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## With Applications for More Effective Cooperation Between the Police and Non-profit Organisations and Improvement of the Professional Achievements of the Police

### Introduction of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County

Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County is situated in north-eastern Hungary, the easternmost part of the country. This county is often called “the Gate to East” and has been the Eastern Gate of Europe since 1 May 2004. Its special geographical location and geopolitical situation fundamentally determine the activity of police forces.

Our county borders three countries (the Ukraine, Slovakia, Romania), and this location has both lots of risks and opportunities in store. One of the main directions of migrations touches the county and a large number of foreign, very often illegal, employees are staying in its territory. The county has excellent tourism endowments; the whole eastern passenger and goods traffic passes through it.

Having a territory of 5937 km<sup>2</sup>, Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg is the sixth largest county in Hungary. 24 of the 228 county villages were awarded the town rank. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg has the third largest population in Hungary, where 5.5 percent of the country inhabitants, nearly 573 thousand people live. The county can only moderately keep its population; emigration is the highest in this part of the country. Nearly each fifth or sixth inhabitant of active age is unemployed in the county. Every tenth unemployed Hungarian lives here. Although the number of the unemployed decreases, the situation still has not become steady. A considerable portion of the unemployed cannot find a job owing to the lack of qualifications, which considerably affects the country's crime rate.

The organisation, legal status of the Police Headquarters of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County

The Police of the Hungarian Republic (hereinafter as the Police) are a state, armed law enforcement body fulfilling crime prevention, criminal investigation, public administration and public order duties. The central Police body of national authority is the National Police Headquarters (Országos Rendőr-Főkapitányság, ORFK).



Table 1: Police units of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County

The local police organs, including the Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County Police Headquarters (hereinafter as the Police Headquarters), are police organisations under direct management of ORFK.

The local organs of the Police are the central police stations of police headquarters that are authorised with an individual scope of duties. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County has 8 central police stations, which are the following: Central Police Station of Nyíregyháza, Central Police Station of Kisvárd, Central Police Station of Mátészalka, Central Police Station of Nyírbátor, Central Police Station of Fehérgyarmat, Central Police Station of Vásárosnamény, Central Police Station of Tiszavasvári and Central Police Station of Záhony.

Within the organisation of the police headquarters and the central police station, local police stations may be established. A local police station is an organisational unit with no individual duty or authority, but may be established and terminated by the police headquarters. Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County has 22 local police stations.

In order to realise a more population-close service, 121 of the 228 county settlements are also controlled with a local appointee service.

The Police comprise an individual item within the budget of the Ministry of the Interior in the structural mechanism of the central budget. The police headquarters are a budgetary organisation individually managed.

## Tasks of the Police

The police, including the headquarters, are responsible for maintaining public security, public order, protecting the state frontiers, controlling the border traffic and keeping the order of the state borders<sup>1</sup>. Within their duties of crime prevention, criminal prosecution, public administration and security, to protect public security and public order, guard the state frontier, control the border traffic and maintain the order of the state frontier, the Police fulfil the following duties:

- they exercise the official power of general criminal investigation, perform the prevention and detection of crimes;
- exercise the official power of petty offending, contribute to the prevention and detection of petty offences;
- fulfil the official duties related to the production, distribution and application of certain appliances and agents endangering public safety;
- fulfil traffic authority and public order tasks;
- fulfil the public order duties related to the maintenance of the order of public places;
- provide for the personal protection of those involved in criminal procedures and the members of the authority conducting such procedures, the enforcement of the Protection Programme of those involved in criminal procedures and those promoting justice; furthermore, they protect the life, physical health of very important people with respect to the interests of the Hungarian Republic, and protect the designated facilities;
- permit and supervise the activities of personal and property protection, as well as private detection;
- fulfil law enforcement duties;
- in the case of extraordinary situations, preventive protection situation, states of emergency, jeopardy, and the state of disaster or risk of disaster as determined in Section 19/E of the Hungarian Constitution, the Police fulfil the law enforcement tasks within their scope of authority; furthermore, during extraordinary state, in the event as specified in Section 19/E of the Constitution, they participate in the ousting or catching and disarming of any person crossing the state border with arms;
- guard the state frontier, prevent, detect and interrupt any illegal border crossing;
- control the personal and vehicle traffic, the consignments passing the state frontier, excluding the customs clearance determined in Decree 2913/92/EGK on the establishment of the Community Customs Code, perform the border crossing procedure, and ensure the order of border stations;

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<sup>1</sup> Act no. XXXIV/1994 on the Police

- manage the activity of Hungarian bodies authorised to examine the border cases, supervise the performance of tasks related to the surveying, appointing the state border, the restoration of frontier signs;
- take the measures necessary for the handling of conflicts and mass migration directly endangering the order of the state border and eliminate any violent acts against the order of the state border;
- perform any other tasks specified by law or in a governmental decree, and arising from any European Union mandatory legal act or international agreement.

The Police ensure protection against any action directly endangering or violating life, physical health or property security, provide information and assistance to the needy. The police respect and protect human dignity and human rights.

When fulfilling their duties, the Headquarters:

- cooperate with the state and local governmental bodies, social and economic organisations, the citizens and their communities;
- in cases specified by law, they provide assistance to the smooth conduct of the official procedures of state and municipal bodies;
- support the voluntary activity of local governments and communities of citizens directed at the improvement of public security.
- the Police act impartially towards any parties when fulfilling their duties.
- the Police cooperate with the foreign and international law enforcement bodies on the basis of a separate act, a mandatory legal act of the European Union or an international agreement which aims at preventing international crimes. According to the International Agreement or the European Union's mandatory legal act, when fulfilling their public order duties, Hungarian public officers abroad, and members to foreign bodies fulfilling police or frontier security guarding tasks in the territory of the Hungarian Republic, may exercise police licences specified in a separate act or international contract.

From 1 January 2008, upon the integration of the Police and the Frontier Guards, the scope of duties of the Police has been supplemented with the frontier security guarding tasks<sup>2</sup>, which are listed in italics<sup>3</sup>.

Such activities pursued by the members of social self-defence organisations established to ensure the population's life and property protection that aim to improve public security, which are performed in cooperation with the police on the basis of a co-operational agreement are considered a public duty. The cooperation plays a key role not only in the establishment of the population's life and property security, but also in the effective operation of the Police. Let us think it over how more human and population-oriented is such law enforcement body that listens to the population, asks their opinion and cooperates with the organisations of the society not only on the strength of the law but also for its own development and sincere communication. As

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<sup>2</sup> Act no. XC/2007 on the amendment of Act no. XXXIV/1994 on the Police.

<sup>3</sup> Act no. XXXII/1997 on border guarding and the Border Guards.

long as the Police fail to open towards the society, the cooperation will remain “paper-based” and no life-like relationship can be developed between the cooperating partners. In the past 3 years, the Police Headquarters of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County have taken steps on the basis of which it can be stated that its cooperation has extended and gained new content. In cooperation, application sources have always played an important role. The latter have provided for the financial cover for the daily level common planning, common thinking and common acting. The Police Headquarters’ cooperation has always been promoted by the higher educational institutions taking a role in sciences and scientific education. An eloquent example of this is the INTERREG project, which I present to you hereafter. However, besides the latter, the cooperation of the Police Headquarters and the College of Nyíregyháza has also played an important role in quality management, the creation of quality-conscious thinking at the Police, the organisational self-estimation, the establishment of the Academy of Crime Prevention and the higher education on security.

## Preliminaries of application activity at the police headquarters

Owing to the financing problems and for the purpose of more effective social cooperation, the Police Headquarters Management paid special attention to application monitoring and coordination in 2004. We were successful on several professional applications published by the Ministry of the Interior (today it is already called the Ministry of Justice and Public Order) and on the European Union applications and we were awarded support. In 2004 we submitted an application to the National Centre for Crime Prevention, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Police Headquarters won 2, and 2.2 million forints as a source to realise their crime prevention projects aiming at communication as well as child and youth protection. The two projects were realised in 2004–2005.

Since 2005, we have endeavoured to help the central police stations win application funds, too; the coordination of the Police Headquarters resulted in the crime prevention project of the Central Police Stations of Nyírbátor and Tiszavasvári. The awarded financial support totalled 2,100,000 and 3,100,000 forints. In 2006 the central police station of the county seat and Nyíregyháza Town of County Rank jointly submitted an application and won 4,000,000 forints, out of which the Police used 3,100,000 forints for the operation of the housing estate police module and for the aim of increasing the Police’s presence in public places.

Furthermore, in 2006 we were awarded a non-refundable application fund with our project entitled “For the improvement of traffic safety with Kárpátalja County” which had been submitted to the Hungary-Slovakia-Ukraine Neighbourhood Programme announced under the INTERREG Community Initiative<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Support Agreement no. HUSKUA/05/02/135 concluded between the Police Headquarters of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and the Managing Authority of the National Developmental Agency.

The project is one of the greatest pride of the Police Headquarters, as our county was the first to win the EU application grant and the fields of traffic safety, cross-border cooperation and education are filled with new content thanks to the project. The programme is realised with co-financing by the European Union and the Hungarian Republic, with a grant of 15 million forints and on contribution of nearly 1 million forints. Our cooperating partner is the State Public Administration Office of Kárpátalja County, with the Police of Kárpátalja County as its subordinate. The project has been started in September 2006 and will be completed in December 2007.

## Presentation of INTERREG Community Initiative

INTERREG cooperation is one of the four Community initiatives of the European Union, aiming at the direct realisation of the EU developmental purposes. As opposed to the regional and other structural programmes, INTERREG initiatives are proposed by the European Commission to the Member States, as co-operational fields fundamentally important with respect to the development and cohesion of the entire European region. The European Union determines the funds and the overall objectives of the initiatives. Accordingly, the relevant EU Member States (with the support of the neighbouring Non-Members) submit a joint, detailed proposal to the European Commission for the realisation of the programmes. The normal realisation of the programmes and the achievement of the aims of the initiatives are the responsibility of the common managing authorities set up by the Member States for each programme. Since the INTERREG cooperation has been established in fields not having individual administrative structures, the institutions appointed for this task (programme) act in accordance with the rules laid down in the agreements<sup>5</sup>.

The three basic forms of the INTERREG initiative, which primarily differ from each other in the field of cooperation, are as follows:

(1) Frontier cooperation: INTERREG IIIA

- areas involved: the frontier counties of two (in certain cases three) countries (NUTS III level)
- overall purposes: development of cross-border economic and social relations
- main areas of support: cooperation of small- and medium-sized enterprises, local economic developmental relations, town and rural development, human resources development (R&D, culture, health, education), environmental protection, renewable energy, traffic, information and water conservancy cooperation, legal and public administrative cooperation, etc. (investments and, to a smaller degree, studies, etc.)

(2) Transnational cooperation: INTERREG IIIB

- areas involved: Europe was divided into 13 macro-regions. Hungary (its total territory) takes part in the cooperation in the region involving Central Europe and the Balkan (CADSES programme)

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<sup>5</sup> VÁTI – INTERREG Programmes: <http://www.vati.hu/main.php?folderID=1980>.

## With Applications for More Effective Cooperation Between the Police and Non-profit ...

- overall purposes: transnational cooperation to promote the territorial integration of the European region.
- main areas of support: joint elaboration of transnational developmental strategies, establishment of an effective and sustainable European traffic system, promoting the linkage to the information society, cooperation in environmental protection, the protection of cultural and natural resources, especially water conservation, etc. (mainly studies, concepts, plans, software, etc., and smaller infrastructural investments)

### (3) INTERREGional cooperation: INTERREG IIIC

- areas involved: organisations from all over the country may participate in the programme, and their partners may come from any part of Europe
- overall purposes: development of the strategy and means cohesion as well as regional development through cooperation covering the whole of Europe

Hungary participated in a total of 8 INTERREG (IIIA, B, C) programmes between 2004 and 2006 and could allocate 17 billion forints (68.6 million Euros) to cross-border cooperation programmes from European and Hungarian sources.

Considering Interreg IIIA, this included the following programmes between 2004 and 2006:

- Hungary-Slovakia-Ukraine Neighbourhood Programme
- Hungary-Romania and Hungary-Serbia Montenegro Frontier Cooperation Programme
- Slovenia-Hungary-Croatia Neighbourhood Programme
- Austria-Hungary Interreg IIIA Community Initiative

## The INTERREG project of the Police Headquarters

Our project entitled “With Kárpátalja County to Improve Traffic Safety” was submitted to the Hungary-Slovakia-Ukraine Neighbourhood Programme in 2006 and was awarded a non-refundable support of 15 million Forints. Under the project, our partner organisation is the State Public Administrative Office of Kárpátalja County and its subordinate, namely the Police of Kárpátalja County.



The project which is to be realised serves as a sample, thanks to which not only the frontier counties can make traffic safer and easier to plan but it can be applied at national level, too.

The preliminaries of the project were the letter of intent for cooperation signed by the Ministers of the Interior of the Hungarian Republic and the Ukraine on 6 July 2004. In reference to this document, I would like to point out the following priorities:

- co-ordination of crime and accident prevention activity, paying special attention to the exploitation of the regional and interregional opportunities offered by the “Nyíregyháza process,” the elaboration of data exchange, education, research and tender programmes within this system;

- exchange of experience and mutual assistance provision during the training, re-training and continuing training of the police / militia staff.

The above objectives determined in the letter of intent are followed by the present project of the Police Headquarters and the foreign partner organisation, aiming to improve the frontier traffic safety by using the available intellectual resources, sharing the experience and information, and with the tender support won.

In Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County, the national public road network is 2,095 km long, including 166 km of primary main road (no.4 and no. 41) and 208 km of secondary main road (no. 36, 38, 49, 471 and 491). In 2005 the new section of main road no. 4 bypassing Berkesz village and the flyover of road no. 4911 above the M3 was opened to the public. In 2006, two further by-passing sections of main road no. 4 (Székely and Nyírbogdány) were opened to traffic, while in 2007 the M3 highway section between Görbeháza-Nyíregyháza was constructed next to the Nyíregyháza bypass. The available data shows that heavy traffic entering our county grows year by year. The increase of the latter causes congestion on the frontier roads.

The narrow cross-section road capacity of the existing road network and the increasing traffic burden, frustrate the drivers, who, for the purpose of faster passing, often violate the traffic rules, use improper speed and overtake irregularly. The latter largely increases the risk of road accidents. Owing to the considerable axle burdens, the condition of roads continuously declines, road edges crack, in wintertime the risk of pothole formation increases and longitudinal pavement ruts evolve, which are acknowledgedly dangerous, especially in rainy and winter weather.

When analysing the accident situation, it can be stated that, contrary to other counties, the number of road traffic accidents, including serious and fatal ones, is high in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County. The middle and long term traffic security programme of the Police<sup>6</sup> aims to decrease the number of traffic accidents and the number of people killed in traffic accidents, since owing to their high number, Hungary's traffic safety falls far behind with the average figures of the European Union. This objective is a social task, and, beyond the close cooperation of all protection and non-profit organisations, it necessitates the changing of drivers' thinking.

## Project activities

The INTERREG project of the Police Headquarters is based upon three main pillars that are built upon each other and show close coherence. The improvement of accident posi-

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<sup>6</sup> A Rendőrség közép- és hosszú távú közlekedésbiztonsági programja: <http://www.police.hu/megelozes/balesetmegelozes/altalanos060103/program060103.html?query=k%C3%B6zleked%C3%A9sbiztons%C3%A1g>.



tion and the development of traffic safety have comprised one of the tasks of the highest priority for the county police for several years, to be realised by the establishment of a special Traffic Security Informatics System (KÖBIR) available on the Internet, beyond their own means system. According to our plans, the project will result in an application accessible on the Internet, which shall represent the current traffic situation, the sites of accidents and road blocks on a point map, facilitating smoother and safer traffic of people and goods on the Hungary - Ukraine route. The KÖBIR test mode has been prepared and is available on the Internet home page of the Police Headquarters.

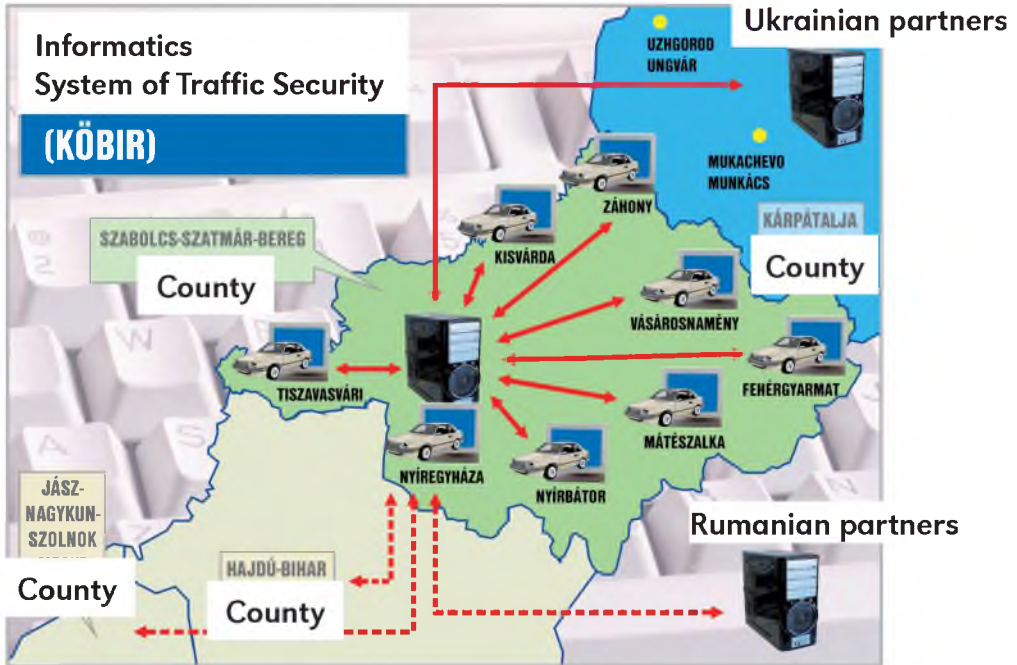


Table 2: Theoretical set-up of KÖBIR

Regrettably, the specialists of the Hungarian and foreign police have only limited opportunity to exchange experience in a continuous and professionally successful manner. The above project enables other organisations than the Ukrainian public administrative organisations (police, road supervising body, disaster relief) to join a workshop series carrying out an integrated exchange of experience, by which the traffic security and public order of Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg and Kárpátalja Counties can be evidently increased.

Under the project, three workshops have been conducted by now, each considered successful by the participants. Beyond the Ukrainian and Romanian police, the domestic partner organisations of the Police Headquarters interested in traffic safety also attended this course. Workshop 4 is now being organised. Although this means the end of similar project activities, the maintenance and continuation of the cooperation will remain our task after 2008.

In the consequence of our accession to the EU, more and more demands arise for the implementation of training programmes that may in the long run ensure the catching up of economically and socially backward regions with the more developed areas. For this purpose, we organise trainings, including the ones under the project, involving the staff of the Police Headquarters of North-Alföld and North-Hungarian Regions, as well as the National Police Headquarters. Thanks to the knowledge acquired, the qualified employees will be able to promote accessibility to tender sources. Up to present, we have conducted three trainings, the quality, the modern managerial management, and the tender writing training, which were held by the higher educational institutions of North-Alföld Region; the modern police managerial management training was conducted in cooperation with the College Faculty of Economic and Social Studies, the College of Nyíregyháza. According to the satisfaction assessment conducted there, the trainings were very successful. In December 2007 a training on informatics-based knowledge base development will be held.

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