

The Role and Place of Private Companies Offering People and Property Protection Services in the Slovak Internal Security System

Jacek Dworzecki¹

Department of Applied Police, Police Academy in Szczytno,
st. Marszałka Józefa Piłsudskiego 111, 12-100 Szczytno - Poland

Abstract— The paper discusses the role and place of private companies offering services related to people and property protection in the Slovak internal security system. The paper outlines the Slovak system of internal security, its institutions, entities and formations and presents organizational and legal basis for functioning of private security entities in the Slovak Republic. Additionally, the paper presents procedures of applying for a license which entitles the holder to start a business in the security sector and to perform tasks written down in the catalogue of services for private security industry. The text is completed with statistics related to the activities of private security companies with respect to security and public order in Slovakia. The paper was prepared as a part of a research and innovation project within operational project Horizon (2020-FCT-2015, No: 700688) *Understand the Dimensions of Organized Crime and Terrorist Networks for Developing Effective and Efficient Security Solutions for First-line-practitioners and Professionals.*

Index Terms— the Slovak Republic, protection of people and property, internal security system, Takedown-Horizon 2020

I. INTRODUCTION

Private companies offering widely understood protection of people and property together with investigative/detective agencies are an integral part of security system in every contemporary democratic country. Highly specialized security companies are capable of executing a wide catalogue of tasks such as: physical protection of facilities, personal protection, training and counseling, protection of convoys or investigative and analytical services. Today, it is difficult to imagine the security sector without private entities whose contribution is invaluable in all areas of operations of the internal security system.

The paper will present organizational structure of the private sector engaged in protection of people and property in Slovakia and quote statistical data showing the functioning of this sector (data provided by the Presidium of the Police Force in Bratislava). In the introduction to the main body of the paper,

the author outlines the internal security system in Slovakia with all its institutions and agencies. The statistics used in the paper come from, inter alia, Slovstat, Eurostat, the Ministry of the Interior, while the financial data comes from the registers of the Slovak Chamber of Private Protection Agencies. The paper is addressed to specialists from the field of internal security with special emphasis on private sector of security services, also to officers of central and local police formations, to students of internal security, state security, law, criminology and everybody interested in security issues.

The paper was prepared as a part of a research and innovation project within operational project Horizon 2020-FCT-2015, No: 700688 *Understand the Dimensions of Organized Crime and Terrorist Networks for Developing Effective and Efficient Security Solutions for First-line-practitioners and Professionals.*

II. CONSTITUENTS OF THE SLOVAK INTERNAL SECURITY SYSTEM. OUTLINE OF THE SUBJECT MATTER

In each civilized country law enforcement agencies play the most significant role with respect to protection of human life, health and property as well as protection of the natural environment. The officers serving in these agencies can perform their tasks because they dispose of specifically defined powers and means to do so (Dworzecki, 2011). In the Slovak Republic the functioning of each state law enforcement agency is contained in a legal act which sets forth the rules of conduct for this formation as well as legal boundaries with respect to the national legal system and to international agreements in force.

There are many factors which may be taken into account in an attempt to classify law enforcement agencies. One of the most important quantifiers is the type of the formation: state (public) or non-state (private), the next quantifiers are the place and role of the agency in the national security system and the nature of tasks they perform. Other factors helpful in classification of law enforcement agencies may be



characteristic features and their comparison with other entities of national administration, local government sector or the private business sector (Hrudka and Zámek, 2012). Classification serves not only the cognitive but also practical function and is a vital element of the research method which reflects in its foundations the general state of theoretical considerations with respect to the subject matter of the research and its related aspects such as e.g. its nature, content, scope, positioning in the legal system, current state and evolution possibilities as well as references to other notions be it within one or more disciplines of science, innovative concepts or systems of knowledge.

The author decided to apply the approach mentioned above in order to classify Slovak law enforcement agencies. The main doctrine in the approach is the pragmatic logics enhanced by other elements reflecting:

- unique specificity of the field under examination;
- tasks and aims of the object of the study i.e. a specific police institution;
- significance of the results of the conducted research for theoretical and practical side of functioning of the formations under examination.

Each contemporary society may be perceived as a system consisting of: leading components, supplementing subsystems, interrelations, mutual processes as well as commonly laid down aims and functions. A characteristic feature of each system is its directional movement aiming at provision of comprehensive development of a given community. It should be added, that not all elements of a given social system work in line with its objectives, some of them even pose a direct threat to this system causing considerable harm and losses. The existence of these threats constitutes an integral element of social life and is evolving alongside the system. In order to counteract threats each society must develop highly specialized instruments of organizational and legal character. These instruments are supposed to perform multifold actions to improve and maintain security of citizens.

In the Slovak Republic the above mentioned actions are entrusted to state, local and private formations as well as to police-like entities. Evolution of these formations and entities is closely related to the development of armed forces in Slovakia. For a number of centuries the Police and police-related forces have been evolving and transforming together with changes in social and geopolitical situation, alongside new state structures, constitutional prerogatives as well as various legal and criminal policies.

Providing citizens with security is one of the oldest public tasks which is inseparably linked to the functioning of state administration system. The process is very complex. On one hand, each democratic administration should strive to maintain high constitutional standards, while on the other, it must take steps of repressive character in order to counteract negative consequences of crime or social exclusion. Efficient system of internal security requires provision of appropriate legal

environment paired with adequate amount of means and forces.

In the Slovak system of internal security the central and local administration bodies are responsible for the following tasks:

- provision of public security in the country for its citizens and citizens of other countries, provision of smooth functioning of public and private institutions;
- protection of democratic and constitutional values, rights and human freedoms, protection of life and health of citizens;
- protection of state owned and private property.

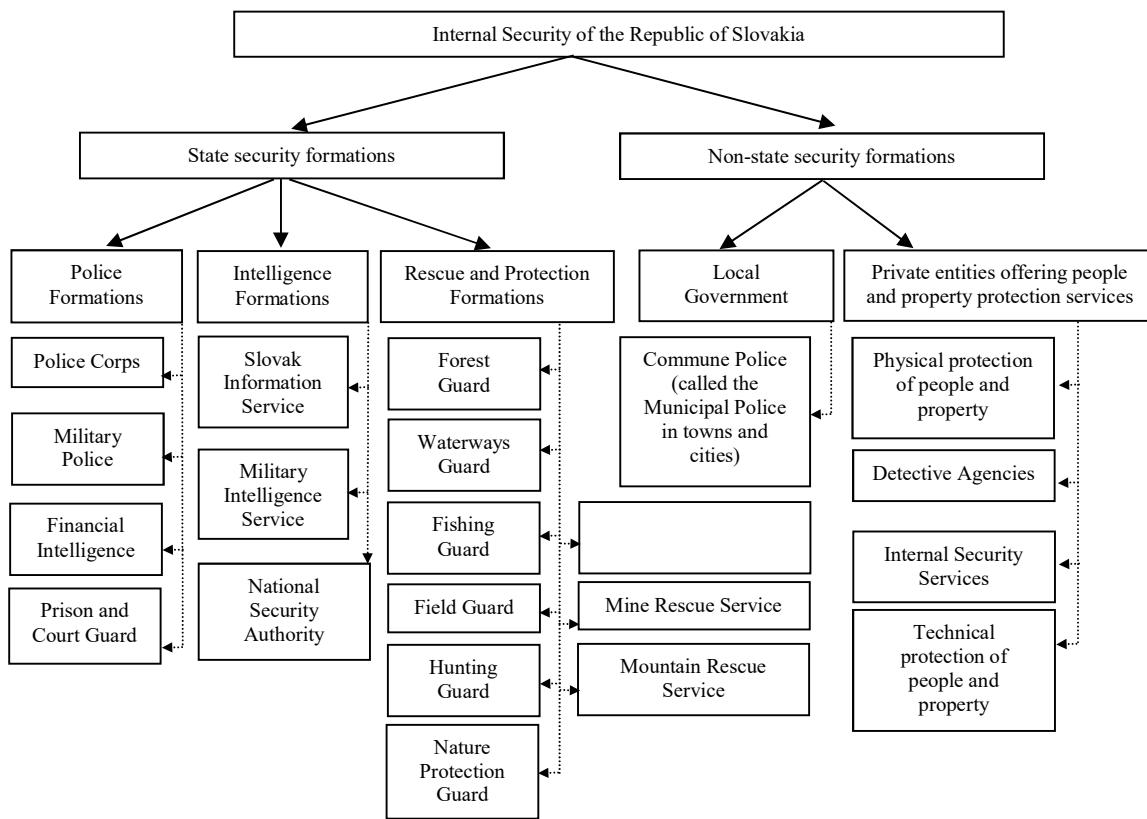
The diagram below (Diagram 1) presents formations, institutions and bodies (central, local government and private) which perform internal security tasks in the Slovak Republic.

In the internal security system of the Slovak Republic two types of uniformed services can be distinguished. The first includes state bodies while the second group consists of entities of non-state character (local government agencies, private businesses). State formations report to a competent minister and to other central organs such as the Presidium of the Police Force and lower (voivodeship) or local (poviat) level of administration. Operations of all state formations are specified and limited in separate legal acts equal to the rank of bills and in resolutions, ordinances, decisions etc. The officers employed in these formations enter into service relationship with the state as uniformed or civil servants of a specific department of central administration.

After 1990 state administration organs of then Czechoslovakia, including the Police, did not keep up with social changes triggered by the political transformation, what was particularly visible in the growing crime rate and emergence of new, previously unknown forms of crime. Back then, the legislator did not manage to implement efficient mechanisms of systemic state supervision with respect to protection of state and private property. Natural reaction of citizens in this situation was independent search for working solutions and own initiatives which would raise the level of security in all areas of social life. Therefore the legal basis governing the functioning of non-state formations and private entities in the public security sector, is regulated by separate legal acts. Employment in the above mentioned services is regulated by the provisions of labor code. The catalogue of competences as well as territorial range of operations for these entities is strictly defined. In the regional perspective it refers to e.g. municipal/communal police which is entitled to perform activities within the area of a given commune or municipality. When it comes to private security businesses, their area of operations is narrowed down even further to a given production plant or retail and service facility.

As far as state law enforcement agencies of the Slovak Republic are concerned, the Police Force is referred to as a universal security formation of the highest status due to the fact, that this formation has powers to perform the widest spectrum of tasks within internal security of state.

DIAGRAM 1. FORMATIONS, INSTITUTIONS AND ENTITIES PERFORMING INTERNAL SECURITY TASKS IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVAKIA.



Source: Own work based on data obtained from the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.

Apart from the Police Force (in force pursuant to the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 171 of 6 June 1993 on the police force as amended), the backbone of the Slovak internal security system consists of the Military Police (in force pursuant to the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 124 of 5 March 1992 on the military police as amended), the National Fire and Rescue Service (in force pursuant to the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 315 of 2 July 2001 on fire and rescue service as amended), Customs office (in force pursuant to the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 652 of 26 October 2004 on state administration bodies in the field of customs as amended), Prison and court guard (in force pursuant to the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 440 of 5 December 2000 on corps of prison and court guard, Journal of laws no 4/2001 as amended), Slovak Information Service (in force pursuant to the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 46 of 21 January 1993 on the Slovak information service as amended) and the National Security Authority (in force pursuant to the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 215 of 11 March 2004 on protection of secret information as amended). Moreover, within the same group there are other state agencies and guards entrusted by the legislator with specific tasks in a slightly narrower scope (Kočan and Selinger, 2013).

Within the law of the Slovak Republic protection is granted to: woodlands (including hunting), farmlands (crop cultivation,

horticulture, husbandry), water reservoirs, watercourses, water treatment plants and natural monuments which are under protection from specially dedicated guards disposing of relevant powers and means to execute the entrusted tasks. The most vivid examples of such guards are: forest guard (in force pursuant to the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 326 of 23 June 2005 on forests as amended), field guard (in force pursuant to the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 255 of 24 August 1994 on field guard), waterways guard (in force pursuant to the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 364 of 13 May 2004 on water as amended) and Nature protection guard (in force pursuant to the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic nr 543 of 25 June 2002 on nature and landscape protection as amended) and mountain rescue service (in force pursuant to the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 544 of 10 July 2002 on mountain rescue service) and the mine rescue service (in force pursuant to the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 129 of 1 July 2002 on the integrated rescue system as amended and act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 262 of 20 March 2002 on counteracting industrial disasters). The control and enforcement operations as regards the provisions of the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 274 of 16 June 2009 on hunting and counteracting poaching are conducted by the hunting guards, while with respect to provisions of the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 139 of 15

February 2002 on fisheries as amended, these tasks are carried out by the national fishing guard. The above mentioned formations do not have a uniform legal or doctrinal structure across the country. The functionaries serving in these guards are appointed and dismissed within their service relationship by authorized officials of central or local administration units with territorial jurisdiction.

The scope of tasks performed by non-state formations within the field of internal security is extensive and impacts almost every aspect of the Slovak social life. Unlike state formations, which execute statutory tasks for the benefit of all native and non-native citizens living in the country, the non-state organizations, pursuant to the legal acts currently in force, perform tasks for the benefit of local communities, physical persons and business entities of state or private sector. The category of these formations consists of private entities rendering services related to physical and technical protection of people and property (in force pursuant to act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 379 of 3 December 1997 on operation of private security services and similar activities), detective agencies and commune and municipal police forces (in force pursuant to the act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic no 564 of 3 December 1991 on the municipal police as amended).

The shape of activities undertaken within internal security system in the Slovak Republic can take a number of different forms and this results from the fact that these activities are focused on the fight with widely understood crime. The existence of internal security agencies, which are specially dedicated institutions of state administration for the previously mentioned purpose, is in the interest of all citizens, and their role in providing peace and public order in the country is critical. Apart from the state formations mentioned above, other organs constituting the pillar of the Slovak public security system are: courts, the prosecutor's office and judicial police. All entities listed above constitute immanent elements of the internal security system in the Slovak Republic because they perform their statutory tasks in many spheres of social life and struggle with a variety of threats and other phenomena which directly influence the life of citizens.

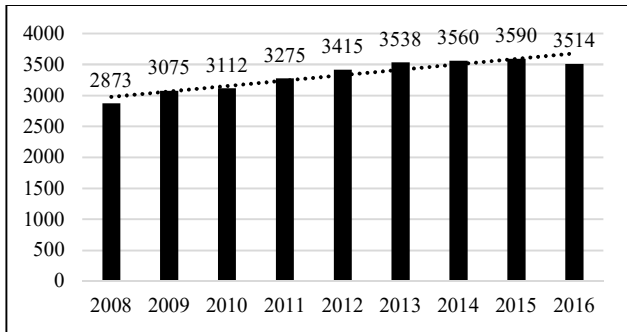
The organization and functioning of state and non-state internal security formations in Slovakia reflects the commonly accepted standards in other EU member states. Tendencies commonly encountered in other countries to limit the numbers of formations responsible for external security of the state in favor for agencies whose aim is to improve the level of internal security, can also be observed in Slovakia. The number of functionaries employed in internal security agencies considerably outnumbers the headcount in the Slovak armed forces.

III. THE PRIVATE SECTOR OF PROTECTION OF PEOPLE AND PROPERTY IN SLOVAKIA IN STATISTICAL TERMS

On 31 December 2016 in the registers of the Bureau for Private Security Services of the Presidium of the Police Force in Bratislava [the Bureau implements tasks commissioned by

the Ministry of Interior based on current legislation in force, the tasks include: making reports regarding activities of private security entities across the country, providing information on the level of security in Slovakia with special emphasis on the current security and public order situation in respective regions of the country, preparing drafts of legal acts, resolutions, ordinances and other legal acts regarding widely understood internal security. The Bureau as a component of central organ of state administration acts as a control and supervisory body over private services related to protection of people and property. The Bureau supervises, coordinates and controls the activities of regional Police headquarters with respect to their supervision over private security sector, acting as the second instance in cases of administrative offences in the scope of private services of protection of people and property (the first instance being the regional headquarters of the Police Force), to a limited extent the Bureau evaluates the lawfulness of candidates for work in the private security sector, decides about withdrawing a security guard license, issues referral letters for a renewed doctor's examination or renewed qualification examination (e.g. after suspension of the right to exercise the profession), shapes and modifies the conception of tasks for the Police Force with respect to supervision over private security sector, administers IT systems containing the register of private entities rendering services of protection of people and property, grants and denies access to these systems for external entities, to a certain extent is responsible for distribution of license documents allowing to conduct business activity in protection of people and property, administers qualification examinations for candidates for a security guard license, is a decisive organ when it comes to granting accreditations for protecting convoys with high monetary and material values, participates in legislative processes when it comes to international agreements relevant for a widely understood private security sector ([geny, 2018]), there were 3514 registered entities holding the security service provision license with respect to: convoy protection services, detective services, individual physical protection services, training, consultancy and technical protection of people and property. Provision of protection services in the private security sector is regulated by the act no 473 of 23 September 2005 on the provision of private security services (act of the National Council of the Slovak Republic of 23 September 2005 on the provision of services in private security sector). As shown in the table below, before 2015 the number of security service provision licenses granted to applicants was on the increase, this was a consequence of a growing demand for this kind of services in that period. In 2016 for the first time in many years the number of applications for conducting business activity in the private security sector and the number of issued licenses decreased (Figure 1).

FIGURE 1. NUMBER OF SECURITY SERVICE PROVISION LICENSES GRANTED FOR PRIVATE ENTREPRENEURS IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC (2008-2016)

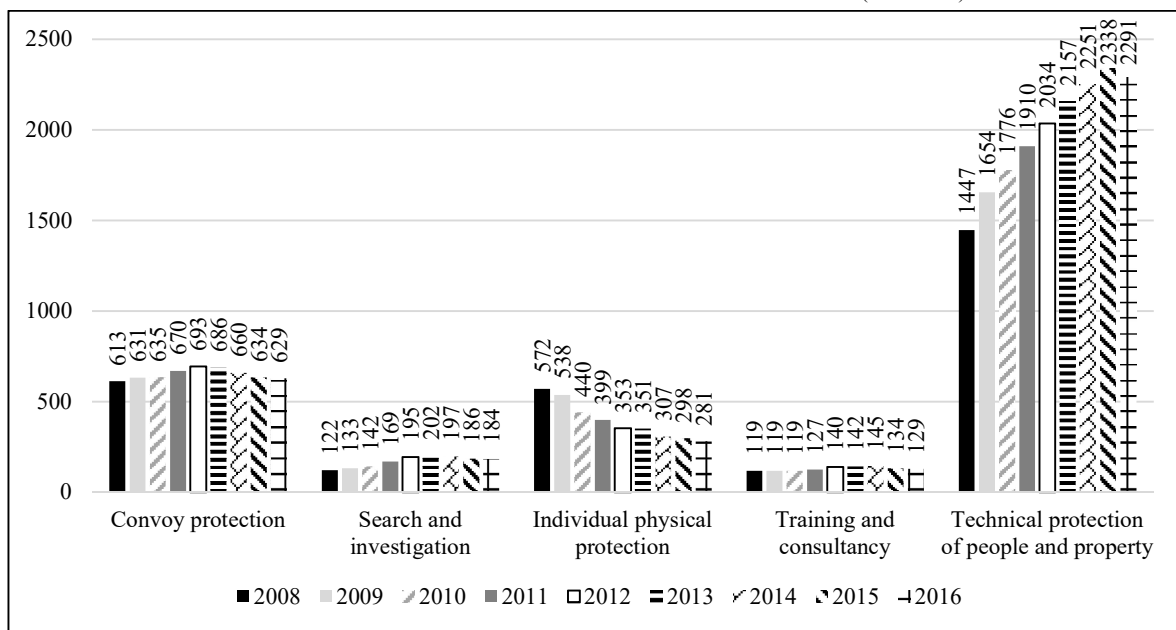


Source: Own work based on data from the Bureau for Private Security Services of the Presidium of the Police Force in Bratislava

Some changing trends may also be observed with respect to number of candidates for particular types of licenses. Convoy protection and individual physical protection services are not as popular as a few years ago, while technical protection services including e.g. protection of the place of residence, surveillance of vehicles or locating people by means of GPS, for almost a decade now have been enjoying growing popularity (Figure 2).

Analyzing the level of employment in private security businesses in Slovakia, it should be brought to the attention of the readers that the sector is becoming less and less attractive for job seekers.

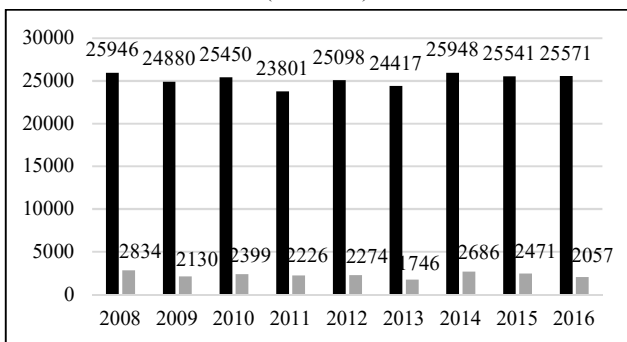
FIGURE 2. NUMBER OF ISSUED LICENSES BROKEN INTO THE TYPE OF LICENSE (2008-2016).



Source: own work based on data from the bureau for private security services of the presidium of the police force in Bratislava.

The diagram below presents the number of people employed in the security sector, the number includes experts in individual physical protection (Figure 3).

FIGURE 3. NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES OF THE SECURITY SECTOR INCLUDING EXPERTS IN INDIVIDUAL PHYSICAL PROTECTION IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC (2008-2016).



Source: Own work based on data from the Bureau for Private Security Services of the Presidium of the Police Force in Bratislava.

The structure of employment, as regards the job title in the protection sector in Slovakia, does not deviate substantially from the situation in other European countries (Figure 4).

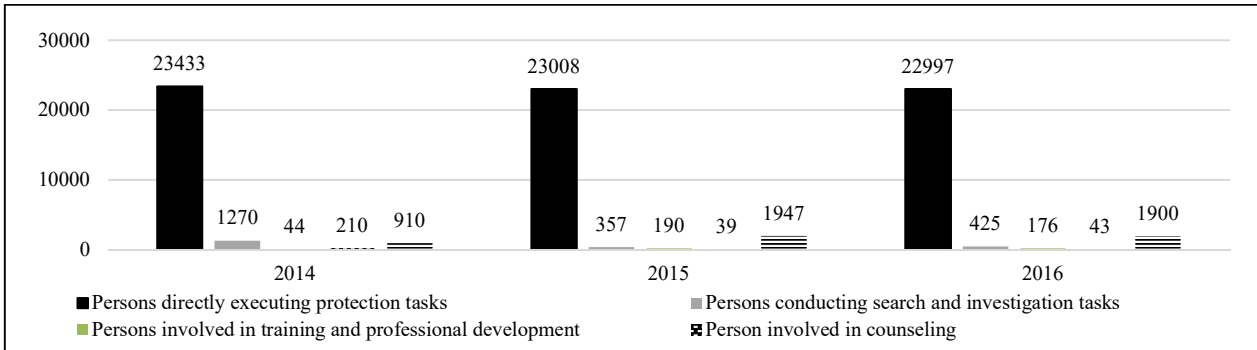
As can be observed, over the last few years, the number of people directly involved in protection activities have gone down, while the number of administrative jobs has increased. On top of that, the number of employees of private detective agencies, who were predominantly engaged in search and observation activities decreased significantly.

Only about 8% of all registered businesses offering services in a widely understood security sector, employs more than 50 people. The overwhelming majority of enterprises are small businesses employing up to 20 persons. Nearly a third of registered companies declares zero employees working under a contract of employment (Figure 5).

Taking into account different forms of conducting business activity in the private sector of security services in Slovakia, it should be highlighted that the biggest group consists of limited liability companies (more than 65% of all registered entities in 2015 were companies with share capital). Individual business

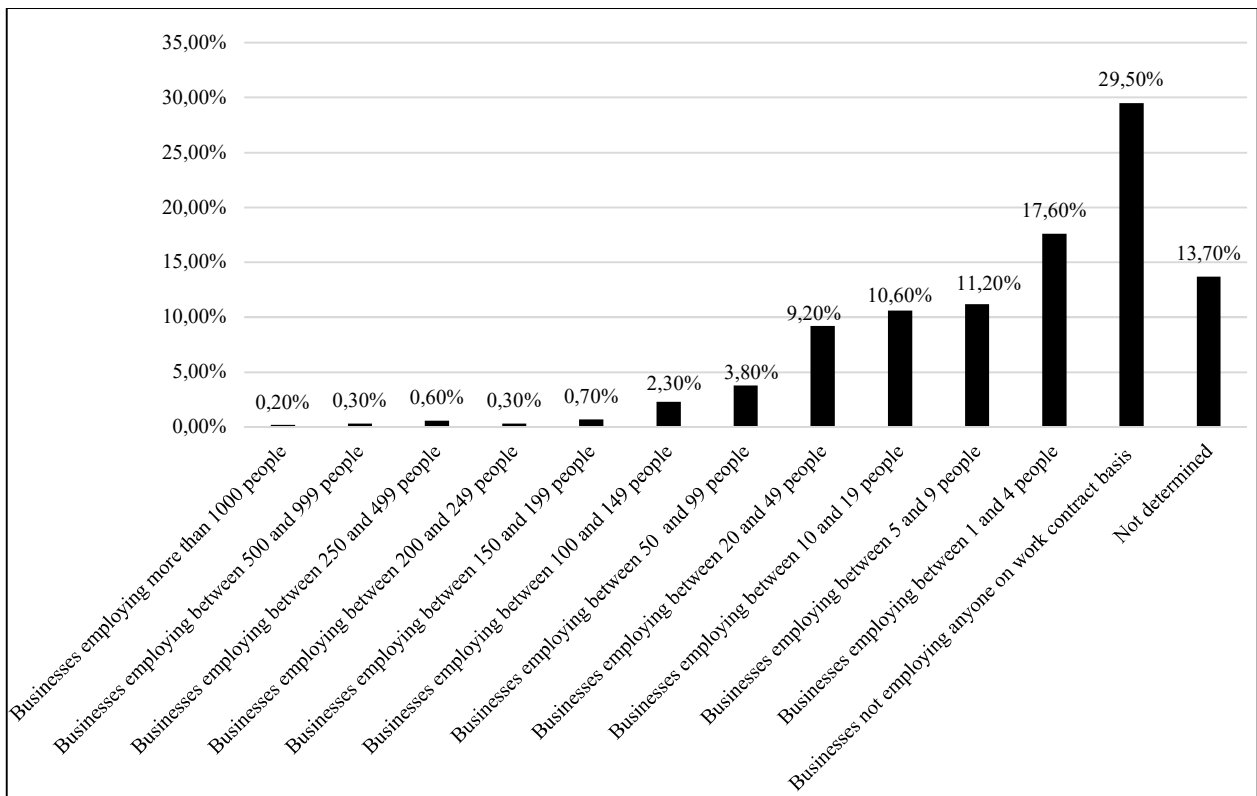
enterprises rendering services in the private security sector make up only 11% of all registered entities (Figure 6).

FIGURE 4. STRUCTURE OF EMPLOYMENT IN THE SLOVAK SECTOR OF SECURITY SERVICES, BROKEN INTO PARTICULAR TYPES OF SECURITY JOBS (2014-2016).



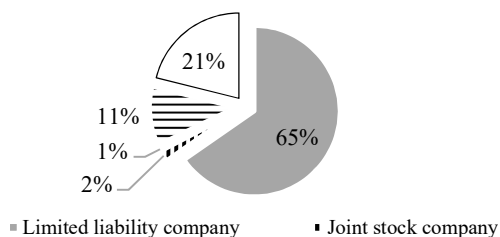
Source: Own work based on data from the Bureau for Private Security Services of the Presidium of the Police Force in Bratislava

FIGURE 5. PRIVATE SECURITY BUSINESSES IN SLOVAKIA BY THE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES (IN 2015).



Source: Own work based on data from the Bureau for Private Security Services of the Presidium of the Police Force in Bratislava.

FIGURE 6. FORMS OF CONDUCTING BUSINESS ACTIVITY WITH RESPECT TO PROTECTION OF PEOPLE AND PROPERTY SERVICES IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC (IN 2015)

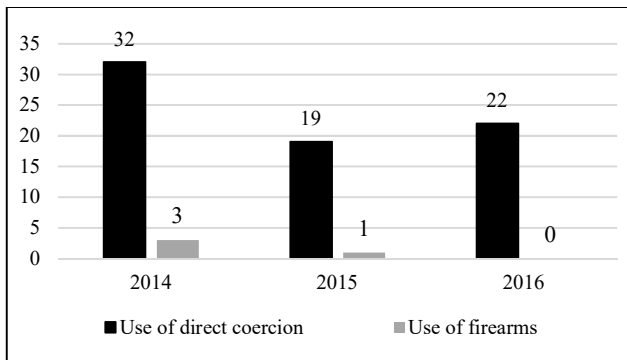


Source: Own work based on data from the Bureau for Private Security Services of the Presidium of the Police Force in Bratislava.

It should be remembered that employees of private security companies in Slovakia, responsible for executing tasks related to physical protection of people and property are entitled to apply measures of direct coercion and use firearms in accordance with relevant legal regulations in force (Dworzecki, 2017).

The diagram below presents the number of interventions carried out by the security personnel, during which direct coercion measures and firearms had to be used (Figure 7).

FIGURE 7. INTERVENTIONS OF SECURITY PERSONNEL DURING WHICH DIRECT COERCION MEASURES AND FIREARMS WERE USED (2014-2016).



Source: Own work based on data from the Bureau for Private Security Services of the Presidium of the Police Force in Bratislava.

As results from the data quoted above, Slovakian employees of the private security sector very rarely apply measures of direct coercion or firearms. This is a consequence of a number of factors among which the most important are: high level of internal security in the country and continuously falling crime rate; very good situation on the labor market, very low unemployment rate, severe punishment for crimes against life and health, existence of highly specialized organizational units of the Police Force who combat the most serious forms of crime – including organized crime; and dominance of cashless transactions over cash payments, as well as technological advancement of social life with the development of surveillance systems in public space (Dworzecki, 2015).

A vital aspect of evaluation of each law enforcement agency is the efficiency with which they manage to execute their statutory tasks. The same holds true for security agencies rendering services on the commercial market. The number of interventions, their character and the way they were handled show the level of professionalism of security personnel on one hand, and on the other, give a picture of a real level of security of local communities. The diagram below presents the number and character of interventions carried out by private security personnel in the period 2014-2016 in Slovakia (Figure 8).

IV. AUTHORIZATION TO OPERATE ON THE PRIVATE SECURITY MARKET AND TO WORK AS A SECURITY GUARD IN SLOVAKIA

The specificity of security tasks to be performed by the entities belonging to the private sector is stipulated in specially dedicated legal acts. It can be observed that the requirements with respect to vocational training of present and future security officers are extremely rigorous. It should be remembered that employees of private security companies are entitled to interfere in rights and liberties of each and every citizen including his/her constitutional rights. Therefore, the candidates for work in the private security sector are expected to possess a specific amount of general knowledge, knowledge of legal regulations, psychology, sociology as well as be in a very good psychical and mental condition. These elements are verified during qualification examination for candidates for a

license to work in a security company. The knowledge the candidates must demonstrate embraces the following: the regulations of the act on the provision of private security services (the Private Security Act), the Constitution of the Slovak Republic, the criminal code, the code of criminal proceedings, the code of petty offences and other acts regulating the functioning of Slovak police formations and uniformed services. Additionally, candidates must demonstrate tactical skills, knowledge of intervention techniques, first aid and fire fighting skills.

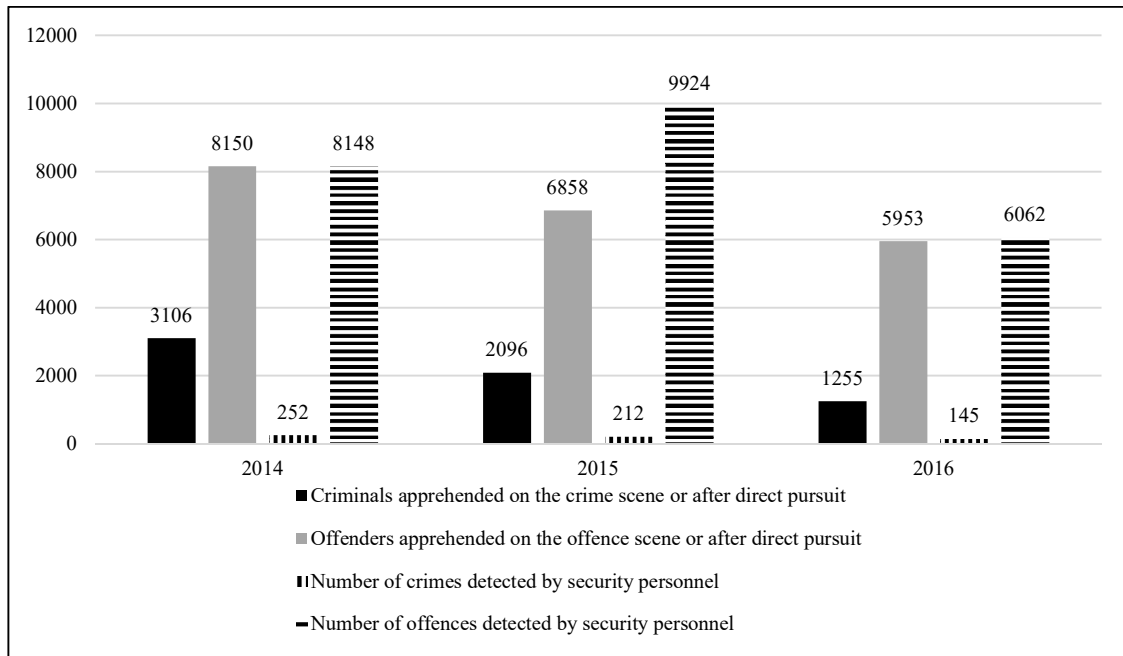
Pursuant to the act no 473 of 23 September 2005 (the Private Security Act), the security services can be rendered by a person with full comprehensive secondary education or full vocational secondary education who can prove 5 years experience in private security sector, or a person who is a graduate of vocational secondary school specializing in protection of people and property and can prove at least 2 years of professional experience in private security sector. The education requirement stipulated for the provision of a detective service and professional training and consultancy, is met by a person who has attained university education of the 2nd or 3rd degree in the line of study of law or in the field of security services (symbol in the Slovak classification of academic fields: 8.3.1) or has attained the academic and pedagogical degree of associate professor or professor in those fields or other internal security related disciplines or a person with higher education in a discipline other than security but who holds a certificate of having passed a qualification examination in security. Also the group of experienced former functionaries of the Police Force has not been overlooked by the legislator. Anyone who has attained university education of the 2nd degree in a line of study other than law or in the field of security services, and has attained a specialized police education, and has carried out a security practice in armed security forces for no shorter than 10 years, and no more than five years have passed since the end of pursuit of such security practice, can establish a business offering detective service and professional training and consultancy.

The qualification examination may be taken by a person who has attained a university education of the 1st degree in the line of study of law or in the field of security services or by a person who has attained university education of the 2nd degree in a line of study other than law or in the field of security services, provided such a person has carried out a security practice or legal practice for no shorter than ten years. An application for the qualification examination shall be filed in writing to the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. The qualification examination shall be taken before an examination board whose members are to be appointed and recalled by the Minister. The examination board shall have three members, being comprised of one representative of each of the Ministry, the Regional Police Headquarters and one representative of the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava. The examination board shall write up a protocol on the course of the qualification examination, such protocol being signed by all the members of the examination board. The Ministry shall retain the protocol for a period of 20 years. The qualification examination may be

retaken only once, in particular after expiration of one year at the earliest. A person who has successfully passed the

qualification examination shall be issued a qualification examination certificate by the Ministry of Interior.

FIGURE 8. NUMBER OF INTERVENTIONS CARRIED OUT BY THE SLOVAK PRIVATE SECURITY PERSONNEL AND THE CHARACTER OF THE INTERVENTIONS (2014-2016).



SOURCE: OWN WORK BASED ON DATA FROM THE BUREAU FOR PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICES OF THE PRESIDUM OF THE POLICE FORCE IN BRATISLAVA.

To obtain a license of a security officer working in the private sector, it is necessary to pass the qualification examination. Act no 473 stipulates three types of licenses:

- I. type S license– to be passed by persons entrusted with the performance of physical protection and a search;
- II. type P license – to be passed by persons entrusted with the performance of physical protection, a search, professional training and consultancy as well as convoy protection services;
- III. type CIT license– to be passed by persons entrusted with the performance of services related to international currency convoys as well as services of physical protection, search services, professional training, consultancy and convoy-protection services.

The candidates for the qualification examination are proposed by the preparatory course supervisor after completion of the course. The supervisor acts as the ‘accredited person’ pursuant to the resolution of the Minister of Interior no 634/2005. The examination must take place no later than 6 months after completion of the preparatory course. Candidates who pass the exam receive appropriate license, on the condition that they can prove clean criminal record and pledge that they will earnestly perform protection and security duties that will be entrusted to them. The license is issued for a period of 10 years. It is also possible to obtain the license ‘ex officio’ i.e. without the necessity to take the qualification examination if the candidates can prove sufficient education and appropriate length of service in law enforcement agencies (requirements are the same as for candidates applying for authorization to conduct

business activity related to protection of people and property).

The contents of the preparatory course for candidates applying for S type license, P type license and CIT type license have been introduced to training programs following the resolution of the Minister of Interior no 22/2013 of 1 February 2013. The table below lists subjects and the number of teaching hours on the preparatory courses for security personnel – type S and type P license (Table 1).

The qualification examination consists of two parts: written and oral. Both parts of the exam are administered on the same day. To be admitted to the oral part candidates must successfully pass the written part (duration of written test 40 minutes) which consists of 24 multiple choice questions (for candidates for S type license) or 36 questions (for candidates for P and CIT type license).

To pass the test candidates must get at least 80% of all possible credits (test for type S license) or 90% for type P and type CIT license. In the oral part of the exam candidates must answer two randomly chosen questions. Candidates have 15 minutes to prepare and 30 minutes to answer the questions. The result of the oral examination is determined by the examination board by means of majority vote. Candidates must pass both parts of the exam to qualify for the license.

A very important aspect of service in the private protection industry (especially in physical protection of facilities, international currency convoys or personal protection of individual persons) is the right to possess and carry firearms. In the Slovak Republic the right to bear arms results from the wording of the act no 190 of the National Council of the Slovak

Republic of 23 April 2003 on firearms and ammunition. Candidates applying for all three types of licenses, as a part of the written examination, must demonstrate knowledge of regulations governing the possession and usage of firearms. Moreover, during the oral exam candidates may be asked to

demonstrate their practical skills for that matter e.g. demonstrate how they handle handgun (although no shooting is expected), to name and describe different parts of weapon, to assemble and disassemble a gun specimen, to demonstrate shooting positions etc.

TABLE 1. CURRICULUM CONTENT INTRODUCED ON THE PREPARATORY COURSES FOR CANDIDATES FOR S, P AND CIT TYPE LICENSE.

S type license preparatory course		P and CIT type license preparatory course	
Subjects	Hours	Subjects	Hours
Basics of legal order in Slovakia	1	Basics of legal order in Slovakia	5
The Constitution of the Slovak Republic, civil rights and liberties	2	The Constitution of the Slovak Republic, civil rights and liberties	4
Regulations governing provision of services related to protection of people and property	14	Regulations governing provision of services related to protection of people and property	15
Basics of criminal law	8	Basics of criminal law	8
Basics of criminology	6	Basics of criminology and forensics	6
Code of petty offences and administrative code	3	Code of petty offences and administrative code	8
Act on Police force, Act on municipal Police, Act on military police, Act on Slovak information service	6	Act on Police force, Act on municipal Police, Act on military police, Act on Slovak information service	10
Theory of intervention techniques and tactics and response to crisis situations	8	Theory of intervention techniques and tactics and response to crisis situations	8
Practical aspects of intervention techniques and tactics and response to crisis situations	12	Practical aspects of intervention techniques and tactics and response to crisis situations	12
First aid	8	First aid	8
Fire protection	5	Fire protection	5
Personal data protection	5	Management (customer relations, communication, human resources)	6
Total	78	Personal data protection	5
		Total	100(for P type)
		Basics of self-defense	20
		Entitlements of a security guard	14
		Protection of classified information	5
		Legal regulations for provision of services related to international currency convoys	78
		Total	217 (for CIT type)

Source: Own work based on the resolution of the Minister of Interior no 22/2013 of 1 February 2013.

All licenses mentioned above are issued for the period of 10 years. In order to renew the license it is necessary to re-take the qualification exam. Every employer conducting business activity in the private security sector is obliged to run professional training programs for their security staff. Act no 473/2005 does not specify in detail neither the contents nor the number of hours for such programs leaving the employers organizational freedom in that matter. An exception from this rule is made with respect to personnel involved in physical protection of strategic facilities such as for example two nuclear plants located in the territory of Slovakia (international legal regulations apply). The employees of security companies performing protection tasks on the premises of nuclear plants are obliged to undertake professional training programs of minimum 4 hours per month. The training includes intervention tactics, techniques and technical measures as well as practice in application of direct coercion and use of firearms.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The level of security and public order and, what it entails, the feeling of security of citizens in each economically stable democratic country, results from a number of interrelated determinants. One of them is an efficient system of internal security consisting of uniformed public services and of private entities who render people and property protection services. The private security sector in Slovakia employs more than twenty seven thousand of guards who on daily basis protect people, property, facilities and national heritage specimens whose material value cannot be easily assessed due to their historic relevance for the Slovak nation and the European Community. There are more security employees in Slovakia than officers of the Police Force (24 thousand) or soldiers (13

thousand) in the armed forces of the country. It is a force of well trained and well prepared for the performance of statutory tasks persons who have a considerable impact on the level of security in a country with more than five and a half million inhabitants.

VI. REFERENCES

Dworzecki, J. (2011). *Policja w Polsce*. Kraków: European Association for Security, p. 9.

Dworzecki, J. (2015). *System prewencji kryminalnej w Republice Słowackiej. Wprowadzenie do problematyki, „Zagadnienia społeczne*. Białystok: University of Pedagogy in Białystok, pp.103-133.

Dworzecki, J. (2017). Specjalne użycie broni przez funkcjonariuszy Korpusu Policji Republiki Słowackiej. In: K. Jałoszyński, W. Zubrzycki and J. Stelmach, ed., *Specjalne użycie broni. Stan obecny, zagrożenia, propozycje rozwiązań*. Szczytno: WSPol, pp.43-78.

Hrudka, J. and Zámek, D. (2012). *Organizace a činnost policejních služeb*. Praha: Police history, pp.11-38.

Igenyes, L. (2018). *Private Security Sector in Slovakia* (an interview with dr Ladislav Igenyes colonel in the reserve forces, former director of the the Bureau for Private Security Services of the Presidium of the Police Force. The interview was conducted by J. Dworzecki on 14 May 2018 on the premises of the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava).

Kočan, Š. and Selinger, P. (2013). *Bezpečnostné služby v Slovenskej Republike*. Bratislava: Akadémia Policajného zboru, pp.204-243.