

## International elements of police research

**Abstract:** Police science and sciences helping the work of the police finds more and more scientific and professional scholars not only in Hungary but worldwide. However, it is unique that in Hungary police science and police research in a wider sense point beyond police work at a fundamental level, while in other countries they are focused almost only to police work. Owing to this fact, it would be practical to make a distinction between policing and police research, admitting that mostly the latter one is studied on an international level.

**Keywords:** police sciences, police research, police education, Working Group of Police Research

### 1. Introduction

The common borderland of criminal sciences and science of administration is the police science having a past of more than hundred years but happened to be rediscovered just at the present.<sup>1</sup> Having regard to the fact that police science, mainly as an integrating science, is in its early stage of progress the determination of its research subject is widely negotiated. According to Hans-Gerd Jaschke, police science was the science of the government in the 18<sup>th</sup> century since the word 'police' (Police in French, Polizei in German) had the same meaning from the 15<sup>th</sup> century as the system of government and coping with the administration itself, however, it was used mostly in connection with safeguarding the law and order as well as the civil relations.<sup>2</sup> Some authors say that police science includes a complex knowledge which is necessary for chiefs of the police in order to carry out their tasks, and deals with the police as a function, institution and work as a whole.<sup>3</sup> Nevertheless, we think that the research subject of police science cannot be limited solely to the police itself but not even to institutions of the state having right to use legitimate force (in addition to the police, such institutions are the National Tax and Customs Office and the system of penal institutions) and their activity. Not to mention that policing and police – as we saw it earlier – are and were not the same terms. They are distinguished from each other from the one hand in the fact that the police carries out only some segments of policing in most of the states, from the other hand, the police has to deal with tasks which cannot be regarded expressly as policing.<sup>4</sup>

In spite of the above mentioned establishment of theoretical principles it shall be laid down as a fact that in some countries the general professional and scientific interpretation of police science is science concerning police officers or research of the police. Accordingly, such researches take place primarily on the level of the promotion of professional activity. Besides, the need for coordinating police research according to theoretical principles and on an international level keeps increasing. For such coordination an international conference was held in 2010<sup>5</sup> aiming to seat professionals concerned by police research of several countries to the same table up to a discussion. Considering that only ten countries (USA, Australia, Botswana, United Kingdom, Egypt, India, Canada, Hungary, Germany, and Singapore) and representatives of three international organizations (INTERPOL, EUROPOL, and CEPOL)

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<sup>1</sup> Korinek László: A bűnügyi tudományok helyzete. Magyar Tudomány. 2007/12. sz. 1570 o. Forrás: <http://www.matud.iif.hu/07dec/10.html> (time of download 2009. 02. 24.)

<sup>2</sup> Hans-Gerd Jaschke: Rendészettudomány – Egy európai megközelítés. CEPOL 2008. Forrás: [www.cepol.europa.eu](http://www.cepol.europa.eu) (time of download 2009. 02. 25.)

<sup>3</sup> Bodonyi Ilona: A rendészettudomány kutatásmódszertana. MA jegyzet. Rendőrtiszti Főiskola. Budapest, 2008. 48. o.

<sup>4</sup> Szamel Lajos: A rendészeti igazgatás. In: Szamel Lajos (szerk.) Magyar Államigazgatási Jog. Különös rész. PTE ÁJK Pécs, 1981. 127. o.

<sup>5</sup> 1st Working Group of Police Research INTERPOL General Secretariat, Lyon, France. 29-30 June 2010.

took part in this conference, it would be irresponsible to set up a general system concerning police research. For all that, this paper makes an attempt at this, since being acquainted with the practice of some states regarding this matter and being in possession of these experiences it can be established that police science and police research can be classified properly.

## **2. The definition of police research**

The first and one of the most important question to be answered concerning police research is the determination of the meaning of this term. Nowadays it is a commonly known and accepted thesis that – scientifically well-grounded - researches carried out in connection with the tasks of the police are necessary, especially due to social claim laid to the work of the police.<sup>6</sup> These are included in police research or as the proposals of the above mentioned international conference indicated the ‘police-related science and research’,

Inasmuch as the field of police research includes scientific organizations, educational institutions or certain police organizations, the definition of police research shall be considered as an essential requirement as well as it shall be internationally coordinated on a permanently established level. As a central institute, the INTERPOL took the charge of this task, while coordinating the fields of police research of different countries, assisting certain researches and giving opportunity to get to know and adapt the results of these researches widely.

According to the proposals of the before mentioned conference, police research refers basically to three areas: police science (as criminology and forensic science), technologies of police regarding law enforcement, and the practical applicability of the results of research.<sup>7</sup> From this point of view, police research focuses mainly on the practical work of the police, by which not only the police as a whole but the situation of public safety can be taken into consideration.

## **3. Foreign examples of experiences regarding police research**

### *3.1. United States of America*

One of the central research institute of the police of USA is the so called ‘Training Research at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center’ which can be found in Glyngo, Georgia. This Training Center works for eighty eight federal agencies, and executes basic and further educational trainings on a central, regional and local level – at its four American and three international centres. The goal of this institution is to ring to perfection and minimize the effectiveness of the training and making use of certain methods, principles and technologies of research. This is realized by practicing simulations which improves the reaction capacity of the central nervous system to stress situations – ‘train the brain’. Such trainings include trainings concerning driving a vehicle, as well as the improvement of the ability concerning the practical use of weapons. (It shall be noted, according to certain results of the research, the participants are hardly able to recall what they have learned during the training in stressful situation, and indeed, the stress rises before even the situation took place.)<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> F. del Barrio Romero – T. Bjorgo – H. G. Jaschke – C. Kwanten – R. I. Mawby – M. Pagon: Police Science Perspectives: Towards a European Approach. European Communities. CEPOL, 2009. 22. o.

<sup>7</sup> Minutes. Interpol Meeting Group on Police Research. Interpol, Lyon, 2010. 6. o.

<sup>8</sup> Valerie Atkins: Training Research at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Presentation in INTERPOL 1st Working Group Meeting on Police Research 29-30 June 2010. Lyon (manusript)

This Training Center expends care on making use of the experiences of the trainings besides carrying out these trainings. It holds both instructor-focused and student-focused trainings, which differ from each other mostly in the fact that the students are trained in order to improve their creative, problem-solving ability.

### *3.2. Australia*

The Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention (as a part of the University of Wollongong, New South Wales) shall be regarded as the centre of police research in Australia.<sup>9</sup> This centre operates within the system of the University of Wollongong, as a part of the Faculty of Law, and serves as an interdisciplinary research and teaching institution since July 2000. The two main research topics of this centre are international crimes and criminal investigation, including the following subjects to be examined:

- international policing: cooperation, training, fight against organized crime,
- policing and new technologies,
- corruption of the police and anti-corruption,
- international peacekeeper activity,
- terrorism and counter-terrorism,
- radicalism and counter-radicalism,
- living circumstances of organizations of terrorists,
- secret policing methods,
- practice of criminal investigation,
- international financial crimes and their investigation,
- international pollution of environment and terrorism etc.

### *3.3. Botswana*

Botswana is situated at the south side of Africa – surrounded by South-Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Zambia -, its police already recognized the need for carrying out police research in order to reduce national and regional criminal activities.<sup>10</sup> For this reason, a research unit was established within the system of the police. This department concentrates mostly on the following crimes: terrorism, motor-vehicle theft, financial crimes, abuse of drugs, weapons and explosives, smuggling with gold and diamond, illegal migration, forging of documents, and human trafficking. The other side of police research belongs to the police colleges of Botswana which holds preparatory and further educational trainings concerning the above written research topics.

### *3.4. United Kingdom*

In the United Kingdom the tasks of police research is vested in National Policing Improvement Agency, established in 2007 and governed by the Home Office. Its main aim is to provide the police forces with guidance and information.<sup>11</sup> The Agency works together with several research and educational institutions in order to accomplish the Police Knowledge Strategy. The point of this strategy is to provide the police service with the

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<sup>9</sup> Andrew Goldsmith: Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention. Presentation in INTERPOL 1st Working Group Meeting on Police Research 29-30 June 2010. Lyon (manuscript)

<sup>10</sup> Pauline Maloti Gabositwe: Identification of trans-regional trends and needs. Presentation in INTERPOL 1st Working Group Meeting on Police Research 29-30 June 2010. Lyon (manuscript)

<sup>11</sup> Nerys Thomas: Research in the field of law enforcement technology. Presentation in INTERPOL 1st Working Group Meeting on Police Research 29-30 June 2010. Lyon (manuscript)

highest level of theoretical grounding possible which shall be taken into consideration when passing decisions and taking measures. For this reason, they determined such strategic aims as the creating, assuring, sharing and using the knowledge necessary to perform the tasks of the police.

The task of this Agency – where the police services may directly turn to – is significant since it helps to provide the police with the highest level of theoretical knowledge when they perform the practical work. The National Police Library and a research and analyst unit gives assistance to these activities.

### *3.5. Egypt*

In Egypt the centre of police research is the Police Academy.<sup>12</sup> The Academy comprises five affiliate departments, the Police College, the Training and Development College, the Post-Graduate Studies College, the Police Dogs General Department and the Police Research Center.

The Police Research Center was established in 1981 with the aim of organizing scientific and professional conferences, initiating researches, and conducting researches in questions concerning the work of the police. Additionally, it supports the practical tasks of the police by adopting proposals which are based on the state of the art scientific achievements. The Police Research Center includes a publishing house and museum of its own, which are designed to transmit the scientific values of police research towards professional organizations and civilians by encouraging scientific writings and organizing exhibitions.

### *3.6. India*

In India the number one beneficiary of the result of police research is the Central Bureau of Investigation, which initiates researches – especially with the participation of the National Academy responsible for training agents - in order to find solutions for practical problems arising during the prevention and investigation concerning the following crimes: organized crime, terrorism, economical and financial crimes, and computer-related crimes.<sup>13</sup> A further goal of police research includes the development of basic principles which serve as a guarantee for timeliness (simplification and speeding up) procedural actions.

The researches cover both the safeguarding of procedural rights (e.g. use of mother tongue, bank secrets) and the development of national justice. By doing so, they suggest proposals which increase the effectiveness of international – amongst countries, member states and INTERPOL - criminal cooperation, draw up useful recommendations, and utilize the services by necessary tools in order to stop international criminals.

### *3.7. Canada*

In Canada two main institutes must be emphasized, the Canadian Association of Police Educators and the Canadian Police Research Center.

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<sup>12</sup> Tarek Mahmoud Tohami Afif Diab: The Mubarak Police Academy. Presentation in INTERPOL 1st Working Group Meeting on Police Research 29-30 June 2010. Lyon (manuscript)

<sup>13</sup> R. K. Tandon: Best practices in investigation, impediments and future research areas. Presentation in INTERPOL 1st Working Group Meeting on Police Research 29-30 June 2010. Lyon (manuscript)

The first one aims to inspire researches, draw up recommendations for the development of police officers' training (e.g. use of weapons by officials, execution of measures of the police), and to promote the practical use of the theoretical knowledge.<sup>14</sup> The Canadian Police Research Center does not deal only with police research but it expands its professional and scientific activity to disaster recovery and emergency medical services.<sup>15</sup> When the Research Center establishes technology standards, its main goal is to ensure public safety more effectively through the interventions of the police and the practice of measures taken.

### *3.8. Germany*

The primary centre of police research in Germany is the Forensic Science Institute (Bundeskriminalamt), in Wiesbaden.<sup>16</sup> Although several organizations of the police have their own research department, most of the police research takes place in this centre, in the framework of the Institute of Law Enforcement Studies and Training, which constitutes of three main branches like the Research and Advice in Criminology and Criminal Investigation, the Technical Development and Service Centre and the Training Centre.

Usually around twenty experts are concerned by police research. Their work proves to be significant especially concerning criminal procedure, forensic science and the development of applied technical devices, but they pay special attention to challenges emerging from organized crime. The results of researches are published annually, and are available in English as well.

### *3.9. Singapore*

In Singapore the police research includes five main fields, such as the organization, the measures of the police, technology, legislation and improvement of criminal investigation in international (regional) matters.<sup>17</sup>

Regarding these research topics, the Singapore Police Force has defined enhancing operational capability, building organisational resilience and strengthening community partnership as primary strategic goals. The Planning and Organisation Department is responsible for police research, which carries out its work by executing measures, improving organisational system and training police officers.

## **4. Police Sciences and Police Research in the Light of International Organizations**

### *4.1. INTERPOL*

The idea of the international harmonization of experiments of police research was put into words by the Group of Experts on Police Training of INTERPOL, which then became the centre of the co-ordination of international police research. In other respects, the mission of INTERPOL extends even to the assistance and co-ordination of such activities, especially since the primary job of this organization is the technological, operational and data-related

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<sup>14</sup> Curtis Clarke: The purpose of Canadian Association of Police Educators. Presentation in INTERPOL 1st Working Group Meeting on Police Research 29-30 June 2010. Lyon (manuscript)

<sup>15</sup> Steve Palmer: Canadian Police Research Center. Presentation in INTERPOL 1st Working Group Meeting on Police Research 29-30 June 2010. Lyon (manuscript)

<sup>16</sup> Michael Baurmann: The structure of the BKA. Presentation in INTERPOL 1st Working Group Meeting on Police Research 29-30 June 2010. Lyon (manuscript)

<sup>17</sup> Alvin Lee: An overview of Singapore Police Force. Presentation in INTERPOL 1st Working Group Meeting on Police Research 29-30 June 2010. Lyon (manuscript)

assistance of the national police forces. In the future, this kind of assistance is revealed not only through organizing trainings, supporting criminal experts' activity and transferring relevant information but through the co-ordination of certain police researches and worldwide publication of the achieved results thereof.

The main areas of tasks of the INETROPOL and the databases designed for their support determine the possibilities to develop police research. Such areas include national and public safety, fight against terrorism, human trafficking, drug abuse, financial and economical crimes, bribery, furthermore the fight against organized crime concerning the aforementioned topics, and the (fingerprint, documents, DNA, weapon, treasure, vehicle , etc.) databases established for the purpose of fight against these criminal acts.<sup>18</sup>

#### 4.2. EUROPOL

The main scope of the police agency of the European Union, the criminal analysis, can be easily associated with police research. The Europol acts as the assistance centre of police operations, the depot centre for professional knowledge regarding police matters and criminal information; furthermore it serves as a centre of experts. The EUROPOL needs to be innovative in fighting effectively and co-ordinated against international criminal organizations and terrorists. In order to achieve this requirement, it conducts researches which concentrate primarily on different criminal and terrorism activities. Such criminal activities involve drug trafficking, illegal migration, human trafficking, smuggling with motor vehicles, cyber crime, money laundering and counterfeiting.<sup>19</sup>

Ongoing research of the EUROPOL includes social network analysis, developments regarding biometrics (DNA, fingerprint), and increasing the effectiveness of the tools of fighting against the so called 'high tech crimes'.<sup>20</sup>

#### 4.3. CEPOL

The CEPOL, as a virtual network of European police academies, colleges and universities set as an aim to increase trans-border co-operation in criminal investigation, crime prevention and actions taken to keep the public order and public safety.<sup>21</sup> Within these frames, CEPOL organize courses, seminars, exchange programmes, makes publications and establishes electronic databases.<sup>22</sup>

Police research concerns several traditional fields assisting the job of the police. Just to mention some, researches conducted regarding fight against organized crime, document forgery and crimes committed with weapons. However, besides researches urging to follow the best practice, theoretical questions may also arise. The summary of theories concerning the determination of the definition of police science shall be noted as one of the most significant one of such questions. Researches dealing with the selection of police officers and methods of recruitment need to be highlighted as well, since these areas are quite unusual.

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<sup>18</sup> INTERPOL – Connecting Police, Securing the World. Lyon, France. 2010. 6. o.

<sup>19</sup> From: [http://www.europol.europa.eu/index.asp?page=facts\\_hu&language=hu](http://www.europol.europa.eu/index.asp?page=facts_hu&language=hu) (time of download 2010. 08. 26.)

<sup>20</sup> Tom Robson: EUROPOL. Presentation in INTERPOL 1st Working Group Meeting on Police Research 29-30 June 2010. Lyon (manuscript)

<sup>21</sup> From: [http://europa.eu/agencies/pol\\_agencies/cepol/index\\_hu.htm](http://europa.eu/agencies/pol_agencies/cepol/index_hu.htm) (time of download 2010. 08. 26.)

<sup>22</sup> Detlef Nogala: CEPOL – The European Police College. Presentation in INTERPOL 1st Working Group Meeting on Police Research 29-30 June 2010. Lyon (manuscript)

## 5. The situation of police research in Hungary

In the past decades, the increased scientific attention regarding theoretical and practical questions of police work had a good influence on studying police sciences. After 2000, the Hungarian Association of Police Sciences was established, and a little after the Hungarian Academy of Sciences set up a Committee of Police Sciences, these events were significant turning points in the recognition of policing as an independent branch of science.<sup>23</sup> It shall be mentioned, that besides the spectacular spread of police sciences, many researches were conducted concerning the work of the police decades ago. Nevertheless, it is indisputable that these researches can be primarily included in criminal sciences; they concerned mostly the areas of forensic science, criminology and criminal procedure law. Mostly, owing to this fact is why police research, as a terminus technicus, could not come into usage in the Hungarian scientific life to the present day, and the fact that the institutional frames of these researches were comprised of certain university departments instead of police institutions, such departments were the department of criminal law, criminology, furthermore the National Institute of Criminology (formerly known as the National Forensic Science Institute, established in 1960). The central task of this Institute is still the development of theories and practice of criminal sciences, criminology and forensic science.<sup>24</sup>

The situation of research concerning or assisting the work of the police is still not homogenous in Hungary. Similar to the National Institute of Criminology, the experts of different professional fields of the Hungarian Institute for Forensic Sciences, the forensic experts have as their main goal to assist crime investigation and administration of justice by drawing up expert opinions in compliance with the most recent results of science and technologic development. In order to accomplish this job they first have to conduct research, which can be done by attending at professional – scientific and forensic scientific – conferences and the regular supervision of the reliability of the procedures applied during expert examinations.<sup>25</sup> These examinations cannot be deemed to be pure police research, but research – in criminology, forensic science, and forensic experts - which primarily assists the administration of justice and connected only indirectly to police work.

Closer connection between research and police character can be proved by the aims of the Hungarian Association of Police Sciences. Particular stress shall be laid on the improvement of scientific knowledge regarding police science and policing, scientific examination of certain problems related to the police, serving the development of police science and assisting the practical use of its scientific results.

Due to the aforementioned professionally multi-faced research centres the co-ordination of police research in a narrow sense required a separate organization to be established. This organization happened to be the Scientific, Technological and Innovative Committee of the Police Department, set up by the norm of the National Head of Police Department in 2007. The main idea beyond the establishment of this committee was that, according to the demands of society based on knowledge, the scientific and technologic developments and innovations shall become the future determinant of the work of the police. However, it created a unique situation that in Hungary the composition of strategies was greatly emphasized within the scope of researches related to the police. The reason therefore lies mostly in the fact that the basic goal of strategic planning and modernization of policing is – if the undesirable phenomenon of social evolution gives grounds therefore - to be able to

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<sup>23</sup> Katona Géza: A kriminálpolitikai és a rendészettudományi fogalomrendszer analízise, az egységes fogalomhasználat megteremtése. In: Tanulmányok a rendészeti stratégiához. Rendészeti Szemle 2010. évi különszám 38. o.

<sup>24</sup> From: <http://okri.hu/index.php> (time of download 2010. 08. 30.)

<sup>25</sup> From <http://www.bszi.hu/> (time of download 2010. 08. 30.)

reword the fundamental elements of policing function of the state, and to be able to accomplish the modernization or reformation of policing, and lastly to update the police itself, of course.

## **6. Summary**

Police science and sciences helping the work of the police finds more and more scientific and professional scholars not only in Hungary but worldwide. However, it is unique that in Hungary police science and police research in a wider sense point beyond police work at a fundamental level, while in other countries they are focused almost only to police work. Owing to this fact, it would be practical to make a distinction between policing and police research, admitting that mostly the latter one is studied on an international level.

I wish to make it clear that the police research in a wider sense cannot stay within the frame of police work, but it includes the result of criminal sciences, such as criminology and forensic science, as well as the steps of administration and government, and finally the technical and technological innovations, which intends to increase the effectiveness of police work. It is a considerable difference, since in Europe (together with Germany, Hungary, and CEPOL, as an international organization) the researches concern not only the assistance of practical activities, but strategic planning, determination of theoretical definitions, furthermore not only the pure police work but other fields of policing. At the same time, in other developed countries (USA, Australia, United Kingdom, Canada) these researches remain within the frames of police work and organization system.

The scenes of police research are also different. Summing up certain foreign examples, it can be noted that the centres of such research usually belong either to educational-researcher institutes or to institutes under governmental direction. The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in the USA, the Centre for Transnational Crime Prevention in Australia, or the Police Training at Mubarak Police Academy in Egypt belong to the first group. The National Policing Improvement Agency in UK and the Canadian Police Research Centre in Canada are research centres under governmental or state direction. It is quite common that police research is supervised by the departments of the police, just as it is in Botswana, India, Germany and Singapore.

The multicolour characteristic of police and policing research is proved by the fact that both national and international organizations pay special attention to the modernization of the tools of prevention of dangers of society. Several foreign examples are reflected in the Hungarian practice as well, since in Hungary besides the educational institutes and departments of the police, organizations not belonging to the system of the police are engaged in police and policing research. The use of the results of such research may prove to be more effective if they were unified on a national and international level and the results were published not only in the language of a certain country but also in English, or rather, if the international co-ordination of police research conducted by the INERPOL was extended to further countries as well.

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**Kľúčové slová:** Policajné vedy, Policajný výskum, Policajné vzdelanie, Pracovná skupina policajného výskumu.

### **Súhrn**

Policajná veda a policajné vedy pomáhajú policajnej praxi nájsť viac a viac vedeckých a odborných učencov nielen v Maďarsku, ale na celom svete. Avšak, to je jedinečné, že v Maďarsku sú policajná veda a policajný výskum zamerané v širšom slova zmysle, ako policajná činnosť na základnej úrovni, zatiaľ čo v iných krajinách, sú zamerané takmer výhradne na prácu polície. Vzhľadom k tejto skutočnosti by bolo praktické, aby sa vymedzil rozdiel medzi políciou a policajným výskumom pripúšťa, pretože predovšetkým posledný menovaný je študovaný na medzinárodnej úrovni.

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