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Interaction between Police and Society as Basis for Combating Crime: Analysis of Ukrainian and Foreign Experience

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The purpose of the article is to determine the role and significance of the interaction between the police and society as the main factor in combating crime, taking into account Ukrainian and foreign legislation, different opinions of scholars and empirical data.

Theoretical Framework: The theoretical basis for this study is the Swedish concept of "community policing," the French model of "police de proximité," as well as other socially-oriented models of policing from developed foreign countries.

Method: The methodological basis of the research is the following methods: comparative and legal, formal and legal, system analysis, interpretive, analysis and synthesis.

Results and Discussion: The existing concepts of interaction between the police and society in the context of combating crime have been characterized. The essence of such legal categories as “crime combating”, “interaction between police and society”, “modern concepts” has been revealed and their characteristic has been carried out. The problems of forming and implementing modern concepts of interaction between the police and society in combating crime in Ukraine have been studied.

Contributions: A conclusion regarding the effectiveness of various models of the interaction between the police and society in combating crime has been made. The experience of some foreign countries regarding the interaction between the police and society has been analyzed in order to implement the best practices in combating crime into the national legislation. Optimal recommendations regarding the possibilities of adapting foreign experience into Ukraine have been offered, taking into account the current legislation and positive international experience in this area of legal relations.

Keywords: police reform, public monitoring, social partnership, between the police and society, crime combating, problem-oriented approach within policing.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The relevance of studying the problem of crime combating has increased significantly in the modern conditions of globalization, social changes and the emergence of new threats to public security. Successful law enforcement is impossible without effective interaction between the police and society, which is the key element in modern concepts of law enforcement activity.

The study of foreign experience and its adaptation into national conditions is particularly important in the context of reforming the law enforcement system of Ukraine. The implementation of modern concepts of the interaction between the police and society in Ukraine can become an important factor in fighting against crime, ensuring law and order and protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens.

It is well-known that the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" (Law of Ukraine No. 580-VIII, 2015) entered into force in Ukraine on November 7, 2015. It was the starting point for reforming the internal affairs agencies by the means of creating a new law enforcement institution – the police. The main tasks of this reform were: strengthening the interaction between the police and population, implementing the concepts of social partnership between the police and society, which are common in developed countries, as well as increasing the effectiveness of the police. The indicated efficiency assumes a socially approved level of public security, as well as law and order at all levels of the society's structure, high satisfaction of the population with the work of police agencies and trust in them, which is the basis for further construction of a rule of law in Ukraine.

The effectiveness of the police can only be currently achieved due to its close interaction with civil society and the population. This idea is enshrined in the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police". However, it is necessary to implement the following measures for its implementation: 1) involvement of citizens and public associations into the implementation of state policy in the

field of public order protection, public safety and crime prevention; 2) participation in the development and consideration of concepts, programs, initiatives of public associations and citizens on the most urgent issues of policing; 3) public examination of draft laws and other regulatory legal acts on police issues; 4) discussion of issues related to policing in mass media; 5) implementation of public control over police activities (public control over police activities cannot be applied in terms of the martial law).

However, achieving a positive result from the implementation of the listed measures is possible only under the conditions of simultaneously increasing the level of trust of citizens both in the National Police and in the entire law enforcement system of Ukraine. We believe that it requires a comprehensive scientific analysis of the retrospective national and modern international experience of police reform, taking into account the socio-legal and spiritual and moral conditions of the development and formation of civil society in Ukraine, analyzing the effectiveness of existing and new forms of cooperation between the police and public.

Modern concepts of the interaction between the police and society will be analyzed in this article; the experience of foreign countries, such as the USA, France, Sweden, Japan and others will be studied; as well as assessment of the perspectives for their implementation in Ukraine will be provided. Particular attention is paid to the issues of adapting foreign experience to the conditions of Ukrainian society, taking into account cultural, social and legal features.

2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Many scientific works have been focused on studying the problems of the interaction between the police and society in Ukraine in general and while combating crime, in particular. Thus, V. Sevruk (2017) in his article has analyzed the state of ethnic crime on the territory of Ukraine, has studied specific areas of the National Police of Ukraine counteraction to crimes committed by organized groups and criminal organizations formed on an ethnic basis, and has also highlighted some of their psychological specific features.

E. Zozulya (2022) has noted in his scientific publication that the National

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Police of Ukraine faces new challenges in modern conditions, which are aimed at their effective performance of tasks in terms of the martial law. The scientist has emphasized the importance of further development of international cooperation of the National Police agencies with the relevant agencies of other countries and international organizations. We would like to note that this area of cooperation is relevant at the current stage of state formation, because Ukraine is resisting military aggression from the Russian Federation.

A. Fedorova (2020) in her research has revealed the basics of the interaction between the police and civil society in Ukraine. The scientist has suggested to create such a partnership model of the interaction, where the population both participates directly in keeping public order and timely informs the police about all situations that may threaten it in order to increase the effectiveness of police activities. The suggestion to create public councils within the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and its territorial agencies was one of the important areas of the interaction. The main function of such councils is to mediate between the state and civil society in order to ensure coordination of socially significant interests to maintain law and order and public safety.

Theoretical and applied problems of public participation in crime prevention were studied in the monograph of V. Golina et all. (2017). The authors of this monograph: emphasized the role of the public, which it plays in the field of crime prevention; determined the place of the public in implementing the criminological policy of the state; researched the main forms and indicators of the work of the public in preventing crimes in Ukraine; analyzed international experience of public participation in crime prevention and the possibility of its application in Ukraine, etc.

Therefore, the cited publications of scholars became the theoretical basis for conducting this research. Since their authors thoroughly analyzed the problems of the interaction between the police and civil society. However, the issue of combating crime by the police and the public under the conditions of their close cooperation and partnership during the armed attack of the Russian Federation on Ukraine has been still not enough studied. However, solving at least part of the existing problems within scientific and practical plane will

contribute to increasing the level of counteracting criminal offenses and ensuring the protection of law and order.

Thus, the purpose of the research is to determine the role and significance of the interaction between the police and society as the main factor in combating crime, based on the analysis of the ongoing reform of the National Police in Ukraine and taking into account the effect of the martial law regime.

3 METHODOLOGY

General scientific and special legal methods of scientific cognition were used in the research process.

Used general scientific methods included the following: analysis, synthesis, analogy, generalization, etc. Thus, the method of analysis made it possible to consider certain components of the research and to determine their characteristics. The application of the method of synthesis assisted to systematize the obtained data and to make conclusions and generalizations on their basis. The method of analogy made it possible to draw a conclusion about the similarity of legal systems based on similar features. The method of generalization contributed to the understanding of the subject matter as a complex structure, where all elements interact with each other.

Regarding specifically legal methods of scientific cognition, the article is focused on various types of scientific analysis. Legal analysis, comparative and legal analysis, analysis of law enforcement agencies' practice, document analysis and epistemological method were used.

Thus, the legal analysis made it possible to study the legislation regulating relations between the police and society in regard to the joint performance of law enforcement functions.

The comparative analysis contributed to the study of the practice of implementing partnership relations between the police and society in different countries and to the definition of standard and distinctive features. The analysis of the practice of relations between law enforcement agencies and society assisted in studying specific partnership relations in fighting against crime in

order to identify and eliminate the gaps. The application of the method of documentary analysis made it possible to study scientific works, legislative acts and other documents containing information on combating crime during the interaction of the police and community, taking into account domestic and foreign experience.

The application of the epistemological method made it possible to clarify the content of partnership relations between the police and community; the logical-semantic method helped to deepen the conceptual apparatus and to reveal the importance of combating crime at the current stage of social development.

The analysis of the experience of developed countries made it possible to determine that the success of implementing a socially-oriented model of police activity is largely ensured by political and historical, as well as socio-cultural aspects.

4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Theoretical bases of combating crime and interaction between the police and society

The objective need of Ukrainian society, which is building a rule of law state, is crime combating (Law of Ukraine No. 1697-VII, 2022, Art. 1). One of the main areas of such combating is the prevention of crime, elimination of the causes, conditions and other factors that generate it and contribute to its various manifestations. The above mentioned creates real prerequisites for the gradual strengthening of public security and law and order in the state and the reduction of the scale of crime (Sokurenko, V., 2018).

One of the tasks of the police according to paragraph 3, Part 1 of the Art. 2 of the Law of Ukraine “On the National Police” is the provision of police services in the field of combating crime (Law of Ukraine No. 580-VIII, 2015). Combating crime is the system of certain types of activities and complex measures (carried out by society and the police), whose purpose is to prevent, eliminate, limit and neutralize the factors that encourage a person to commit offenses.

Police activities according to Part 1 of the Art. 11 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" are carried out in close cooperation and interaction with the population, territorial communities and public associations on the basis of partnership and are aimed at meeting their needs (Law of Ukraine No. 580-VIII, 2015). At the same time, interaction should be understood as the mutual influence of subjects, which is carried out with the help of specific activity, which is based on certain actions oriented towards other people, affect their life activities, interests and cause a reaction in return.

The following features of the interaction between the police and community can be distinguished:

1) interaction is the coordinated activity of different subjects who perform joint actions. It is the main feature of interaction, because it fundamentally affects joint actions uniting them into a single whole – a system;

2) multi-subjectivity of the interaction. It involves the participation of at least two parties in joint coordinated actions. At the same time, each of these parties can be represented by several participants;

3) the unity of efforts of its subjects, which determines the relationship of cooperation between them. The latter are determined by the common goals and interests of the interacting parties, as well as the tasks and solutions derived from them;

4) interaction can take place at the initiative of at least one of the parties, because the only need for the interaction is not enough;

5) the equality of the parties, their independence from each other in a subordinate relationship due to the fact that the interaction implies a mutual (partnership) nature of relations, and the latter, being mutual relations, are carried out within the framework of cooperation;

6) legitimacy of the interaction.

There is still no official document in Ukraine that would regulate the interaction of civil society with the National Police. But there is such a regulation in some regulatory legal acts. They are: the Art. 36 of the Constitution of Ukraine (Law of Ukraine No. 1697-VII, 2022), the Articles 11, 88 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" (Law of Ukraine No. 580-VIII, 2015), the Art.1 of the Law of Ukraine "On the Participation of Citizens in the

Protection of Public Order and the State Border" (Law of Ukraine No. 1835-III, 2000, Section I), Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine "On Approval of Instructions on the Organization of the Activities of District Police Officers" (Order No. 650, 2017) and the Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs "On Approval of Instructions on the Organization of the Work of Juvenile Prevention Units of the National Police of Ukraine". They specificate the procedure of police interaction with the public (Order No. 1044, 2017).

Public monitoring is the key aspect of transformations carried out by the state. Controlling and coordinating functions of police activities are carried out due to this aspect, the effectiveness and efficiency of this activity is stimulated, as well as its compliance with the expectations and needs of the population.

Public opinion research on the activities of state agencies, including the police, has been conducted since the adoption of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" (Law of Ukraine No. 580-VIII, 2015). The population's attitude towards the reform of the Ministry of Internal Affairs was initially skeptical: according to the results of the survey conducted in 2015, most citizens believed that the police would continue to work in the same manner after the adoption of the new Law. Subsequent annual surveys demonstrated slow growth dynamics in the number of citizens confident in their protection from criminal encroachments (Telychkin, 2016).

At the same time, the level of trust in the National Police had positive dynamics starting from 2016. An example can be a sociological survey conducted by the analytical portal "Slovo i Dilo". Thus, the highest level of mistrust in the National Police among Ukrainians was in the fall of 2016 – 63.5% (only 24.6% trusted it). Over the year, the level of trust in the police increased up to 39.3%, but it was still distrusted by more than 46.2% of citizens. More than half of Ukrainians did not trust the National Police in June 2018. The level of trust in the police had risen sharply to 46.1% by October 2019. But Ukrainians' trust in the police had weakened by the mid-summer 2020. The level of distrust in the police has reached almost 60%. The last pre-war poll, conducted in the summer of 2021, showed that 38.5% of citizens trust in the police (Analytical portal "Slovo i Dilo", 2023).

According to the latest Gallup Law and Order Index, as of 2021, trust in the police in Ukraine corresponded to the world average level (71 points) (Prysiazhniuk, 2023). Benin, Brazil, Mongolia, Paraguay and Jamaica have the same ratings. However, the results of the survey for 2021 regarding Ukraine are not relevant, because significant changes have taken place in the country over the past two years. According to UNN, the trust in the National Police nearly doubled during the full-scale invasion (UNN, 2023).

The police already had a good reputation among Ukrainians, with 68.2% of Ukrainians trusting them, by the end of 2022 (in the midst of the full-scale war). May 2023 survey showed that slightly less than 59.2% of the country's citizens began to trust in the police (Analytical portal "Slovo i Dilo", 2023). Such a result indicates a failure in the implementation of the concept of social partnership between the police and society. Therefore, the fact that a little less than half of the citizens do not feel trust in the police, especially during the martial law regime, and some citizens do not even believe that it effectively performs its functions to protect their rights, cannot be considered a satisfactory result of the police activities.

Therefore, it is important to use the experience of other countries with a favorable public opinion about police activities. For example, about 2/3 of the population in Germany approves the work of the police and trusts it more than the church, the Bundeswehr, the administration, newspapers and other state and public institutions (Chernenko, 2011).

We would like to discuss the origins and reasons for the emergence of the concept of partnership, as well as to analyze the process of implementing police reform in some foreign countries.

The term of "concept" in Ukrainian dictionaries is interpreted as a system of notions about certain phenomena and processes; a way of understanding, interpreting some phenomena, events (Shynkaruk, 2002, p. 301).

Partnership between the police and society is the concept elaborated in developed foreign countries. It was the basis for conducting the largest reforms of the police agencies of such countries as: the USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, Great Britain, etc. Transformations led to changes in the essential components

of police work: its forms and methods, the nature and content of cooperation, orientation of interaction with citizens and public institutions (Community Policing Consortium, 1994).

Law enforcement agencies in many Western countries faced the increasing crime rates and the need to reduce a number of mass protests and riots at the end of the XX century. Governments in response to these challenges were forced to take a number of "crisis" measures aimed at fighting against crime. In particular, the legislation was strengthened, the number of police personnel was increased and their social guarantees were extended. PR campaigns aimed at increasing the authority of the police were also actively conducted in the mass media (Community Policing Consortium, 1994).

However, the measures applied by the police turned out to be ineffective, since the stereotypes of a harsh, authoritarian and discriminatory approach worsened relations with the public and significantly reduced the effectiveness of the fight against crime. As a result, the police could not overcome the growing criminal threat and ensure law and order. That led to the realization of the need for conceptual changes in the work of the police. The reform of police activities was carried out on the basis of updated concepts of national security, the central idea of which was the "principle of collective responsibility" for "joint creation of security", as well as taking into account the principles and approaches of "community policing" (OSCE, 2008).

The concept of "community policing" covers a set of concepts and practices of police activity, which claim to radically renew the activities of public order protection agencies. According to the "community policing" doctrine, the police should focus on the prevention of crime, not just on combating its consequences, which requires close interaction with citizens (OSCE, 2008).

The concept of "community policing" is based on a comprehensive approach to ensuring safety and improving the quality of life of the population. Its goal is to radically update police activity. It is about the integration of the police into civil society and the establishment of active cooperation with the community in order to reduce the crime rate and increase the trust of the population in its activities. The key area of police activity in this context is the

provision of services to the population aimed at harmonizing public order (Banton, 1964).

The formation and strengthening of trusting relations between the police and citizens contributes to the growth of public consciousness, when people begin to realize their responsibility for maintaining high standards of living and solving social issues in their community, where they live (Greenberg, 1984).

This strategy is implemented through the introduction of a problem oriented policing approach. The innovation of this approach is that the police conducts a detailed analysis of the reasons that prompt citizens to seek help instead of simply reacting to crimes, and is focused on their elimination. It helps to prevent similar problems from recurring.

The approach to personnel training in police academies of many Western countries has been changed within the framework of the "police at the service of society" doctrine. Considering the change in the social role of law enforcement agencies, police officers began to be required to have a higher level of education, the ability to think critically, an understanding of various social problems, and the ability to effectively solve them (Dobrin & Wolf, 2016).

One of the key areas of increasing public trust in the police is the active use of the Internet and social networks by the latter, which are the most visited resources. It allows law enforcement agencies to quickly notify citizens about crimes, missing people, vehicle thefts, as well as receive information from the population that contributes to the work of the police or calls for help. This approach to the interaction in social networks shows positive results in many European countries (Fehervary, 2011).

The concept of "Community policing", despite some common features, was implemented in various countries in different ways, taking into account national characteristics, reforming the legal framework, as well as differences in the structure, strategy and tactics of police work.

Combating crime in some developed foreign countries

There are three levels of law enforcement system (federal, state and local) in the United States, with the largest number (60%) being the local police directly interacting with citizens and being the backbone of the police system.

The United States has implemented all possible new resources to fight against crime since the 1990s. Considerable attention was paid to the socially oriented activities of the police, which included crime prevention, suppression of offenses at the local level and providing assistance to citizens in solving various problems. That contributed to social support and strengthening cooperation with the population for the prevention of crimes, as well as the integration of community life into law enforcement sphere. The police began to be considered as a provider of services to the population in law enforcement sphere. American citizens have increasingly expressed their desire to participate in law enforcement by becoming volunteer police assistants on a voluntary basis (Dobrin & Wolf, 2016).

Simultaneously with the implementation of flexible social-oriented interaction, the US government reformed the legislation and strengthened the repressive policy regarding especially grave crimes, in particular with the aim of achieving a preventive effect. The practical implementation of the social doctrine of “zero tolerance” also began, which provided for an immediate response to any offense and immediate punishment for the committed crime.

Sweden is one of the countries of the European Union, where the concept of “community policing” has been successfully implemented. Implementation of this concept is based on close cooperation with the population. The effectiveness of the professional activity of police officers in Sweden, like in other Scandinavian countries, was achieved due to the increase in the requirements for the socio-psychological and professional qualities of police officers. It is about: 1) a high level of professional training, with an emphasis on University education; 2) a thorough process of personnel selection with further intellectualization of police work; 3) a high level of the general culture of police officers, with an emphasis on the compliance with ethical standards, as well as the rights and freedoms of every person (The Swedish Police, 2023).

Besides, the police approach to offenders was changed. They began to treat offenders not as criminals who need punishment or restrictive measures, but as persons with distorted legal behavior who need support and assistance. The policy of resocialization of convicts was also revised. Thus, the number of prisoners in Sweden, according to statistical data as of the beginning of October

2022, was 80 persons per 100,000 inhabitants (World Prison Brief data. Sweden, 2023).

The concept of "problem oriented policing" has been successfully implemented in Sweden, target-oriented work is being conducted to study the reasons that make citizens to address to the police and to eliminate these factors. The corruption component has been reduced to a minimum. As a result, as of the end of 2022, the level of social trust of Swedes in the police has become the highest in global practice and was 59%. However, the level of trust in the Swedish police slightly decreased to 54% in 2023 (Dyvik, 2024).

The reform of police activity in France at the end of the XX century was carried out by taking into account new approaches to ensuring public safety and principles of the interaction with the population. The "police de proximity" model became the French version of the concept of "community policing", which was aimed at providing the population with services in the field of security and maintaining general order and peace by considering its activity as a public service, but not only as an agency focused on fighting against crime (Buhaichuk, 2015).

The concept of "close police" in France was implemented in the period from 1997 to 2002 within the framework of the "Security Law". However, various forms of social partnership and involvement of citizens in the protection of public order, which were widely used in the USA, Japan and Great Britain, turned out to be ineffective in the French political and legal system. Efforts were focused on improving the coordination between the National Police and the Gendarmerie, but the crime situation was not improved and the victimization rate of the population increased. It led to the discrediting of the positive idea of social partnership. The "close police" reform was not completed, since it did not take root either in the minds of police officers or among citizens (Buhaichuk, 2015).

The French government has chosen a course to build a traditional "tough police" since 2002, with an emphasis on "concrete results". But the resumption of police activity based on repressive measures had only a temporary effect. Besides, the effectiveness of such police activity was manifested only in the fight against serious crimes. Therefore, the concept of "mutual trust

agreement" between citizens and the police has been restored since 2008. However, it has not been possible to achieve success in its implementation yet.

France is currently one of the leading EU countries in terms of violent crimes, thefts and robberies. The crime rate (crimes and misdemeanors committed in 1 year) per 1,000 inhabitants is approximately 60 (Lindner, 2024). According to the Global Organized Crime Index Criminality the score as of 2023 is 5.82. Among them: 58th of 193 countries, 9th of 44 countries in Europe-1, 1st of 11 countries in Western Europe (GOCI France, 2023). At the same time, the number of people who feel unsafe, that is, feel unsafe in their area where they live, is growing. At the same time, the weak presence of the police in areas where the danger is greatest and the distance between law enforcement agencies and residents contribute to the feeling of insecurity of the population (Center for Observation of Society, 2023).

Such a crime situation determines the formation of state policy in the field of combating crime. The National Crime Prevention Strategy prioritizes partnership relations in crime prevention. At the same time, this Strategy is built on the principle of deconcentration, that is, the transfer of measures to influence crime from the national to the local level. Local authorities are the main link of preventive activities in this area (Titarenko, 2019, p. 10). Thus, city mayors are tasked with the organization and direct prevention of crime, as well as the coordination of this activity, which is mainly financed from the local budget of a specific French city. Prefectures interact with relevant Ministries and the National Crime Prevention Fund (FIPD) to choose common priorities for crime prevention, which are formalized in special contracts (Kolodiazhnyi, 2013, p. 171).

The experience of Japan, which has one of the lowest crime rates of all countries in the Asia-Pacific region, is interesting. Japan is currently one of the countries with a decentralized law enforcement system. Thus, according to the Constitution of Japan, the police is an independent public institution subordinated to the government, but it is not part of any Ministries and Departments (Constitution of Japan, 1947).

Japan's police force is represented by prefectural-level law enforcement agencies that are subordinated to the National Police Agency. According to the

Police Law of 1954, “a board for communication with the population” functions at each police station. This body includes representatives of public organizations, local self-government, administration of large housing complexes, heads of volunteer groups, etc. The success of the police policy of the Japanese state is achieved due to the following factors:

1) a nationwide system of district police stations “Koban” in urban areas and “Chuzaisho” in rural areas. They play a key role in maintaining public order and public safety at the primary level. Their location in close proximity to local communities allows police officers to maintain close relationship with the population and quickly respond to any incidents. This system ensures the constant presence of the police at spots, which increases the level of trust of citizens and the effectiveness of law and order;

2) active application of the “community policing” approach by the Japanese police, which involves close interaction with the local population to prevent crime. Police officers regularly visit citizens’ homes, get acquanted with local residents, help to solve social problems, which allows maintaining a high level of public order and security;

3) paying significant attention to crime prevention. The police actively work on preventing crimes, but not just on investigating them. It includes educational programs, youth work and community involvement in keeping public order;

4) Japanese police officers undergo long and thorough training, which includes both physical and psychological aspects of work. Standing for a high level of professional ethics and discipline in the work of police officers also contributes to the effectiveness of their activities.

Indicated factors altogether create an effective and stable system of policing that contributes to maintaining a low crime rate and a high quality of life in Japan.

Having analyzed the experience of developed countries, we can come to the conclusion that the effectiveness of implementing a socially oriented model of policing is largely determined by political, historical and socio-cultural factors. The ideas of democracy and the rule of law principles in Western countries had deep roots formed over the centuries, and the democratic

processes of the XVIII-XIX centuries had a significant impact on the development of society. Therefore, the police, which played the key role in maintaining public order, had a significant level of trust from the law-abiding part of the population from the very beginning. It contributed to the successful implementation of socially oriented approaches in their activities.

Combating crime in Ukraine: history and modernity

Ukraine was under the rule of the Russian Empire for a long time, and later – the Soviet totalitarian regime. The police under such conditions could not perform the function of a defender of citizens' rights and was an instrument of state repression, which affected society's attitude towards it. In the second half of the XX century, when mass repressions began to recede into the past, the police (which at that time was called "militia") remained an object of fear, but at the same time had a certain authority among citizens. The profession of a police officer was prestigious, and the population was actively involved in maintaining public order, which contributed to the development of trust relations at the local level.

However, trust in the police was lost in 1991. Control over the implementation of laws and the activities of the militia was significantly weakened, which led to the growth of corruption and the appearance of "dirty cops". That caused a sharp deterioration of the crime-related situation in the country and a complete loss of citizens' desire to cooperate with law enforcement agencies.

The police reform launched in Ukraine in 2015 aimed to correct the situation in the law enforcement system, but it was not possible to achieve full implementation of the intentions. One of the reasons is the fact that the reforms were implemented based on the experience of other countries without sufficient adaptation to Ukrainian realities and the specifics of the relationship between the police and society that had existed before 2015. The main problem in the interaction between the police and society in Ukraine remains the limited and localized activity of citizens, which does not cover the broad mass of the population.

During the European integration reforms, which included the reorganization of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the creation of the police as the main guarantor of ensuring the safety of citizens, the legislative power of Ukraine in cooperation with the police and the public tried to find the ways to increase the effectiveness of law enforcement activities. However, the reforms did not take into account the fact that it was difficult to expect a high level of trust from the population under conditions of low effectiveness of the police as an institution aimed at protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens and fighting against crime.

Having analyzed the Ukrainian experience of implementing national programs and initiatives aimed at combating crime with the participation of society, such as “Safe City” and “Community Sheriff”, one can note the positive aspects of these concepts.

“Safe City” is a complex of innovative solutions that provides video recording of transport and pedestrian traffic, monitoring and management of the activities of municipal services, the police and emergency services in settlements. This project is designed to provide peace and comfort to residents and guests of settlements. Its effectiveness is confirmed by both local residents and representatives of law enforcement agencies and local authorities, which forms security policy in communities. The project both increases the comfort and safety of residents and helps local authorities to keep the situation under control. The fewer unforeseen events, accidents and crimes occur, the more comfortable and safer life in the settlement is. Video recording of events is becoming more and more important for the protection of violated rights and interests of citizens. The “Safe City” concept is successfully being implemented in such cities as Kyiv, Lviv, Bila Tserkva, Odesa, Vinnytsia and many others (News, website, 2023).

The idea of “Community Sheriff” is aimed at increasing the level of safety and law and order in local communities, especially in cases when available police resources are limited or cannot effectively cover all settlements. It is the community that takes responsibility for its own security in order to relieve the police and contribute to a more effective solution to problems arising on its territory.

"Community Sheriff" is an unofficial term used in Ukraine to refer to persons who do not have the official status of law enforcement officers, but are actively engaged in ensuring security within a particular community. They are involved in maintaining law and order, crime prevention and informing the population about security issues.

There are cases in Ukraine, when the association of communities has led to the fact that several villages have one district police officer, who must both respond to crimes and carry out preventive work. Therefore, the role of "Community Sheriff" has to be performed by various representatives of the community, such as village council inspectors, members of public organizations, assistants of district police officers, or activists working to improve security in their settlement. Such "sheriffs" can carry out outreach and crime prevention work, as well as to be in close cooperation with the community and the police, which is engaged in detecting crimes (Vyshnytska & Tarasova, 2018).

Summarizing the above, we can conclude that the majority of the population of Ukraine, before the police reform in 2015, distrusted the competence of police officers (militia at that time) and had doubts about their ability to effectively exercise their powers in the interests of society. This attitude is partly preserved to this day, which leads not only to mistrust of the police, but also to the habit of solving life difficulties independently, including those that are within the competence of law enforcement agencies.

Therefore, it is important to create an effective system capable to perform the main tasks of maintaining order and rule of law in society. However, rapid changes should not be expected, since transformations can take years or even decades, because any system must be sustainable. Changes must, first of all, be indurated in the minds of people – police officers, citizens, the entire population of the country, overcome common stereotypes, and it is a very long process.

5 CONCLUSION

Research of the experience of foreign countries in improving the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies in their interaction with society

allows identifying possible ways and mechanisms of organizing the police activities in ensuring the safety of citizens, maintaining public order, as well as solving the problems of combating crime in Ukraine.

Particular attention should be paid to the training and advanced training of police officers, who must have both special education and appropriate professional and personal qualities necessary for serving within police agencies.

An important step is strengthening the work of the police at the local level, developing mutual interaction between district police officers, who are closest to the population, and citizens. District police officers should be well aware of the situation in the territory entrusted to them, and citizens should know the contacts of their district police officers in order to be able to contact them for a quick and high-quality solution of urgent problems.

Prevention of criminal offenses is the most effective mean of combating them, which is confirmed by the experience of developed countries. Therefore, it is important to develop a system of preventive measures, to involve as many citizens as possible in their participation. At the same time, one should focus not on the formal implementation of the plan, but on achieving the result.

It is necessary to maintain and improve the mechanism of public monitoring, which is a criterion for evaluating the effectiveness of the police duties' performance. Police officers must consider public opinion and promptly eliminate identified deficiencies. Although public opinion is the main criterion for evaluating the police activities, many people still have stereotypical, often negative ideas about law enforcement officers. It is necessary to improve the image of police officers in the opinion of the population, mainly through the creation of a new positive experience of the interaction between citizens and law enforcement agencies by performing their duties well.

The experience of developed countries demonstrates the high effectiveness of partnership relations between the police and population, as well as a problem-oriented approach in the fight against crime. Ukraine should strive to build a modern and effective law enforcement system capable of protecting the rights of citizens and taking into account the needs both of the state and society.

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