

THE OPTIMIZATION OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION ACTIVITIES OF A MUNICIPAL POLICE

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Abstract: Public administration in Slovakia is organized on three levels, one of which is self-government. A local self-administration is defined as a territorial self-government, which is lower on the hierarchy than a regional government. In the Republics of Slovak and Czech, local self-government consists of municipals of privileged entities or incorporations that are attempting to achieve the most secure environment for their citizens. Obtaining this status is possible with a sufficient local budget to form and use services of municipal police. The municipal police force is a disciplinary unit within an area of its territory. In study is the possibility of improving the municipal police of the Slovak Republic. To identify limitations, the Slovak municipal police force is compared with that of another nation exercising activities under similar conditions. For this purpose, the municipal police force of the Czech Republic is compared with that of the Slovak Republic using various indicators. The results show several weaknesses of the municipal police force of Slovak Republic and recommendations are provided to improve its effectiveness.

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Introduction

Citizens are liable to pay fees and taxes in a municipality in which they live. In return, residents expect certain services and some activities for these fees and thus, a municipality is obliged to ensure these expectations are met. Citizens have the right to ask for co-operation to protect themselves, their families, and the property within the village. A municipality ensures public order by creating a safe environment for its inhabitants. Municipalities invest in security in an endeavor to minimize adverse determinants that may tempt inhabitants in an undesirable way. Štofková (2016) wrote that one means of security for the villages is the use of a municipal police force. Where a village has insufficient funds for establishing police services, it may use the police services of a nearby municipal for a fee where there is a contract between the municipalities. This arrangement seeks to ensure security and oversee safety in the municipalities.

Hofreiter (2015) wrote that the municipal police play an important role in ensuring security. From a security point of view, the municipal police set a precedence for a secure situation and an element that ensures favorable conditions for municipal activities and development. The law designates duties for self-regulatory bodies to fulfill in relation to the security of residents and the protection of property. Under the provisions of the law, a city is required to create well-being and protect the healthy lifestyle and activities of citizens. The provisions also require the city to protect the environment. These requirements help to increase the safety of citizens and their property in a municipality. Štofko and Štofková (2011) and Gasova (2017) confirmed these results. Lovecek et al. (2016) indicate one of the activities for police as the founding and managing of municipal policies to help solve offenses in the municipalities. The presence of municipal police in the appropriate area is seen as a preventive action. It can discourage a future offender from committing a crime. As Štofková et al. (2015a) points out, residents perceive a municipality's investment in improving the municipal police services as an advancement in safety and issue of stability that consequently increases the quality of life for the citizens.

Municipal police are regulated under the Municipal Police Act No 564/1991 Coll. This covers the rights, duties, and main activities of municipal police. The purpose of this law is to define the main responsibilities of municipal police, the organization, and the duties and discretions of municipal police members. The municipal police are a disciplinary unit that acts on fulfilling public policy, ensures the protection of the environment, and carries out tasks of a municipality and its bodies with general applications. Such a police force is decided upon by the municipalities, through a general application. The capabilities are strictly limited to within the municipality's borders. According to

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Soltes and Stofkova (2016) a municipality can however enter into a written agreement with another municipality that lacks such a police force about providing municipal police services on their behalf. The main tasks, according to the given law, can involve the following:

- Ensure public order in the municipality, protect its residents and other persons;
- Cooperate among relevant departments of the police force in protecting municipal property;
- Protect the municipal environment;
- Care about maintaining order, cleanliness, and hygiene in the public places;
- Fulfill tasks of general application for municipalities and its bodies;
- Clarify offenses;
- Inform competent authorities of infringements;
- Announce to the city cases of violation and consumption of alcoholic beverages and illicit drugs by a person under the age of 15 years (minor) or 18 years (adolescent);
- Fulfill tasks in the area of prevention; and
- Carry papers where the court so determines.

The municipal police force consists of the mayor and police members, who are employees of a municipality. The mayor is in charge of all duties and activities of the municipal police, organizes the work of municipal police members, and reports to the village chief about municipal matters relating to public order. Stofkova et al. (2015b) writes that the mayor fulfills other tasks according to the establishment plan and the instructions of the village chief. In the mayor's absence, an empowered authority of the municipal police heads the force. A member of a municipal police can only be a person older than 21 years, law-abiding, and considered as an intellectually qualified citizen.

In comparing the individual tasks of the city policies of the Slovak and Czech Republic, it is possible to develop an understanding of the law. In the majority of tasks, these two countries correspond, with minor distinctions. For example, Act No. 361/2000 Coll. states that to increase security on Czech Republic roads, the municipal police are to monitor the speed of drivers. The municipal police carry out such an action only at places designated by police and that proceeds in coordination with the police.

Pursuant to the Act No 564/1991 Coll. in the Slovak Republic, members of the municipal police cannot arbitrarily stop cars. Such an activity can only be carried out where it is essential, e.g., a suspicion of a criminal offense in a village or a city for solving by the city police. The municipal police of Czech Republic, however, may stop a vehicle except in the case of offenses that are guaranteed by law and correspond with competences of Slovak city police, as it was mentioned in the response to speeding in a village. Holla (2017) writes that the dynamic development of technologies is a result of the human desire to achieve a higher living standard. Municipal police could also use the new modern technology to make their work more efficient.

Data and Methodology

Data were obtained from the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (2017) and Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (2017) for the year of 2016. This year was chosen because it is the most recently closed period. In the chosen year that has ended no changes will be made and this is the most recent year for which the official report was available. The number of inhabitants, the number of municipal police members, and the offenses for the individual countries were established. As noted in Kubas (2017a; 2017b), this information was needed to effectively compare activities of municipal police in the Slovak Republic with those of the Czech Republic with a comparison of the states focusing on number of residents, municipal police members, offences and structure offences. An essential step was the examining of the composition of offenses solved by the municipal police in both the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic.

Results and Discussion

Table 1 shows that, although the Czech Republic has a larger population (94.63% more) and a higher number of municipal police members (288.78% higher) than the Slovak Republic, the number of cleared offenses was only about 152% higher.

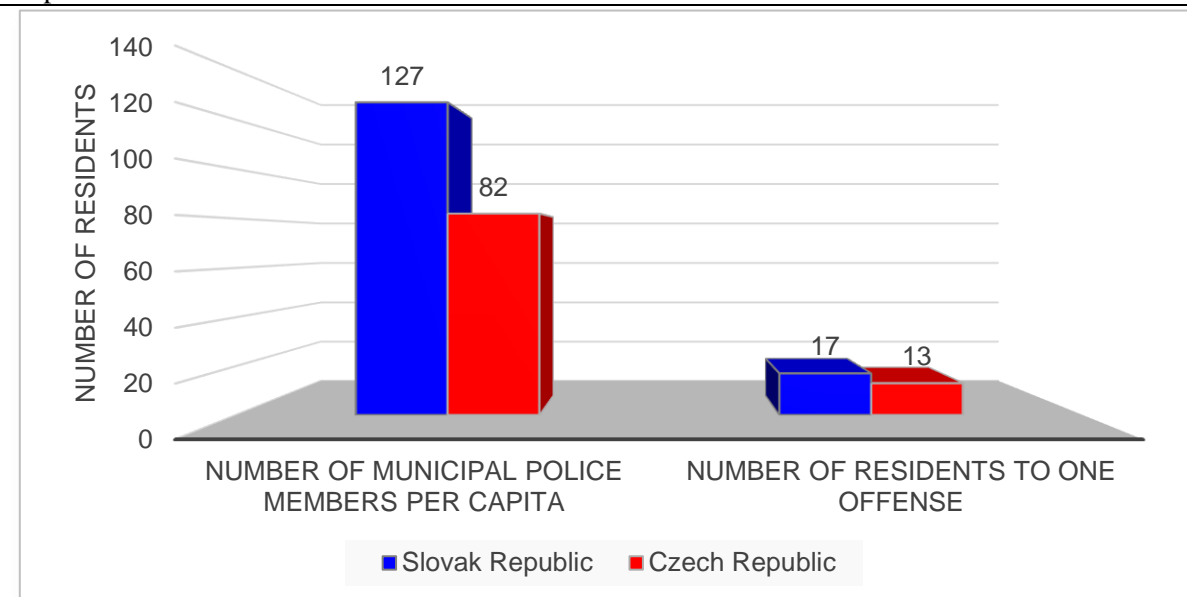
Table 1: Comparison of Slovak and Czech Republic in year 2016

Year 2016	Number of residents	Number of municipal police members	Number of offenses
Slovak Republic	5 435 343	2 523	320 391
Czech Republic	10 578 800	9 809	808 964
Difference (%)	94.63	288.78	152.49

Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (2017) and Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (2017)

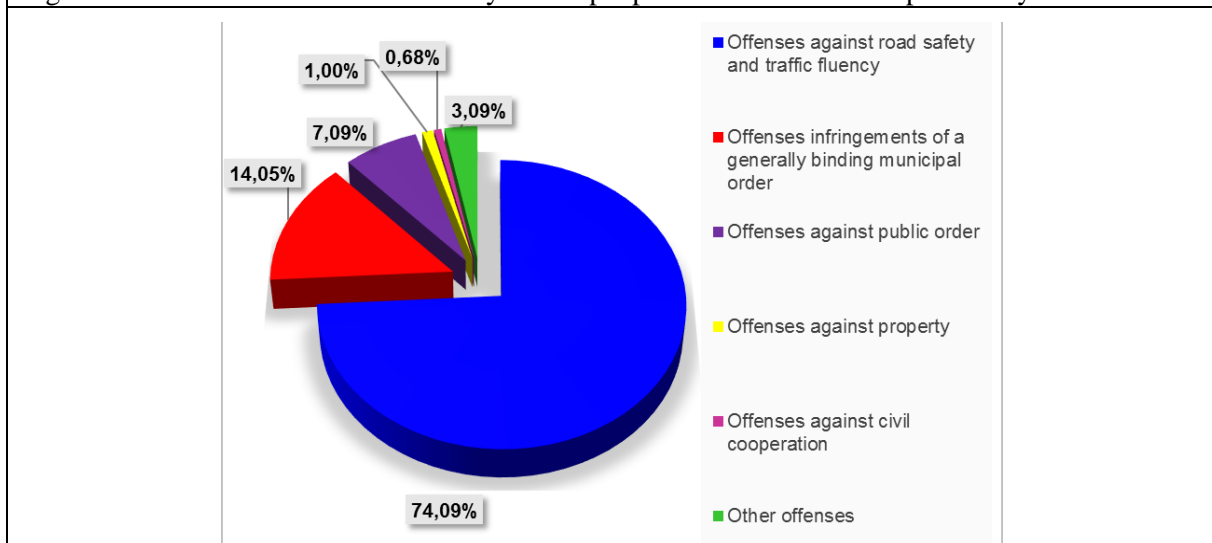
The results of comparing the municipal police of the Slovak and Czech Republics are shown in Figure 1. The figure shows a much higher number of municipal police members per capita and a slightly higher number of residents to one offense in the Slovak Republic than in the Czech Republic.

Figure 1: Comparing of number of cleared offenses by municipal police in Slovak and Czech Republic



Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (2017) and Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (2017)

Figure 2: Structure of offenses solved by municipal police in the Slovak Republic in year 2016

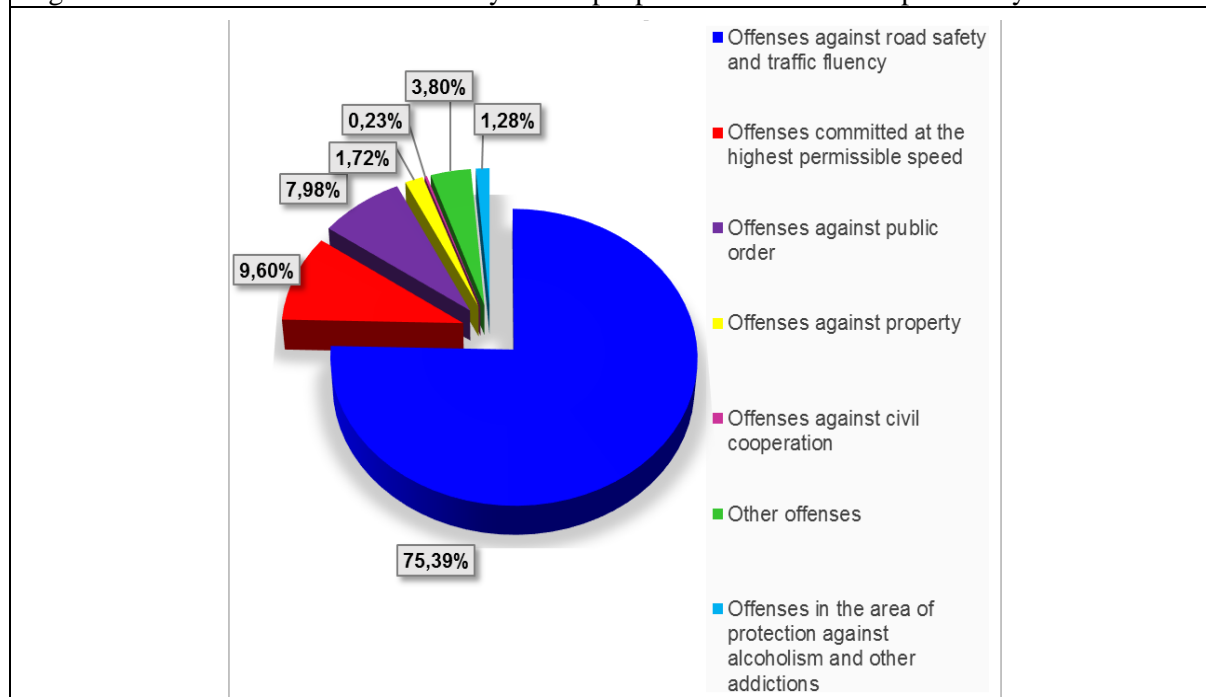


Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (2017) and Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (2017)

Figure 2 relates to the Slovak Republic and shows the highest proportion, 74.09%, of offenses in this territory was offenses against road safety and traffic fluency. The next highest, 14.05%, represented offenses infringements of a generally binding municipal order. Other offenses were in relatively low proportions.

Figure 3 relates to the Czech Republic and shows the highest proportion, 75.39%, of offenses was against the safety on road and traffic flow. The next highest percentage was 9.60% for infringements relating to speeding.

Figure 3: Structure of offenses solved by municipal police in the Czech Republic in year 2016



Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic (2017) and Ministry of the Interior of the Czech Republic (2017)

Conclusion

This contribution compared the municipal police of Slovak Republic with that municipal police of Czech Republic for the 2016 year. There were 2154 residents per police officer in Slovakia, whereas the Czech Republic had 1078 inhabitants per municipal police officer. The results show that there was a higher number of offenses cleared by municipal police of Slovakia than by the municipal police of the Czech Republic. In comparing Slovakia statistics, this number is higher by about 30.77%. This indicates the more effective work of Slovakia municipal police, which is attributed to a higher number of cleared offenses per police officer and a higher number of citizens per offense. Considering these results, it appears the effectiveness of municipal police is due to preventive action and thus, this area has benefits in reducing the number of offenses. The more offenses, the effective this would need to be. Relates with to the quantity, while the successful clearing of offenses reflects the quality of the police work. With preventive action, the police can somewhat reduce the overall amount of offenses. The composition of the offenses solved was also important. In the composition, 9.60% were speeding offenses. Possibly, there is an opportunity to improve this result by the municipal police (municipality are responsible for their operation) collaborating with the police force of Slovakia (State is responsible for their operation) in monitoring driver speed exceedance. This could be funded in the budget as a preventative measure. The nation's drivers would become aware of this violation and know that the police are dealing with more of this type of offense and thus concentrate more on their driving.

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