

AGAINST DIFFERENT FORMS OF CRIME - MAIN DIRECTIONS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE FIELD OF LAW ENFORCEMENT IN HUNGARY

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INTRODUCTION

Preparing for the police profession is a complex task for all training institutions, everywhere in the world. The system, which prepares police officers for the police profession, may differ from one country to another, but most of the police officer's competencies should be the same. The tasks of police officer's candidates are similar in most states and police organisations. The Hungarian police training system could be a good practice, as the ten modernised training systems developed have generally proved successful. Police officers graduating from the Faculty of Law Enforcement are fit for everyday work. The Faculty of Law Enforcement has entered a new phase of development. The implementation of the tasks envisaged in the strategic plans does not require significant financial resources and the upgrading can be carried out on a low budget. The changes will be implemented within 1-3 years and are expected to further improve the quality of law enforcement training. Kovacs, G (2017)

The tasks defined by the Dean's Office in 2021 are in line with the Institutional Development Plan (UPS Rector's office: University of the Secure Future 2020-2025, (2020) 36).

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THE HUNGARIAN POLICE OFFICER TRAINING SYSTEM AT THE FACULTY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE SYSTEM OF TRAINING OF OFFICER CANDIDATES

The first stage of the preparation of officer candidates is the acquisition of the knowledge of the Basic Knowledge Module of Internal Affairs (Basic Tasks of Law Enforcement) in the intensive phase of basic preparation, which includes a 5-week period. The majority of the subjects covered in this training are practical skills, general service skills, for example: shooting training, public order, police physical training and self-defence, for a total of 196 hours. (Kovacs, G 2020) After the intensive phase, the teaching of the other subjects of the module continues in the first semester.

For the police specialisations, this course also includes the subject of general patrol duties. After the first semester, the officer candidates take a complex (theoretical and practical) exam. (Faculty of Law Enforcement Dean's Office, 2021).

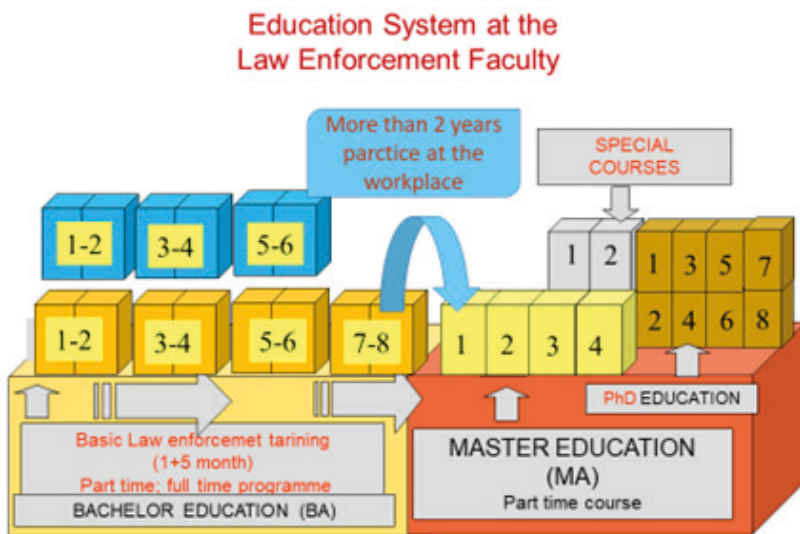


Figure 1. *Education system at the Faculty of Law Enforcement*

By focusing on the curriculum, the University has ensured that police officer candidates after completing the first semester and passing the officer candidate exam, can be deployed to police patrol duties in an internship or in other extreme situations provided by law. This method is useful, as the officer candidates were required to perform practical duties alongside police officers to counter the ef-

fects of the Covid-19 and the Russian-Ukrainian conflict, which required patrol training.

The results of continuous training development have been the introduction of new courses and new training. The training documents for the four-year basic training in the various disciplines have been developed, while the three-year basic law enforcement training has been retained, which provides training and promotion to officer for “talented non-commissioner officers” who have already filled non-commissioner officer posts at the Hungarian National Police.

After obtaining a Bachelor’s degree (BA), applicants can start a two-year Master’s degree (MA) after a minimum of two years of professional work.

At the Faculty of Law Enforcement, it is possible to pursue a PhD at the Doctoral School of Law Enforcement, where the duration of training is four years. Kovacs-Schweickhardt, (2014)

These training developments have led to a qualitative improvement and up-to-date and modern training documents in the teaching work of the Faculty. For each subject, the subject structure and its internal content have been extended and redefined by different competences (knowledge, ability, attitude, autonomy and responsibility).

ASSESSMENT OF STUDENTS’ COMPETENCES AND IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In all training, including officer training, competency-based preparation has great importance. The Minister of the Interior ordered a questionnaire to be completed in relation with the opinions and experiences of command and leadership of those junior officers who graduating in the Faculty of Law Enforcement of the University of Public Service between 2015-2020. The questionnaires were to be completed by the deputy commanders of police forces and all other senior officers. The questionnaire was only to be completed by managers who had employed junior police officers who graduated between 2015 and 2020. A total of 394 people completed the questionnaire.

After processing the data, the ranking of the competences of the junior police officers in their on a scale of 10 gave the following results: compliance with rules, discipline 8.05; cooperation: 7.85; communication skills: 7.34; emotional intelligence: 7.23; taking responsibility 7.02; psychological resilience 6.83; decisiveness, assertiveness 6.60; conflict management 6.46; effective professionalism 6.47; problem solving skills 6.47; autonomy 6.25; decision-making ability 6.03.



The highest scores were given to compliance and discipline, followed by a very good performance in the cooperation competence. The commanders rated communication skills, taking responsibility, psychological resilience and intellectual intelligence as above average. The lowest scores were given for autonomy and decision-making, which competencies are expected to be fulfilled in the field. (Kovacs, G. 2022.1.)

THE CURRENT RECRUITMENT SITUATION, THE SUPPLY OF OFFICER CANDIDATES, RECRUITMENT, ADMISSION RESULTS OF APPLICANTS TO THE FACULTY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Analysis of data on admissions to higher education shows that some young people are finding it increasingly difficult to make the decision to enrol in professional police training. In Hungary, career guidance already starts in the specialised secondary schools of law enforcement, where secondary school pupils interested in the profession can study subjects related to the law enforcement profession. They can take the “law enforcement studies” exam, which can be counted towards their admission scores. The University carries out a significant recruitment throughout the year, which results in a similar overall number of applicants each year.

Table 1. Research on the UPS Faculty of Law Enforcement

Faculty of Law - admission application numbers				
	Year of application: 2021		Year of application: 2022	
	Total number of applications	Number of first place applicants	Total number of applications	Number of first place applicants
UPS Faculty of Law Enforcement (all applications)	3692	1382	3352	1290

In 2022, the number of applications for the Faculty’s courses was 3353 (one applicant can apply for more than one place), a 10% decrease compared to 3692 applications in 2021. In terms of the number of 18-year-olds, the national decrease is 3.2% compared to the previous year, so the recruitment campaign was successful. There were 1671 applications for full-time courses. Approximately 50% of all applicants enrolled in full-time courses. Last year, 1781 applications were received for these courses. The decrease here is 7%.



A total of 287 applications were received for the five Master's programmes (Law Enforcement Officer: 88; Criminalistics (Law Enforcement): 49; Criminalistics (Civil): 26; Disaster Management: 57; Civil National Security: 65; Security Organisation: 36). In 2021, the number of applications for MA courses was 343. There is a decrease of almost 16%. Kovacs, G. (2.2.2022)

Overall, it can be concluded that the Hungarian higher education "market" is becoming increasingly competitive in attracting applicants.

ORGANISATION OF CANDIDATE/STUDENT ROADSHOWS

The coordination of the recruitment roadshows was organised by the Law Enforcement Section with the involvement of the collaborating university organisations. Voluntary applicants, preferably second year students, who are studying at the Faculty of Law Enforcement. These students personally (or by e-mail or telephone) contacted the director of their former high school (admissions officer, former head of department) to get the opportunity to present the courses at the Faculty of Law Enforcement in particular.

During the students visit to their former high school, they take a short film with them including a video compilation presenting the University and its undergraduate courses. After the visit, students fill in a one-page form about their experience of the visit and hand it in to the Head of the Office of Education Issues (by the end of January). These will be used as a basis for evaluation and planning for the following year's visits. Statistically, it can be shown that where there has been a recruitment tour, the number of applicants to our courses is significantly higher.

PARTICIPATION IN OPEN DAYS

The University and the Faculty receive a number of requests from secondary schools to arrange participation within the Faculty. It is the intention of the management to maximise the number of people taking advantage of the opportunities to present themselves at the Open Days.

TEACHER RECRUITMENT (TEACHER ROADSHOW)

In the secondary schools (partner schools) where there is a law enforcement faculty, in addition to the presence of students, we also provide a teaching presence.

In addition to the 2 main officer candidates/students, one instructor who has volunteered and registered in advance and has been selected and trained by the administration will also be present.

TARGETED RECRUITMENT DAY

A personal briefing will be held for the directors of secondary schools offering law enforcement training. Here we offer the opportunity to participate in the Central Open Days and to hold briefings at targeted school recruitment days. During these recruitment days (in December and January) the faculty teachers and students show all law enforcement profession for the guest.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SUMMER CAMP FOR THE FUTURE STUDENTS

The leadership of the faculty for the students of secondary schools offering a “Law Enforcement Summer Camp” in the University Campus. The whole program is strong connection with the different law enforcement profession. These participants can apply on the next year to the different training of the Faculty of Law Enforcement. This camp is very popular among students, the success of the camp is year by year increasing.

FEATURED FACULTY RESEARCH

One of the main tasks of the Faculty of Law Enforcement is to establish a research base in the field of law enforcement. The task is to ensure that as many of its lecturers as possible obtain the PhD degree and subsequently the associate professor's degree, and then fulfil the requirements for the habilitated doctorate and the professorship. (Act of 2015. XLII of The employment status of the professional staff of bodies performing law enforcement tasks. 112. 285-286.)

It is a strategic objective to include adjunct professors with outstanding academic activity in the academic work. The management has organised an eight-session online training series on specific research methodology issues and on directions to promote international academic visibility. The results so far have provided a clearer outline of the kind of people we can expect to see in scientific research.



Our experience shows that scientific (research) work can be strengthened by providing targeted and readily available opportunities for practical knowledge. To this end, the management operates a separate interface on the website, the content of which is constantly being expanded. Our slogan is “Research what we teach and teach what we research”.

The organisational aim is to create new research workshops, which will be primarily integrated into the professional and scientific profile of the training. Kovacs-Horvath, (2014) The Faculty already has a “Research Workgroup in Criminalological Psychology”. A future task is to create a “Research Workgroup on Internal Security”, in view of the interdisciplinary nature of police science.

BUILDING THE BRAND OF THE FACULTY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

Brand building as a priority task aims to increase the visibility (public awareness) of the University and the Faculty of Law Enforcement in both the professional and civil society environment. The objective is to establish even closer links with law enforcement agencies and citizens, using innovative tools and methods. In addition to innovation, brand building naturally also includes the cultivation of the traditions of law enforcement officer training. Kovacs, G. (2014). Main tasks: maintenance of the website, digital and print publications, film production, organisation of national and international law enforcement professional competitions.

CREATE AND MAINTAIN A SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE

Law enforcement training and education has always been of interest to those interested in a career in law enforcement. By running a stand-alone social media profile, we are targeting this audience. Through these short films, we will be able to provide a credible introduction to the public aspects of law enforcement training for those who have not yet decided whether they would like to pursue their studies in law enforcement higher education in the near future. A separate faculty Facebook page is an excellent way to do this, the RTK Facebook page was launched in early February 2022. The Facebook page has been regularly updated since then. (<https://www.facebook.com/nkertk>)



Two first-year students have been appointed as the “faces of the faculty” and produce regular video posts on the page. The two students have been trained and content production issues are regularly discussed.

SUPPORT OF CHARITY ORGANISATIONS

The idea of making student participation in charity events more effective was raised. This involvement would further strengthen the responsibility and public engagement of our students. Through charity, volunteer-based activities, our students undertake tasks that facilitate the lives of disadvantaged groups, individuals and families and their integration into society, thus promoting the popularity of our organisation.

PRODUCE PROMOTIONAL VIDEOS LAW ENFORCEMENT SESSIONS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT FACULTY

The open day system can be complemented by the publication of lessons and special law enforcement sessions in a pre-recorded and edited format, explained by a host. We currently do this work by focusing on 1-minute “reports” with regular posts on social media. These are short videos that are quickly uploaded to social media following the event. These are highly effective communication tools.

TALENT MANAGEMENT FOR STUDENTS, THE STUDENT COLLEGE SYSTEM

The “Saint George College” and the “College of Disaster Management” are the most important elite training workshops at the University. Here, in addition to the compulsory curricula, interested students have the opportunity to broaden their knowledge with specialised professional skills, participate in professional programmes and research. In order to strengthen the role of the specialised colleges, we plan to develop the following:

- making the student recruitment system of the colleges digitally accessible,
- the digitalisation of the student recruitment system to make it digitally accessible,
- the development of a mentoring system (individual support for talented students),

- strengthening the network of partnerships between the specialised colleges (with research institutes and bodies).

THE CAREER OF TEACHERS, THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ATTRACTIVE AND COHERENT CAREER PATH FOR TEACHERS

The current system of career development for teachers is quite favourable. This is coupled with university performance assessment requirements. (Kovacs, G. 2021) The task in this respect is to bring university and law enforcement requirements closer together, examine the necessary legislative sources, and, if necessary, propose amendments.

DEVELOPING A PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE SCHEME FOR TRAINERS

The planning and organisation of lecturers professional practice needed to be reviewed under the competence of the department. The lecturers participate in one professional day every month and once a year they study the daily practice in the police for a whole professional week. The end of the school year all of the teacher is compulsory a one week long field practice. During these practice the teachers collect a best practice of the law enforcement organisations everyday life.

FOLLOW-UP OF SCIENTIFIC PROPOSAL WINNERS/RECIPIENTS

The follow-up of the winners of scientific applications is managed in the scientific follow-up system. The details of previous student academic award holders are entered in the subsequent academic succession register.

ORGANISATION OF TRAININGS, PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR LECTURERS

The faculty organises monthly professional development training for lecturers on various topics. Lecturers choose and attend the courses according to their own interests. Centralised records of these courses are under progress.



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF COURSES

The University's management is committed to renewing the whole system of teaching and learning through the "Creative Learning Programme". (UPS Rector's office: *University of the Secure Future - A biztos jövő egyeteme 2020-2025*. 2020). The University is reforming its teaching with a view to 21st century methods and student needs (small group teaching, reform of seminar courses, use of digital tools, introduction of new teaching methodologies, etc.). All these tasks present new challenges to education and education management organisations.

The introduction of digital technology is inevitable in the modernisation of university education, as the digital world and "smart technologies" are already part of everyday life. Technology must serve the individual, and the interests of students and teachers must be taken into account, while respecting data protection rules.

An important task for the faculty is the development of multimedia software packages to illustrate the curriculum and cover the whole range of subjects, including the creation of tutorials (tutorial packages) for self-learning on the Internet (intranet). The use of digital books will be promoted.

The further promotion and development of teaching in a foreign language (English) is a task for the near future. In addition to the courses for Erasmus students from abroad, it is necessary to develop the provision of courses in foreign languages for Hungarian students. The aim of this is to enable native Hungarian students to take certain subjects in a foreign language, thus improving their foreign language competence.

In the near future, the preparation of an English-language Master's degree in "International policing" is planned.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR THE OPERATION OF THE FACULTY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

In the coming periods, an important task will be to renew the various operational action plans derived from the University Strategy (Strategy) and prepared on the basis of expectations. To this end, it has become necessary to define the following strategic objectives for the Faculty:

- The smooth running of the organisation: the management aims to provide a controlled and relaxed working environment and conditions that provide optimal opportunities for the further development of all staff and students.

- Promoting scientific research: priority is given to research and development and innovation, bringing closer the joint activities of the educational institution and the organisations which provide the training. Scientific research should become a strategic priority for the departmental community in the coming years.
- Tasks of university, faculty image and branding: the main objective is to further increase the visibility and recognition of the faculty in the professional and civil society environment. A key task is to foster close relations with law enforcement agencies.
- Establishing a system of evaluation tests: constant monitoring of the quality of police training is an important task. This feedback is essential to define future development objectives. With the help of the Ministry of the Interior and the Education Office, we are actively involved in the evaluation and follow-up of former students.
- Ensuring the supply of new students: ensuring the number of first-choice applicants for courses is an additional task, which can be achieved by using the network of partner schools, roadshows, professional and open days.
- Student talent management tasks: the quality of applicants to courses now ensures that truly talented students are selected and given special attention. They are included in the university's student excellence programmes.
- Teaching and working excellence: to teach excellent students, you need excellent teachers. A further challenge is to improve the proportion of professors, to introduce innovative teaching methods and to further improve the quality of training.
- Continuous updating of training courses, processing and incorporation of foreign experience: the faculty's bachelor's, master's and specialised further training course supervisors must continuously analyse and develop training documents, incorporating up-to-date knowledge and knowledge material into the training courses. To this end, it is essential to learn from international experience and to adopt and adapt good practices to local conditions, and then to introduce them into the training courses.

CONCLUSION

The Faculty of Law Enforcement is one of the important organisations of the University, which uniquely represents the field of law enforcement higher education in Hungary. The management has recognised the importance of modernisation and is working consciously to meet the requirements of the 21st century. The tasks defined are closely linked to the University's strategy. The implementation of the tasks described is a daily task, the results of which will be measurable in the short term. The ideas contained in this essay may provide inspiration for other higher education institutions abroad to further improve the quality of their courses.



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