

## The effectiveness of finances used for safety by the local government

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### Abstract

One of the institutions, which directly reports to the city and participates on tasks influencing the security, is the municipal police. The cities spend their finances for the program of safety, which main purpose is to ensure a safe city. The contribution will be primarily focused on subprogram's budget of public order and security dedicated to the safeguarding of public order, property and health of inhabitants. In this subprogram are the funds of the municipal police. It is very important that the municipal police use these funds effectively in order to try to increase the quality and effectiveness of the provided services. This paper deals with the activities of the municipal police in the local government and its results in a certain period of time. We also include the amount of finances allocated in certain period of time and how the municipal police use them.

Keywords: municipal police, private security service, government, security.

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## 1. Introduction

One of the basic needs of citizens is a sense of security. It is the most essential aspect affecting the quality of life in cities. Security is considered to be one of the most strongly perceived human needs. Abraham Harold Maslow created in 1943 "A Theory of Human Motivation", dealing with a hierarchy of human needs, known as Maslow's pyramid of needs. According to this pyramid, all human beings have five levels of their needs. One of the most fundamental levels, which take 2nd place, is a need to feel safe. There are many attempts to clarify the meaning and the content of the term security (Betakova, Dvorsky & Haviernikova, 2014). Korzeniowski defines security as a certain objective condition consisting in the absence of a threat, which subjectively feels individuals or groups. Dines Mohan defines security as a state and conditions leading to physical, psychical, psychological or material injuries controlled in order to maintain health and a good self-esteem of not only individuals but also the whole community. Viktor Porada defines security status as a system of interrelated and to some extent influential factors which influence formation, development and consequences of social phenomena and have a negative impact on health, life and on other values in a certain society (social system, liberty, faith, property etc.) Depending on how the meaning and importance of security can be understood, it is possible to distinguish the individual approaches to security e.g. attitude towards hazard, threat and risk as a subjective sensation, as the ability of an object to create activities for their own protection, not least from a legal perspective (Belan, 2015). One of the main aspects which influence the security is a crime. Crime affects the quality of human life through fear or personal security. As a phenomenon, social pathology tends to concentrate in urbanized areas (Michalek, 1997). On the basis of high crime rates in cities, the development of scientific interest has stimulated in this issue. Thanks to cooperation with the geography it is possible to acquire some knowledge of the spatial distribution so-called high risk crime areas. A significant breakthrough in geographical research in the field of crime was in the 1990s thanks to the development of possibilities in data digitization and their application in the field of geographical information system. One of the issues is data reliability whether reflect reality or not. Despite the fact that most research work use data from official sources, they will not present the consistent set of data in reality (Stofkova, Madlenak & Repkova, 2015). This situation is primarily caused by the fact that not every violation is reported or officially recorded in the data and that creates space for conspiratorial nature of the crime (Michalek 2000). The city tries to create an environment so that the citizens can be safe and tries to eliminate all negative determinants which influence the security (Soltes, 2015). One of the possibilities to eliminate crime is the establishment of municipal police. There were allocated limited financial resources for the Municipal Police in the security program. In this contribution we will tackle the effectiveness of finances used for safety in Zilina.

## 2. Local government and municipal police

The local government has a crucial role in the self-government system in providing public services and goods. It presents the authorization of regions and municipalities to make decisions and carry out matters independently according to the law and this are also linked with the needs and interests of citizens living in their territory (Belajova & Balazova, 2004).

The local government can be found in two territorial's levels:

- Local
- Regional

The merits of existence of local government are expressed in The European Charter of local and regional government. The European Charter of the local government from 1985 presents international document. It contains principles of local governments as a fundament of each democratic system. By signing the charter in 1999, the main state institutions of the Slovak Republic with respect to local government demonstrate their political will to follow principles of the Charter. Thereby confirming

and internationally declare their attitude to local government, to its importance and place in society (Betakova et al., 2015). In: Part1/ Article 3/ paragraph 1/ of Charta, the local government denotes the rights and the ability of local authorities, within the limits of the law to regulate and manage a substantial share of public affairs under their own responsibility and in the interests of the local population. This definition signifies that the local government has to have three mandatory requirements:

- The competence to regulate and manage a substantial part of public affairs within the limits of the law
- The ability to regulate and manage
- To manage and to regulate in the interests of the local population.

The local government may be defined as a local government below the level of region. It's formed by municipalities and towns as privileged corporate bodies, eventually their corporations. A municipality is an autonomous territorial governing and administrative unit of The Slovak Republic. It associates subjects which have permanent stay on this territory. Under the conditions provided by law "independently manages its own property and own incomes. " The fact, that the law dealing with the municipal system constituted a municipality as a legal entity, means that the law gives this municipality legal subjectivity. The municipality therefore exists as a separate legal entity under private law, it has a private law subjectivity i.e. ability to have rights and obligations in the field of civil relations and administrative law personality, which is given by the powers and competences to act independently and make decisions in the proper relationship (Tekeli, 2014). It is necessary to manage city's finances properly and to work on financial health (Stofkova, 2015). Every city has allocated funds for individual programs. The Security program is possible to specify quite clearly. The program includes police services (operation of municipal police), civil protection (operation of the Department of Civil Protection in the town hall) and fire protection (operation of voluntary fire brigade) (Stofko ,2015) .The increasing safety and reducing crime just help municipal police (city police). Municipal police is a public order unit acting in the urban matters of public order, protecting the urban environment and performing tasks resulting from municipal regulations, from the resolution of the City Council and the Mayor's decision. Municipal police has been established and abolished by generally binding regulation of the city. Chief of municipal police at the proposal of the Mayor is appointed and recalled by the City Council (Act no. 564/1991 Coll.).

#### Duties and Responsibilities of Municipal Police:

- a) Ensuring public order in the municipality, cooperation in protecting its citizens and other persons in the municipality against threats of their life and health
- b) Cooperates with relevant departments of the Police Force in protecting municipal property, property of citizens as well as other property in the city/town from damage, destruction, loss or abuse and with the assistance of Central Office providing alerting and other security systems (central security desk)
- c) Protects the environment in the city/town
- d) Cares about maintaining order, cleanliness and hygiene in the streets, public places and other public places
- e) Performs generally binding municipal/city regulation, resolution of the municipal council and the mayor's decision
- f) Clarifies offenses according to the law, imposes fines and penalty payments provided for by a special regulation and also for offenses against the safety and flow of traffic committed by disobeying the traffic sign or traffic control device, resulting from adjustments made by road traffic signs or transport equipment (no stopping or standing, L/R turn prohibited, U-turn

prohibited, no entry, compulsory ahead only, parking reserve, pedestrian zone, living street, school zone, limited traffic zone, parking..)

- g) Informs competent authorities of infringements detected in the performance of their tasks and whose solution is outside the scope of the city
- h) Announces the city in the case of violation a consumption of alcoholic beverages and other drugs by person under the age of 15(minor) or 18(adolescent)
- i) Fulfils tasks in the area of prevention in the scope stipulated by this Act.

Other duties may be defined by the city for the municipal police if it is stipulated in the special legislation (Act no. 564/1991 Coll.).

### **3. Used finances for safety with the assistance of municipal police**

Municipal Police Zilina was established by The City Council in Zilina on the 11th of December 1990, concluded within the meaning of provision of Section 10 of paragraph 2 Act No. 369/1990 Coll. of Municipal Establishment, as an authority of City Council. There were first employees recruited in April 1991. Municipal Police in Zilina began its activities in July 1991. Municipal Police Act came into force on the 1st of January in 1992 and specifically regulated the duties, organization, management and representation, tasks, responsibilities and permissions of the municipal police. In dealing with offenses, members of the municipal police proceed in accordance with the law of Slovak National Council no. 372/1990 Coll. On offences. Since its inception, municipal police officers have been working in continuous operation. There was walking petrol carried out in various parts of the city from the very beginning. There were also two motorcycle patrols to keep watch over the more remote urban and suburban areas. These two motopatrols conducted local raids after reporting requirements of residents. In 1992, the city had 44 police officers (Formation and history of Municipal Police Zilina.). In 2014, the municipal police had 78 members, ten less than last year. The total budget of city Zilina in 2014 was 73 789 551 €. The amount 1778 538, 76 € was allocated for the Security program (Safe City). This amount corresponds to 2, 41% (i.e. 21, 26 €) per one resident from the whole budget. Municipal Police of Zilina was responsible for the sub-program: public order and security. This sub-program aims to protect public order, health and property of citizens. The sub-program can be understood as an activity focused on complex work as a complex security protection and public order in the city of Zilina (compliance VZN city, checking for public order, cleanliness, to help to set the protection of people and other persons against threats, protection of life, health and environment, fulfilment of the set tasks in the field of prevention (Annual financial report of Zilina, 2014).

Table 1. Sub-program Public order and security (Annual financial report of 2014)

Year 2014		Budget after the 5th change	Real numbers to date 31.12.2014	% compliance
The Overall budget of sub-program (in €)		1 744 465	1 735 555,48	99,49
Aim	Measurable indicator	Target value	Real numbers to 31.12.2014	% compliance
The stabilization of number of municipal police members	Number of municipal police members	78	78	100
Clarifying the delinquency/status offences	Number of detected offences	18 200	20 599	113,18
Improving active safety of children on roads	Number of organized crossing	12	12	100
Increasing the passive safety of infants and children	Lectures on traffic education – overall number of children	1300	3765	289,62
	number of taught lectures	150	255	170
Cooperation with the Police Force of the Slovak republic on the project "Behave in a normal way"	Number of children	121	121	100
	number of hours	35	27,5	78,57
	number of lecturers	5	5	100
Monitoring of public space by security cameras in order to prevent illegal activity in the city	Number of security cameras	41	64	156,10
Ensure the implementation of the Waste Act	Number of removed vehicles	40	62	155,00
	number of detected landfills	20	22	110,00

The Assessment of compliance measurable indicators of the budget of 2014: The stabilization of number of municipal police members: In 2014 it was planned number of Municipal Police Zilina 78 people. This planned number was fulfilled. The primary duty of members of the Municipal police is to increase the security of citizens and visitors as well as to increase protection of the city and its citizens. Clarifying the delinquency/status offences: During the year 2014 were identified 20,623 violations, 24 violations from this number were later reclassified as a crime. Improving active safety of children on roads: During early mornings the members of municipal police patrolled in the areas near schools, especially where pedestrian crossing are located. It was selected 12 crosswalks. Increasing the passive safety of infants and children was provided through lectures on safety and behaviour of children in a variety of traffic situations with the application of received knowledge on the traffic playground municipal police in Zilina. In 2014, 3,765 children took part in training traffic education including 3,101 primary school pupils and 664 children from nursery schools. Cooperation with the Police Force of the Slovak republic on the project "Behave in a normal way": In 2014, the municipal police will carry on working on this project that it is designed for fifth grade students of primary schools. The coordinator of this project is the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic, which determines the number of students for the elements participating in the project. In 2014 the project was attended by 121 students of 5th graders. Monitoring the public space by security cameras in order to prevent illegal activity in the city to complete II. and III. phases of the project "Modernization of the camera system" at the end of 2014 for that municipal police provided for the operation 64 security cameras installed in the old town of Zilina, mostly in the pedestrian zone where the largest number of residents and

visitors are concentrated (neighbourhoods Hliny, Vlcince and Solinky). Ensure the implementation of the Waste Act: The aim of this step is to find out the unauthorized junkyard and the people responsible for. The other activity was the detection of long-term stationary vehicles, so-called wrecks in the city. It was found 62 wrecks and 22 illegal landfills (Annual report of Zilina in 2014).

In the table below we have tried to point out the budgets for the years 2010-2014. We also chose some measurable indicators, which are closely linked with each other and for the citizens should be an element of the monitoring of the situation in the city and the evidence of using the allocated money for security. In figure 1 we have tried to show in a clear chart tendency of committing offences. In figure 2 is a graphical comparison of the number of municipal policemen and the number of security cameras.

Table 2. Used finances in years 2010-2014(own processing according to the reports of Zilina city)

Year	Budget	Offences	Number of municipal police members	Security cameras
2010	1 698 969,16	22 545	91	11
2011	1 672 273,28	25 781	85	10
2012	1 633 025,18	23 209	86	17
2013	1 709 874,93	23 180	88	41
2014	1 735 555,48	20 599	78	64

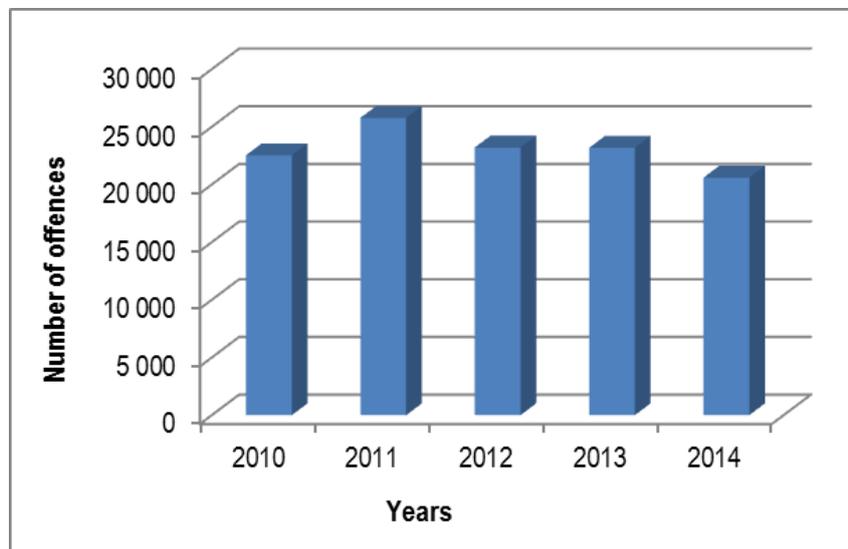


Figure 1. Graph Development of number of offences in years 2010-2014(own processing according to the reports of Zilina city)

Figure 1 refers to a decreasing tendency of committing offences from 2011 to 2014.

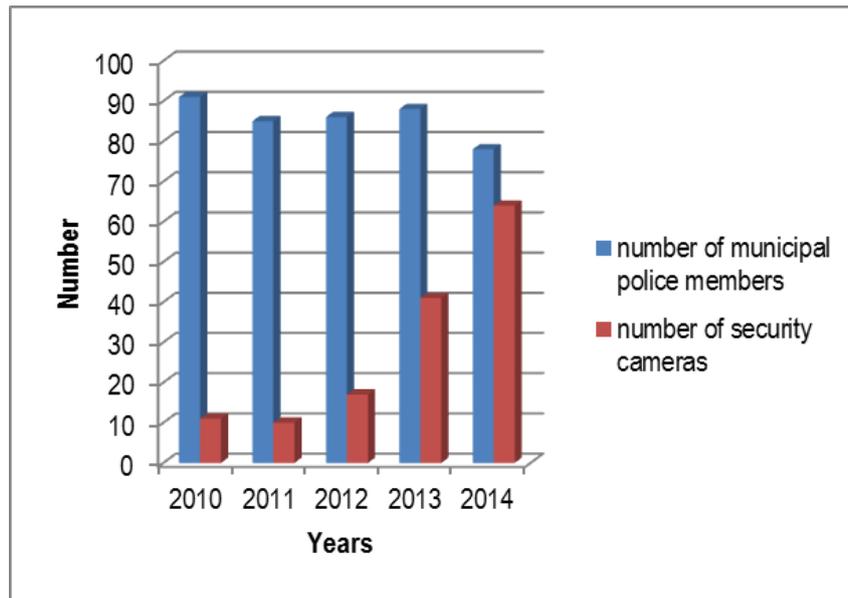


Figure 2. Graph the Development of number of the municipal police members and the number of cameras of city video surveillance system (own processing according to the report of Zilina city)

Figure 2 compares the number of municipal policeman and the number of security cameras in years 2010-2014.

#### 4. Summary

In this contribution we tried to point out effectiveness of allocated finances on security. We concentrated on the certain city Zilina where we mentioned the influence of Municipal Police on security. Thanks to comparing certain indicators we found out whether the allocated finances were used effectively. In this topic we concentrated on year 2014 because of its accuracy according to the annual financial report of Zilina city. We tried to compare the effective using of finances during period 2010-2014. The main indicator was the number of offences. For this monitored period was the highest number of offences in 2011. In the same year was the lowest number of members of municipal police and also the least installed security cameras. Between 2012 and 2013 the number of security cameras and the number of municipal police members increased. In 2014 the number of municipal police members decreased but the number of security cameras was higher. Since 2011 the number of offences has been in decline. A higher number of security cameras and municipal policemen make the process of detecting offences easier and faster. A higher number of offences are a preventive measure to reduce committing offences. The citizens are aware of the fact that the city is monitored and in case of breaking the law they would be revealed. Exactly the same approach used the Municipal Police in 2014 and increased the number of security cameras so now it is easy to monitor localities of the city using lower number of municipal police patrols. This step leads to saving of resources because there is a minimum operating cost of a security camera. In the long term perspective it is a necessary and highly effective investment.

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