

The Hungarian law enforcement education system at the National University of Public Service: the best practice of Hungary

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Abstract:

In Hungary the mission of the National University of Public Service (NUPS) is to prepare the staff of the public service administration, military organisations and law enforcement organisations at bachelor's, master's and PhD level. The NUPS is one of the unique universities in the European Higher Education Area.

Over the last few decades the security challenges, environment and needs of law enforcement organisations have changed. The last 5 years have proved that the NUPS has found the solution to the current challenges. A completely new law enforcement education programme was developed. The result was that this new approach and the vital changes were very successful. We can see the results of these changes. Our students are well educated; during the education and training process they receive all the knowledge that they will need for a successful law enforcement career.

The reader will gain a full insight into the work of the NUPS Faculty of Law Enforcement and the practices and experiences that can successfully be adapted to their own work.

Keywords: law enforcement education; practice-oriented training; policing; National University of Public Service.

On 1 January 2012 the National University of Public Service (NUPS) was established. It is governed by several different ministries: the Ministry of Justice, the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade ⁽¹⁾. The representatives of the aforementioned institutions — the joint Governing Board — supervise and guide the activities of the university ⁽²⁾.

In Hungary the NUPS is a middle-sized university. We have roughly 6 500 students and 300 lecturers. The aim of the establishment of the university was to strengthen national loyalty and professionalism within the Hun-

garian public service. This effort requires strong cooperation between the civil public administration, the military and law enforcement. The joint public exercise that is performed every year helps to reach these goals.

1. Faculties of the NUPS

Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training

The Faculty of Military Sciences and Officer Training is responsible for providing staff (officers, senior officers and experts in the security sector) for the Ministry of Defence. The aim of this faculty is to train professional military officers in the fields of artillery, infantry, reconnaissance, air defence, military engineering and logistics. The faculty is the only high-level military institution (providing bachelor's and master's degrees, along

⁽¹⁾ 2011. XXXVI. 1. §. *Establishment Law at the University of Public Service*, Hungarian Gazette Nr.: 33. Budapest, 2011. http://www.complex.hu/kzldat/t1300129.htm/t1300129_3.htm, 14.12.2016.

⁽²⁾ 2011. XXXVI. 2. §. *Establishment Law at the University of Public Service*, Hungarian Gazette Nr.: 33. Budapest, 2011. http://www.complex.hu/kzldat/t1300129.htm/t1300129_3.htm, 14.12.2016.

with PhDs) in Hungary. It follows the training tradition of the more than 200-year-old Ludovika Academy:

Faculty of Public Administration

The legal predecessor of the Faculty of Public Administration's history is more than 45 years old. During these years, the predecessor institution provided the heads of the state administration. The Hungarian public administration system reflects the good governance model ⁽⁹⁾. According to this model the state administration needs highly qualified experts who are able to manage the change and development procedure in the Hungarian Public Service Administration. The faculty has an important role in the training of state public administrators at bachelor's, master's and PhD level.

Faculty of International and European Studies

This faculty is the youngest at the university. It was established on 1 February 2015. The faculty provides international and European studies and knowledge relating to a wide spectrum of public service, which prepares public service-related experts for an international career. Most of the students belong to law enforcement, the military or public service organisations. The faculty provides bachelor's and master's degrees, PhDs and LLLs for its applicants. The courses are in Hungarian and in English.

Faculty of Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement Faculty — like the Military Faculty — is the only law enforcement institution in the Hungarian higher education area. The faculty is responsible for providing professional staff for the various law enforcement agencies.

- The Ministry of the Interior (the police, the prison service).
- The National Directorate-General for Disaster Management).
- The Ministry of Finance (National Tax and Customs Office).
- The private security sector (the Chamber of Bodyguards, Property Guards and Private Detectives).

⁽⁹⁾ Zoltan Magyary *Public Administration Development Programme, For the salvation for the nation and in the service of the public*, Ministry of Public Administration and Justice, 31 August 2012. <http://magyaryprogram.kormany.hu/>, 21.12.2016.

Within the two main programmes providing qualifications for criminal administration managers and law enforcement administration managers, the faculty offers a wide range of specialised BA programmes such as criminal investigation, economic crime investigation, financial investigation, corrections, border policing, administrative policing, disaster management, public order policing, traffic policing, customs and excise administration, migration and private security.

The full-time and part-time BA programmes last for six semesters. In the future — from September 2018 — the full-time BA programme will last for eight semesters.

The master's in law enforcement management (full-time and part-time programmes) lasts for four semesters. The faculty also has accredited special training programmes for forensic experts and crime prevention managers. The faculty established the Law Enforcement PhD School in 2016.

2. Institute of Disaster Management

The Institute of Disaster Management organises disaster management training courses. In September 2013 a new disaster management speciality was launched, which has three specialisations: disaster management operations, fire protection and rescue management, and industrial safety.

The aim of tuition for the speciality in disaster management is to train talented managers for various forms of disaster protection.

3. Institute of Executive Training and Continuing Education

Besides a gradual education system, it is also among the tasks of the NUPS to provide further education and management training for professionals in public administration. The institute provides 1- and 2-year training courses in various subjects.

The aim of the training is to provide students with horizon-widening, multidisciplinary and deep knowledge. Currently, the registered subject areas are the following: personnel administration in the public sector, municipal finances, government budgetary control, customs administration, election adminis-

tration, modernisation of public administration, administrative software operation, public management, environment administration, public service communication, social administration, equal opportunities and minority protection, forensic expertise and fingerprint expertise.

Management training is an important task of the institute, which can be fulfilled in a modular system (basic module, professional module, special module, etc.).

4. Institute for National Security

The Institute for National Security oversees all tasks related to national security training and research.

5. The Common Public Service Module

The Common Public Service Module is a very important part of the teaching material. It provides the basic knowledge for the public service training based on this module. It includes 15 subjects, which provide possibilities for interoperability between the respective career paths.

The basic task of the university is to change the structure of training and education in order to provide interoperability between the different professions. The 15 subjects cover all of the basic knowledge materials related to public administration (constitutional law, general political science, general sociology, the state's structure, security sciences, military theory and military operation, disaster management, public service function, common public service practice, public financial affairs, public service careers, public service logistics, national security sciences, theory of law enforcement, management and organisation theory). The subjects altogether are worth 30 credits, with 465 contact hours.

According to the curriculum, students have to prove the level of knowledge they have acquired during the first four semesters, summarised in the common module, in the joint public service exercise. During this exercise the students carry out tasks related to some specific and complex problems. Every student does their work as if they were in their future profession. This prepares them to be able to solve diverse problems and to cope with different situations.

6. Faculty of Law Enforcement — law enforcement management MA education

The leaders of the law enforcement organisations and the rector of the Police College decided that the different law enforcement organisations in Hungary do not need an independent police, disaster management and prison service master's education. The aim was to create general training possibilities for would-be law enforcement officers (Varga, 2008):

The MA training programme was launched in 2008 at the then Police College. In the last few years students have been surveyed three times, and the results of the surveys have proved that the training is necessary.

The outcomes of the surveys are as follows.

- About 50 % of students take part in the training programme with the support of their leaders.
- The students are fully satisfied with the presentations and the helpfulness of the lecturers. Participation in classes is acceptable as the majority of students can take part in classes on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings.
- Students were satisfied with the exams. The consultations were organised and helped them to prepare for the exams. The lecturers are excellent and well prepared according to 81 % of students.
- The training in improving management skills and the system of staff management practice were appreciated by the students. In their opinion it contributed greatly to their practical training.
- They are pleased with the local library services. They evaluated all subjects as good or very good and the constantly improved structure of the subjects meets their requirements.
- 35 % of students chose the 'law enforcement theory' specialisation, 31 % chose 'prevention of organised crimes', 28 % chose 'analysis and assessment' and 6 % chose 'public order'.
- According to the students, their communication skills improved greatly and they were more efficient as managers. Their managerial attitude and ability to solve problems also improved significantly during the training.

The number of students gaining admission to the MA training programme has increased from the initial

30 to 80 over the years. For a uniformed officer the admission conditions are a BA degree with a minimum of 50 transferable credits and at least 2 years spent in service at a law enforcement agency.

In addition, for the full-time training programme, it is necessary that the students: have a declaration of consent from the national commander; are in the database for prospective managers; and have acquired sufficient points in the entrance examination.

The training is structured into four terms. In 2012 the stakeholder law enforcement agencies expressed their desire for the training to be modernised. The result was the modification of the curriculum according to the analysis of the MA students' surveys. The structure of the subjects, obligatory course units and specialised ones relating to law enforcement agencies, optional subjects and specialisations, the block of subjects in management and leadership – all are significant during the training, and special attention is paid to commanders' training.

Master's education learning outcome

The students have to collect credit points.

- 120 credits worth of study material, including a thesis worth 12 credits.
- Degree thesis defence: the student is required to apply the knowledge learned in the MA training programme in a creative way.
- State-accredited foreign language examination at intermediate level of one of the following languages: EU languages; the languages of neighbouring countries; two main Romani dialects (Lovari or the archaic Romani dialect). Russian or Chinese are also accepted.
- Final examination.

There are 23 credits worth of study material that differs depending on the specialisations.

The old and the new specialisations are as follows.

1. Theory of law enforcement

The Doctoral School is built on this. Students deal with the theory of law enforcement. There are several subjects: law enforcement theory, law enforcement structures, international law enforcement cooperation, private security, foreign policy, history of law enforcement.

2. Law enforcement manager

The management staff of the consumer law enforcement agencies are trained; training is practice oriented (Kovacs-Horvath 2014).

3. Police support unit

Graduates will be able to organise and direct security at public mass events and organise training for it as well. There are several subjects: riot police studies, geoinformatics, legal background to mass events, integrated and special law enforcement operations, support-unit leadership practice, staff training, cooperation and teamwork, management of protection of persons and facilities, training methodology.

4. Analysis and assessment

On the basis of the demands of the consumer law enforcement bodies this is a specialisation dealing with the risk assessment of the Police and the National Tax and Customs Office. There are several subjects: theory of risk analysis, risk analysis in the EU, information sources of risk management, risk management applications, risk management evaluation, control skills, crime analysis, risk analysis in criminal activities.

5. Prevention of organised crime

There are several subjects: history of organised crimes, social scientific approach to organised crime, legal framework of the fight against organised crime, methodology of investigation, criminalistics of organised crimes, financial background of organised crimes.

These specialisations are elective and they follow the needs of the students and the consumer law enforcement agencies.

7. Employment opportunities for law enforcement MA graduates

Graduate students of the MA in law enforcement management can be employed in the judicial, municipal and financial sectors, and by the police force, disaster management services, National Tax and Customs Office and civilian national security services.

8. Law enforcement master's education in the Faculty of International and European Studies

'International relations in public service' is a new training possibility at the NUPS. It started on 1 September 2014. The objective of the master's is to prepare experts who are able to carry out tasks at international and EU organisations, tasks of international relevance in national and local public administration and in foreign, defence and law enforcement administration. It prepares experts to be able to represent the Hungarian state in the international arena.

There are four specialisations in the education process.

1. International public administration studies.
2. Security studies.
3. Policing studies — this specialisation is preferred by most students working at law enforcement agencies.
4. European studies.

The professional core study topics are the following: international and European governmental and public administration models, decision-making procedures, EU public policy and common law, regional studies and the global role of the EU, security studies, Hungarian foreign policy and foreign service, diplomatic relations law, international relations in policing and law enforcement, theory of management and leadership, protocol and techniques of negotiation, the quality criteria and practice (in Hungarian and in English) of the report making job in diplomacy, the requirements of EPSO tests.

The specialised professional studies consists of the following subjects: law enforcement studies, law enforcement and law enforcement public administration, the management and leadership system of law enforcement agencies, international and European law

enforcement cooperation, international criminal cooperation, the area of freedom, security and justice, European border policing cooperation, European police training cooperation, migration.

Employees of armed forces or officers with at least 2 years of professional experience are able to deepen their knowledge and to advance their career through this master's programme. This programme prepares candidates to successfully fulfil middle and top management positions.

Besides deepening their professional knowledge, the programme aims at developing leadership and management skills. Activities related to leadership, especially in the field of law enforcement, also require special personal attributes and competences, such as taking personal responsibility, decisiveness, and problem-recognition and problem-solving skills. Their studies also embrace the special fields of security policy, policing administration, national security and law enforcement technology, psychology, pedagogy, economy and logistics, HR management and general quality assurance.

9. Doctoral education at the NUPS Faculty of Law Enforcement

Hungarian Police Sciences are appreciated by the law enforcement higher education system. The prevalent opinion is that students need continuous improvement, in accordance with the principle and practice of lifelong learning theory. Police science education at the faculty and the Doctoral School of Police Science will be based on research-based scientific knowledge, and will promote the spread of a knowledge-based policing culture.

The task of the Doctoral School of Police Science is to ensure the provision of junior academics and researchers. It has to be able to provide highly trained professionals with good problem-solving skills.

The research themes at the Doctoral School of Police Science fit into three main areas.

- General theories of policing; history of policing; national security and policing.
- Special fields of policing; EU and international policing relations.

- Legal, sociological and criminological aspects of policing activity, and the importance of criminalistics in the field of policing.

Nevertheless, the Doctoral School of Police Science acts as a kind of think tank, which accepts any kind of high-level policing research.

10. The joint master's training programme with the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training

The European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL) and the European Union Member States prepared the European joint master's programme 'Policing in Europe' ⁽⁴⁾ — consisting of seven modules which were introduced in September 2015 — related to the master's level of law enforcement training. One participant from each EU Member State can join the programme, and it offers an MA in European law enforcement ⁽⁵⁾. The NUPS is not only involved in this programme through the Faculty of Law Enforcement, but also relies on the contribution of lecturers from the Faculty of Public Administration, the Faculty of Military Science and Officer Training and the Faculty of International and European Studies. The CEPOL's joint master's programme 'Policing in Europe' provides an opportunity for the recognition of the NUPS in the law enforcement international field.

Conclusion

The role of the NUPS is important: to train future military, law enforcement and public service experts to bachelor's, master's and PhD level. The experience in law enforcement education is constantly developing, thus the training programmes and the structure of the training have gone through a significant change in the last several years. Nowadays, the requirements of the stakeholder agencies and students are met.

In this essay the reader could get acquainted with the whole spectrum of law enforcement training carried out at the NUPS. The NUPS is a young university with

a management that is committed to international relations, and that is the reason why we are looking forward to lecturers and students for mobility programmes and for cooperation.

Attachment 1

The main subjects, topics of the professional core studies ⁽⁶⁾

- The fundamentals of law enforcement sciences
- Theory and practice of crime prevention
- Administrative law enforcement law
- Civil service law
- International comparative organisational studies
- National security studies
- Integrated social science
- Research methodology of police science

Specialised professional studies

- Security studies
- Law enforcement and theory of law enforcement management (Kovacs-Schweickhardt, 2014)
- Legal bases of the operation of law enforcement agencies
- Development of leadership skills (training)
- Legal bases of international cooperation
- Theory of leadership and management, leadership of law enforcement activities 1; 2; 3
- Principles of conducting police operations (Kovacs, 2014).
- Complex policing leadership exercise
- Leadership studies for criminal police
- Leadership studies in public safety
- Integrated border management
- Law enforcement in extreme situations and states of emergency
- Pedagogy and psychology
- Communication and leadership competences
- Police logistics
- Top-level management of different organisations (police, customs, disaster management organisation, prison service) (Kovacs-Horvath, 2014)
- Current tasks of different organisations (police, customs, disaster management organisation, prison service)

⁽⁴⁾ CEPOL — *Framework Partnership Agreement*, 20 November 2014, Budapest.

⁽⁵⁾ Article 11(f) of Council Decision 2005/681/JHA of 20 September 2005, as amended by Regulation (EU) No 543/2014 (OJ L 163, 29.5.2014, p. 5).

⁽⁶⁾ *Common Core Curriculum Master Education*, NUPS Faculty of Law Enforcement, Law Enforcement Management Theory Department 2013. Budapest, Ludovika tér 2.

- International tasks of different organisations (police, customs, disaster management organisation, prison service)

Optional subjects

- Conflict prevention, crisis management
- EU minority and migration policy
- Fight against terrorism
- Special language skills
- Logistics

- Quality management
- Criminalistics
- Protocol
- Statistics
- Project management

With the modernisation of the curriculum the number of specialisations were extended. The students can now choose from five specialisations.

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