, based on measurements	absolute, done by identifying the used objects/equipment
<b>TYPICAL LEGAL CONSEQUENCES</b>	administrative	criminal

*Note.* Created by the author.

In the present Penal Code (Act C of 2012 on the Penal Code, short: Btk.) the environmental harm section (Btk. 241. §) is meant to sanction legal offences which are connected to industrial production while the protection of habitat from environmental harm section (Btk. 243. §) is the basis of punishment for legal offences committed in agriculture and forestry. The protection of species section (Btk. 242. §) typically criminalises offences that are not committed within organisations. It's important to mention that the definition of environmental crimes differs in the criminological and legal context. In criminological

thinking the ecological impact whereas in criminal law the illegality of the offence is the basis of the definition. The chasm and even opposition between the two can be well illustrated by the case of the battery collector, who collected batteries from people with the goal of selling them to the legitimately working recycling company. From the ecological point of view this activity was very useful, since if even one of those batteries were just left out in nature – which admittedly happens way too often – would cause more damage than this ‘criminal’. Whose actions, unfortunately, in line with present laws, are a criminal offence. As a consequence, he was sentenced to suspended prison sentence, because he broke the law on waste management. (As in Kazincbarcika Regional Attorney Office B.51/2012. dossier) From an ecological point of view, throwing away even one PET bottle has more harmful impact on society than the above, but this, although it is against the law, is not a criminal offence. This example sheds clear light on the fact, that we mustn’t think of environmental harm only through the glasses of legal procedures.

## **Description of Hungarian institutional reactions in accordance with this classification**

I pored over the dossiers of criminal cases in the years 2009–2018 of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county as well as Csongrád-Csanád county (this included 92 cases of environmental harm, 186 cases of damage to nature, of which 119 were in connection with protection of species, and 67 were connected to the protection of territory). I tried to put all the studied cases into one category of the table below in an effort to understand the nature of the offences that were the basis of the legal procedures. Unfortunately, the cases connected to industrial production are underrepresented in this list, even though those are the ones that cause today’s global concerns, as presently they belong under the administrative jurisdiction. Cases connected to agriculture came into the vision of the Criminal Investigation Department in larger numbers, however, it is obvious that these offences were predominantly less harmful to society and were committed outside of organisations and lack financial motives. From the 278 criminal cases 6 were unclear as to where exactly they fit into this classification, but the 272 other cases are classified as follows:

**Table 2***The studied cases classified according to the above cited classification*

		PLACE OF OCCURENCE	
		ORGANISATIONAL	OTHER
<b>M O T I V E</b>	<b>FINANCIAL</b>	<b>I. GROUP:</b> a) industrial offences connected to production: 16 b) economic offences in agriculture and forestry: 36	<b>II. GROUP:</b> 40
	<b>OTHER</b>	<b>III. GROUP:</b> 27	<b>IV. GROUP:</b> 153
<b>Not classified: 6</b>			

*Note.* Created by the author.

Looking at the criminal procedures conducted (in which the authorities used some type of punishment as a consequence of the offence) the same ratios can be seen: from the 70 cases 57 belong to group II. and IV. 4 of the offences were environmental harm (e.n.) cases, and 66 were harm to nature (h.n). The dominance of offences of harm against nature is obvious (58 cases).

**Table 3***Classification of the criminal procedures that were conducted*

		PLACE OF OCCURENCE	
		ORGANISATIONAL	OTHER
<b>M O T I V E</b>	<b>FINANCIAL</b>	<b>I. GROUP:</b> a) industrial offences connected to production: 5 b) economic offences in agriculture and forestry: 4 (2 e.n. and 2 h.n.)	<b>II. GROUP:</b> 28 e.h.
	<b>OTHER</b>	<b>III. GROUP:</b> 2	<b>IV. GROUP:</b> 29 e.h.
<b>Not classified: 2 (harm to nature)</b>			

*Note.* Created by the author.

It is clearly shown by this classification, that the offences connected to production, which are the most harmful to society, instead, they are outnumbered by the offences committed by individuals in ‘other circumstances’. This division – according to the interview conducted with the Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén County Government Office Environmental and Nature Protection Department – changes

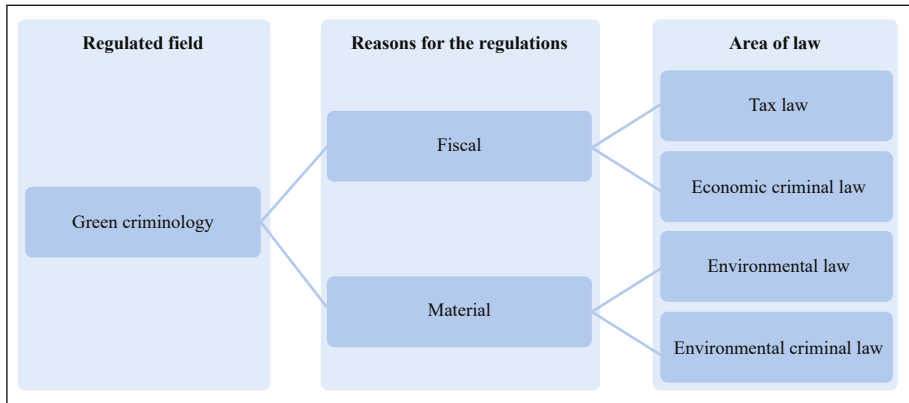
when we take a look at the authorities' administrative procedures. Offences that are fined by the administrative authorities are typically committed by businesses when they cannot meet the legal requirements of new, stricter measures by the defined deadlines. These offences are clearly foreseen by both the authorities and the leadership of the businesses. Therefore, when the measures are enforced, the offences that are less dangerous to society are punished heavily whereas offences connected to industrial production are simply fined. These fines are easily passed down to the consumers just like value added taxes. In an ideal scenario most offences that belong under the effect of Criminal law – considering the effects of normative infringements in industrial production – should belong to group I., while the administrative sanctions should be meted out onto the environmentally harmful offences of the other three groups. Instead of this, we see that Criminal law reacts the least to offences connected to the normative infringements of industrial production while these dominate the authorities' administrative procedures.

## **The role of Environmental Criminal law in society**

As shown by the aforementioned arguments, we can conclude that the offences which are most dangerous to the ecosystem and therefore society itself are offences connected to industrial production. However, these same offences are vastly underrepresented in criminal law procedures. In order to fully understand the role of criminal law in environmental protection we must first examine the legal measures connected to production as a value-generating process. In consumer society the government encourages production, even though when it follows the liberal economic model it withdraws from most economic spheres. The government does so, as the increase of production ensures the assets needed to finance the growing governmental responsibilities as well as helps in the continued improvement of the standard of living for the population (Halsey, 1997). Consequently, in legal systems the financial considerations and interests of the government prevailed in the beginning, resulting in the present administrative and tax laws. The enforcement of the legally regulated economy is in the interest of the entire society so it brought about economical criminal law which protects the economy indirectly and in a limited range, through the use of the legally regulated order (Győri & Inzelt, 2016). Environmental damage appeared in the wake of increased production resulting in the necessity of new regulations created from a material point of view, such as the normative use of the environment in administrative law.

**Figure 3**

*The regulations of production as is connected to criminal law*



*Note.* Created by the author.

In my view, the role of environmental criminal law is to defend the regulations on the use of the environment in an orderly manner, moreover, to enforce the pre-set limitations on the use of the environment. In environmental protection criminal law is an indirect tool which in fact does not regulate ecological issues, rather just monitors that norms described in criminal law are kept. This point of view is also supported by the fact that environmental criminal offences, similarly to economical criminal offences, are mostly framework regulations resulting in administrative contribution (Polt, 2016). It is not by chance that the criminological examination of environmentally harmful practices grew out of the examinations of economic criminal law (Wolf, 2011) since production brings about the greatest changes to the environment. Thus, based on the above facts it is evident that the legal measures on use of the environment taken from an ecological point of view should be within the role of the administrative authorities. Moreover, that it is in the interest of our entire society, that criminal law should receive greater authority to enforce these measures. Taking into consideration the extent of the caused damage – in a limited number – even practices that are done outside of production can be criminalized. When defining these, the ultima ratio of criminal law should be in the forefront and foremost considered, applying the gradual enforcement of legal consequences.

## **In conclusion**

The examined Hungarian criminal cases of environmental harm and harm against nature show that the vast majority of practices warranting the procedures were

not connected to production and as such were not committed within organisations, furthermore they were not motivated by financial gain. On the other hand, the sanctions of the administrative authorities – by the use of environmental protection and disaster prevention fines – reacts mostly to normative infringements that are in fact arise in connection with production. Although the process of production is in the financial interest of all governments, the consequent deterioration of the environment makes it necessary to reform the present consumerist practices. The most important step in this direction is to define the use of the environment based on ecological viewpoints as well as limiting the materialistic views of production. Since the norms of criminal law should reflect the diverse levels of moral disapproval of society as a whole, it would be desirable that the delictum in environmental criminal law would address and sanction normative infringements that are closely connected to production, as these pose the greatest challenges to our world. Some offences that do not harm the environment or do so to a lesser extent could be sanctioned by legal consequences that are outside of criminal law. The new proposal of the European Commission defines criminal offences in a more detailed way, adds to the list of offences, defines sanctions and seeks to enhance the efficiency of enforcement. However, the question from an ecological point of view is, that compared to the present rules, how radically the focal point of the regulation would change, and with all this, how would institutional reactions to environmental delinquency shift.

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## BOOK REVIEW

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### Behavioral Insight

(Review of the book of the same title by Hallsworth and Kirkman)

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#### Abstract

**Aim:** The *MIT Press Essential Knowledge* series provides the reader with accessible, concise, yet interesting and completely up-to-date information. Till now, we have reviewed the following members of the series: *Neuroplasticity* (Németh, 2021a), *Anticorruption* (Németh, 2021b), *Collaborative Society* (Németh & Szabó, 2022), *Critical Thinking* (Németh, 2022b).

**Methodology:** Each part was written by excellent experts on the subject, in a language understood by non-experts, too. In this way, the current research data and results in the field of each topic can be really used. Nowadays, it is not easy to find in the endless set of information obtainable on the World Wide Web those that essentially provide the fundamental knowledge on a particular topic (Tidor, 2020).

**Findings:** Behavior insight examines the current and possible later relationship between conscious thinking and unconscious action processes. It also examines how to develop and use it ethically to the benefit of humanity.

**Value:** The book presents the importance of conscious thinking and action, which is so far only known to scientists.

**Keywords:** behavior, manipulation, communication, behavioral history

#### Preface

Behavioral Insight. What does this expression mean? Are the average people well interpreted? And experts and researchers of the other disciplines? What





phenomenon is this concept? Where and how could it be used effectively? *'This book addresses these questions by presenting the history, current practice, and future directions of behavioral insights.'* (Hallsworth, & Kirkman, 2020).

The authors are Michael Hallsworth and Elspeth Kirkman. Michael Hallsworth, PhD, is Managing Director of the Behavioral Insights Team (BIT) North America. He is an Assistant Professor (Adjunct) at Columbia University and an Honorary Lecturer at Imperial College London. Elspeth Kirkman founded BIT's North American office before returning to the UK to run the organization's social policy portfolio out of London. She has taught behavioral insights courses at Harvard and Warwick Universities and is a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at King's College London.

## Review

The book consists of 248 pages, six chapters. The first chapter clarifies the meaning and scope of the concept. The second chapter describes a historical approach to the concept and the reasons for the rapid growth in its use since 2010. Five short practical applications of the concept are delineated in the third chapter, while the fourth one presents the applied methodology of the behavioral insights in ten steps.

In the fifth chapter, the authors examine the limitations of the method, the areas of validity and the use thereof, and its ethical boundaries. In the final chapter, the future of the method, its practical applicability, and the possibility of its integration are discussed.

## Summary of the chapters

The first chapter contains a description and explanation of the main principals of behavioral insights. It means a kind of conceptualization. *'Behavioral insights can give a realistic account of how and why we act the way we do, allowing us to design or redesign policies, products, and services accordingly.'* (Hallsworth, & Kirkman, 2020). Behavioral insights provide an insight into the possible separation and awareness of our conscious and unconscious drivers. For a deeper understanding of the topic, it is worth reading the closely related and complementary summary: *'Hogyan döntünk? ...és hogyan kellene? How We Decide?'* (Németh, 2022a). It is an important feature of behavioral insights that we act consciously far less often than we think and we much more often

follow guided instructions from the outside world. For example: *'Since people use the presence of a salad as a shortcut for 'healthy' when judging food options, adding a salad to a hamburger meal actually makes us think it has 12.6 percent fewer calories than the same meal with no salad.* (Hallsworth, & Kirkman, 2020). According to the book, these automatic decisions, decisions made on behalf people, also have advantages because we do not have to think about them. But the disadvantage is that we lose control of our consciousness. *'In a nutshell, the behavioral insights approach brings together evidence of how conscious deliberation interacts with nonconscious processes to shape behavior. But it also builds on this evidence to propose new solutions, as we show in the following.'* (Hallsworth, & Kirkman, 2020).

In the second chapter, the authors delineate the development and historical background of behavior insights. They highlight three threads from Western thinking which help to understand behavior insights. The first one is behavior economics, the second is psychology and the third is how the governments think about the behavior they control. The combination of these three threads assigns the validity area of behavior insights – that started to spread in the last 15 years. The first thread is that *'Behavioral economics has an empirical focus on how people actually behave, rather than on how rational choice theories predict they should.'* (Hallsworth, & Kirkman, 2020). Psychology is the second thread within which dualism has been scrutinized which says there are two main ways of human thinking which influence our behavior. One is conscious, controlled and self-identified thinking and the other is the intuitive, unconscious and uncontrollable (Hallsworth, & Kirkman, 2020). The third thread aims at understanding that, since the seventeenth century, the governments have consciously sought to understand and influence the people they govern. The reason for this striving is obvious: if they understand people's decisions and their behavior in certain situations, they can predict how people will respond to certain government decisions. The authors provide illustrative and precise descriptions of the abovementioned three threads and the evolution thereof, which give a clearer picture of why it has become inevitable to deal with the understanding of behavior insights.

Behavior insights are presented through specific practical examples in the third chapter. Firstly, the framework is defined which has three variables: rules, instincts and information. (It is important to note that the authors emphasize that other variables instead of the ones mentioned above may exist. This is just a logical example of how the framework works.) The authors give the example of Germany's switch to green energy. Here, the rule is to switch to green energy at all costs, where three options are offered. The received responses showed that the majority would opt for the middle schedule.

To illustrate the functioning of the second (instinctive decision) thread, the authors cite the prevention of HIV infections in Zambia as an example. Here, it is demonstrated that financial rewards or subsidies are much less effective than handing out preventive tools recommended by experts with local experience among people.

The third (and perhaps best known) thread is presented to show how information is re-framed. For example, research has shown that more people apply to police work when presented with the challenge side of that than when they read the standard 'we serve and protect' slogan.

In the fourth chapter, we follow the specific application of behavioral insights through a job search methodology developed by the UK Job Centre. The developers of this process have set up a 10-step protocol. The presentation of this project demonstrates the wide range of ways in which behavioral insights can be applied as an effective tool for solving communication and social problems.

In the fifth chapter, readers are given a comprehensive overview of the limitations and constraints of behavioral insights and the doubts about the approach. This chapter is divided into three main parts: 1. The practical implications of behavioral insights, both in terms of quality and time. 2. Testing of practical feasibility of theoretical models. 3. Examination of practical delimitability of behavioral insights and the definition of their scope. *'Behavioral insights can be manipulative. For example, 'dark patterns' are widely used to coerce customers into making decisions that are against their best interests.'* (Hallsworth, & Kirkman, 2020).

In the last chapter, the authors examine the future prospects of behavior insights.

It can be ascertained that in the first ten years of the terminology and implementation techniques of behavior insights, they have received considerable attention and have been put to concrete use in several areas of life. But if we want to maintain and perpetuate the future application thereof, further consolidation and stable rule system are required. *'The approach has proven to be more than a fad, but the movement is still in flux; its legacy is unclear.'* (Hallsworth, & Kirkman, 2020).

## Summary

Behavioral insights are definitely very young but already successful communication protocols with a high impact. The great thing about their applicability is that they can be used in a very wide range of contexts to improve public interest and thus human well-being, whether at governmental, municipal or non-governmental level.

Their future success depends on the elaboration of an accurate and ethical protocol and the widespread adoption thereof.

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