

EUROPEAN MOVEMENT ALBANIA

BUILDING TRUST IN THE POLICE
THROUGH ETHICS, HUMAN RIGHTS,
AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATION:
EXPERIENCES OF THE ACADEMY OF
THE POLICE FORCE IN BRATISLAVA

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Public trust is the most valuable asset of any modern police force. It does not arise automatically from the adoption of laws or from the exercise of police powers themselves. It is built by the daily professional approach of police officers, respect for human rights, adherence to ethical principles, open communication with the public, and willingness to cooperate with the community. The way the police communicate with citizens, resolve conflicts, and approach the most vulnerable groups in the population significantly affects their credibility and legitimacy in a democratic society.

The Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava is aware that the quality training of future members of the Police Force has long gone beyond the acquisition of legal regulations and professional police skills. Modern police education must prepare police officers to perform their duties in an environment that is constantly changing, brings new security challenges, and places increasing demands on professionalism, integrity, communication competence, and respect for fundamental rights and freedoms.

This publication presents a selection of good practices, educational activities, and innovative projects implemented at the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava in cooperation with the Police Force, the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic, and domestic and foreign partners. The publication explains how ethics, integrity, the protection of human rights, effective communication with the public, and preventive action for various target groups can be strengthened through quality police education.

At the same time, the publication highlights the importance of international cooperation, the implementation of European standards, and the use of modern educational methods, including interactive forms of teaching, virtual reality, and experiential learning. The presented examples of good practice confirm that investing in quality police education is also an investment in a safer society, greater trust among citizens, and a professional Police Force ready to face the challenges of the 21st century.

Ethics, integrity and human rights in policing

Police ethics and integrity are the basic pillars of the professional performance of the police service and a necessary prerequisite for building public trust in the Police Force. The daily activities of police officers require not only professional knowledge and practical skills but also strong moral principles, respect for the law and human rights, and adherence to the highest ethical standards.

This chapter provides a concise, practical, and understandable overview of the basic principles of police ethics and integrity. It is intended for members of the Police Force, students in police education, and other entities that cooperate with the police, including civil society organizations, the media, and representatives of local communities. Its aim is to promote a common understanding of the values on which the professional, lawful and impartial performance of the police service is based, and to contribute to strengthening ethical decision-making in everyday police practice.

At the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava, we pay systematic attention to police ethics and integrity through the subject of Professional Ethics, which is part of the Protection of People and Property study program. The course provides students with practical knowledge of ethics, a basic prerequisite for the professional performance of the police service, and prepares them to

creatively solve ethical problems, and to present their opinions professionally when applying ethical standards in police activities. The teaching covers the emergence and development of ethics, professional ethics, codes of ethics, values, and norms in police ethics, police deontology, and police integrity, as well as the ethical aspects of the credibility of public institutions. The aim of the course is to prepare future members of the Police Force to serve in accordance with the principles of legality, professionalism, integrity, responsibility, and respect for human rights.

Ethics and integrity are the basic pillars of the professional performance of the police service and an important prerequisite for building public trust in the Police Force. The Code of Ethics for a Police Force Member sets out the basic rules of conduct for police officers and emphasizes the principles of legality, impartiality, honesty, professionalism, respect for human dignity, and the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms. Its observance is a prerequisite for the performance of service in accordance with the principles of a democratic state governed by the rule of law. For this reason, members of the Police Force are regularly acquainted with the Code of Ethics and periodically retrained in its application in everyday police practice.

The Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava supports the development of an ethical culture not only through the teaching of professional ethics but also by adopting its own Student Code of Ethics and Employee Code of Ethics. These documents define the basic ethical

values, principles, and rules of conduct of members of the academic community and promote honesty, responsibility, mutual respect, academic integrity, professional conduct, and adherence to ethical standards in study, pedagogy, scientific research, and work activities. Their goal is to create a culture based on trust, proper interpersonal relationships, the protection of human dignity, and the responsible exercise of the rights and duties of all members of the academic community.

An important complement to ethical training is the subject of Social Communication, which develops communication competencies necessary for professional police practice. The course focuses on the principles of social and interpersonal communication, verbal and non-verbal communication, conducting professional conversations, public speaking, and effective communication in public administration. Students acquire techniques of active listening, argumentation, persuasion, giving feedback, empathy, and assertiveness. The teaching also includes solving communicatively difficult situations, communicating with conflicting or verbally aggressive persons, managing criticism, negotiation, conflict resolution, leading discussions and polemics, as well as developing the ability to effectively present one's opinions in contact with citizens and the professional public.

The interconnection of the subjects of Professional Ethics and Social Communication creates a comprehensive basis for the preparation of police officers who are able to

act lawfully and ethically, communicate professionally and effectively with the public, respect human rights, prevent conflicts, and build citizens' trust in the Police Force. Respect for and protection of human rights are among the basic pillars of a democratic society and, at the same time, an integral part of the professional performance of the police service. Police officers interfere with individuals' rights and freedoms on a daily basis in the performance of their duties, so it is essential that any action they take is lawful, proportionate, non-discriminatory, and based on respect for human dignity.

This chapter provides a brief and practical overview of the basic principles of human rights protection in police practice. Its aim is to highlight the importance of applying international standards, ethical principles, and legal procedures in the exercise of police powers. Respect for human rights not only enhances the professionalism of police work, but also strengthens public trust in the Police Force, supports the legitimacy of its activities and contributes to building a safe and just society.

At the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava, we consider education in human rights protection an integral part of preparing future members of the Police Force. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is a basic principle of the police service's democratic performance and an important prerequisite for building public trust in its activities. Police officers regularly interfere with individuals' rights and freedoms in the exercise of

of their legal powers, so it is essential that they have not only high-quality legal knowledge but also the ability to correctly interpret and apply the principles of human rights protection in everyday police practice. We address this issue under the subject Protection of Human Rights, which aims to provide students with comprehensive theoretical, methodological, and practical knowledge of the development, significance, and systems for the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms.

Students are acquainted with international and national human rights legislation, the universal and regional systems for their protection, and the activities of judicial and other institutions that ensure the protection of fundamental rights. fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Slovak Republic and international documents, the right to life, the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, the protection of political rights, the rights of national minorities, the status of women and children, as well as other rights and freedoms important for the performance of police service.

An integral part of the subject is the analysis of the case law of national and international judicial bodies and practical knowledge of the activities of the Slovak National Center for Human Rights. Teaching is regularly enriched by professional workshops conducted in cooperation with the Public Defender of Rights of the Slovak Republic, during which students discuss current issues in the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, analyze specific cases from practice,

and gain valuable knowledge directly from experts working in the field of human rights protection. This form of teaching significantly connects theoretical knowledge with practical experience and develops students' ability to apply the principles of human rights protection in the performance of police service. By completing the course, students acquire not only the necessary legal knowledge but also the ability to apply the principles of human rights protection in specific situations in police practice. They develop their professional competencies, understand the moral, ethical, and legal context of police service performance, and are ready to exercise their powers in a lawful, proportionate, and non-discriminatory manner in accordance with the principles of the rule of law and international standards for the protection of human rights. Systematic education in this area significantly contributes to the professionalization of the Police Force, strengthening its integrity and building citizens' trust in the security forces.

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Cooperation with different target groups in practice

Within the "Riot Police" specialization, students of the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava are also systematically acquainted with the issue of ensuring public order during public events, gatherings, sporting events, and demonstrations. Particular attention is paid to the importance of effective communication with participants in these events, the de-

escalation of conflict situations, and the application of preventive measures to protect public order and fundamental human rights. The teaching also addresses the activities of the Anti-Conflict Teams of the Police Force, which are an important tool for modern, prevention-oriented police work based on communication, building trust, and preventing conflict escalation. Anti-conflict teams of the Police Force are specialized units whose main task is to prevent conflicts and disturbances of public order through communication, without resorting to coercive means. During public gatherings, sports, cultural, and social events, they establish contact with organizers, participants, and other interested persons, monitor the development of the security situation, identify potential risks, and mediate communication between the public and the commander of the security measure. Through active listening, explaining police measures, calming the situation, and using de-escalation techniques, they try to prevent aggressive behavior and illegal actions. Members of anti-conflict teams usually operate in civilian clothes and communicate with participants directly "face-to-face", thus creating an environment of mutual trust and cooperation. Long-term experience from their deployment confirms that they can resolve a number of incidents before they escalate through effective communication, thereby significantly contributing to the protection of life, health, property, and public order, while also strengthening public trust in the Police Force.

Communication with specific groups of people requires a special approach, a high level of professionalism, empathy, and respect for human dignity. Police officers regularly come into contact with children and adolescents, women, members of marginalized communities, people with disabilities, seniors, and other vulnerable groups. Effective communication with these persons must take into account their individual needs, age, life situation, and any specific disadvantages. The aim is to ensure the legal, sensitive, and non-discriminatory performance of the police service, to strengthen public trust in the Police Force, and to effectively protect the rights and legitimate interests of all persons without distinction. The Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava pays special attention to communication and work with child victims and other particularly vulnerable victims of crime. In this area, it was an important partner in the implementation of the national project "Special Interrogation Rooms for Child Victims and Other Particularly Vulnerable Victims of Crime", the main objective of which was to create conditions for sensitive, professional, and non-harmful interrogations of persons with special needs of protection during criminal proceedings. At the same time, the project aimed to increase the professional competence of members of the Police Force in the field of investigating crimes committed against children and other particularly vulnerable victims.

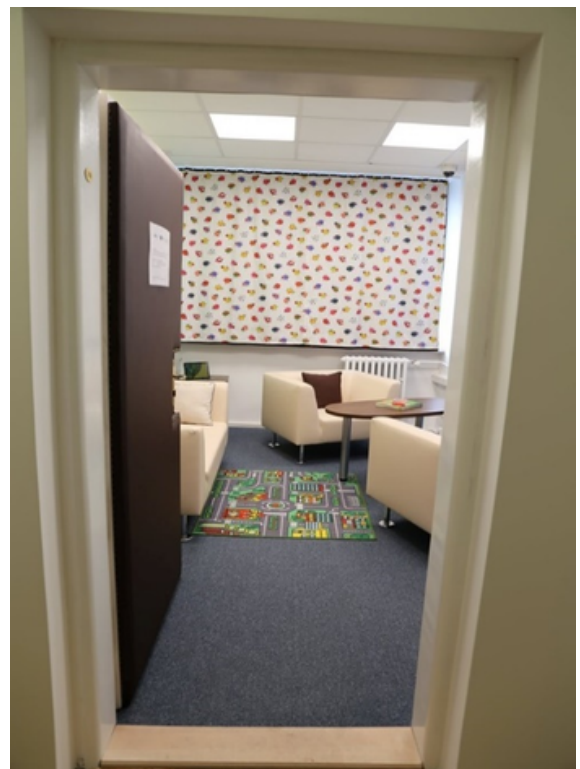
As part of the project, special interrogation rooms were created at several workplaces of the Police Force, which were structurally modified and equipped with suitable interiors

and modern technical means, enabling interrogations to be conducted in a way that respects the psychological needs of victims. The project also included the development of a training methodology and the implementation of specialized training of police officers, which was attended by at least 350 members of the Police Force. An important result of the project was the creation of a uniform methodological procedure for interrogating particularly vulnerable victims and the enhancement of police officers' professional competencies in communicating with this group. However, the project did not end with its formal completion. The education of members of the Police Force in this area continues through regular specialized courses.

One of the special interrogation rooms was established directly at the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava, where it serves as a modern educational workplace for the preparation of investigators and other police officers focused on the investigation of crimes committed against minors and other particularly vulnerable victims. The premises are used not only for practical training in conducting interrogations and model situations, but also for conducting interrogations in real criminal proceedings. Similar specialized interrogation rooms have been created at other workplaces of the Police Force in the territory of the Slovak Republic and today represent a standard tool of police practice in ensuring the rights of children and other particularly vulnerable victims.

The implementation of this project has significantly contributed to improving the quality of protection of victims of crime, to reducing the risk of secondary victimization during criminal proceedings, and to increasing the professionalism of the Police Force in communicating with persons who, due to their age or life situation, require a particularly sensitive, individual, and human rights approach. Through the integration of modern materials and technical equipment, a uniform methodology, and continuous education for police officers, the project has created a long-term, sustainable training system that significantly enhances the quality of criminal investigations and the protection of the rights of the most vulnerable victims.

The Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava is an active partner of the European project FULL-PROOF – Guaranteeing the Proper Conduct of Criminal Proceedings by Strengthening the Procedural Rights of the Suspect and the Accused, the main objective of which is to contribute to a more consistent application of procedural rights in the early stages of criminal proceedings and thus strengthen the fair, efficient and lawful functioning of criminal justice in the Member States of the European Union. The project is based on the principles of the Stockholm Roadmap and focuses on the practical implementation of European directives governing the right to information, the right of access to a lawyer, and the right to legal aid for suspects and accused persons.



Source: Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic: [Interrogation room at the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava](#)

The project addresses the persistent shortcomings in the application of procedural rights in the day-to-day practice of law enforcement authorities. Its aim is to identify the most frequent violations of procedural guarantees, analyze their causes, and propose solutions to eliminate them at both the national and European levels. Particular emphasis is placed on the identification and transfer of best practices between Member States, the creation of a common methodological framework for their implementation in everyday police and judicial practice, and the monitoring of the current state of the application of procedural rights in individual European Union Member States.

An important pillar of the project is the increase in professional knowledge, practical skills, and legal awareness among police officers, lawyers, prosecutors, judges, and other professionals working on the front line of criminal proceedings. Through professional training, workshops, exchange of experience, and interprofessional dialogue, the project supports the uniform application of European standards for the protection of procedural rights, strengthens cross-border cooperation, and contributes to the building of a common area of justice based on the principles of the rule of law.

One of the specific outputs of the project is the preparation of practical methodological manuals, educational materials, recommendations, infographics, and audiovisual tools to help police officers and other professionals in the daily application of

procedural rights in criminal proceedings. At the same time, the project creates space for regular meetings of experts, during which experiences are exchanged, and effective solutions can be used across the Member States of the European Union. An important contribution of the project is also the strengthening of awareness that the protection of procedural rights of suspects and accused persons is one of the basic prerequisites for fair criminal proceedings and public trust in the judiciary. Particular attention is paid to the clear provision of information on rights, timely access to a lawyer, the provision of effective legal aid, and the protection of vulnerable persons during criminal proceedings.

The FULL-PROOF project focuses on direct cooperation with the professional public and, during its implementation, plans to involve at least 280 experts in the fields of policing, justice, and legal practice. The participation of the Police Force Academy in Bratislava in this project confirms its long-term efforts to modernize police education, implement European standards for the protection of human rights, and prepare police officers for professional performance of service in accordance with the principles of fair criminal proceedings and the protection of fundamental rights of all participants in criminal proceedings.

The first Cross-Border Workshop for Law Enforcement Authorities (LEAs) within the FULL-PROOF project was held on 3rd – 4th December 2025 in Bratislava, hosted by the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava. The

workshop gathered project partners and police officers from Slovakia, Poland, and Romania to exchange experiences and strengthen the protection of procedural rights during suspects' and accused persons' first interrogation.

One of the outputs of the project activity is quizzes. Click on the link below or scan the QR to test your knowledge in interactive quizzes focused on the procedural rights of suspects and accused persons. The quizzes are intended for both target groups and the general public and help raise awareness of the importance of respecting procedural rights to ensure the proper conduct of criminal proceedings.



FULL-PROOF Guidance Booklets are practical resources designed to promote the effective protection of procedural rights across the European Union. They provide easy-to-understand guidance on key safeguards for suspects and accused persons, helping both professionals and citizens better understand and exercise their rights during criminal proceedings.



Helping suspects and accused persons understand their procedural rights remains a key challenge, especially in the early stages of criminal proceedings. In his first FULL-PROOF animation, he explains why clear communication is essential and why legal safeguards must work in practice and not just on paper. Although these



rights are well enshrined in European Union law, their practical application remains a challenge in the Member States. Animation is the project's key message: reading the rights alone is not enough. To ensure a fair trial, rights need to be communicated clearly, comprehensibly, and in a manner adapted to individual circumstances. Only then can suspects and accused fully understand and apply these rights in practice.

Scan the QR code to access the FULL-PROOF project website.



Public communication and engagement with citizens

Communication with the public is a basic competency for members of the Police Force and significantly affects citizens' trust in the police. Every contact between a police officer and a citizen is an opportunity to build credibility, openness, and professionalism of the Police Force. Effective communication must be based on respect, clarity, impartiality and adherence to ethical principles, with particular importance in sensitive, crisis or high-stress situations. An integral part of professional communication is also strict

adherence to legal procedures in the performance of official activities, respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, and appropriate exercise of police powers. Only such an approach contributes to strengthening public trust, enhancing transparency in police work, and building a positive partnership between the police and citizens.

An important part of building trust between the police and the public is also the systematic preventive and educational activities of the Police Force. Throughout the year, the Police Force implements a number of preventive programs, discussions, lectures, and educational activities intended for kindergarten children, primary school pupils, secondary school students, as well as other groups in the population. Their aim is to increase legal awareness, safety literacy, and public awareness of the risks related to crime, cyber security, traffic safety, violence, addictions, extremism, trafficking in human beings, or other socially undesirable phenomena. Particular emphasis is placed on preventive action from an early age, as it is during this period that an individual's values, attitudes, and responsible behavior are formed. Early education and open communication among the police, schools, parents, and local communities contribute significantly to preventing risky behavior, strengthening citizens' trust in the Police Force, and building a safer environment for society as a whole.

As an example of preventive activities carried out by the Police Force, the following can be mentioned:

Oli's story

The preventive project "Oli's Story" is a nationwide initiative implemented across units of the Bratislava Region since 2011. The target group is pupils in the second and third grades of primary schools. The prevention program was created in 2010 as part of the cooperation between the Railways of the Slovak Republic and the office of the border and liaison officer of the German Federal Police. In the form of a short animated film divided into four stories, children are warned about a specific risk they face when moving and playing near railways. After the screening of the film, the policeman and the children discuss the individual stories of what the heroes did wrong and warn the children of the possible dangers and consequences associated with the situation. The preventive project "Oli's Story" is implemented in schools located near railway stations, railway and tram tracks, and rails of railway crossings, especially in locations where it is assumed that children often move in these areas, e.g., on their way to and from school.

Trafficking in human beings

Every year, prevention officers of the Bratislava Region visit schools on the issue of trafficking in human beings, especially during the months of May and June – in the period before summer jobs, when young people's interest in working abroad is increased. During the meetings, the policeman's information for students about possible pitfalls and dangers is also accompanied by a presentation titled "It can't happen to me". Young girls and women are provided with information on how not to become a victim of trafficking or other crimes. This method of lecture is carried out at the request of schools.

No violence every day

Every year, especially in November (when November 25 is the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women), the Bratislava Region carries out a preventive and promotional activity called "No Violence Every Day". The activity is held annually to draw the public's attention to the issue of violence. The aim of this activity is to draw attention to the issue of violence, to point out its various forms, the possibilities of how to prevent risky situations, how to defend oneself, and what to do, or who to turn to if someone has become a victim of a violent crime.

World White Cane Day

The traffic-preventive event on the occasion of the World White Cane Day is organized annually by the Union of the Blind and Visually Impaired of Slovakia. On this day, we commemorate the significance of this symbolic aid for the blind. During the action, police officers of the Bratislava Region, in cooperation with the Regional Traffic Inspectorate of the Regional Police Directorate, cross pedestrian crossings with a blind person from the Union of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Police officers of the Regional Transport Inspectorate monitor drivers' reactions when they see a person with a white cane at the crossing. Drivers who do not stop at the signal for a blind person when entering a pedestrian crossing to cross the road are checked by a police patrol and issued a warning for violating the provisions of the Road Traffic Act. [1]

[1] <https://www.minv.sk/?preventivne-aktivita-pre-siroku-verejnost>

In addition to the above activities, the preventive activities of the Police Force also focus on:

- Traffic education
- Criminal liability – raising legal awareness
- Bullying and cyberbullying
- Safe internet and social networks
- Prevention of drug addiction – drugs and the law
- Preventing extremism, radicalization, and discrimination
- Trafficking in human beings
- Theft and fraud on seniors
- Violence against women and domestic violence
- Police work, emergency numbers
- Contact with strangers. [2]

An example of a modern approach to preventing crime and risky behavior among young people is the nationwide prevention campaign "On Your Own Skin", launched by the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic in 2026. The project represents an innovative form of safety education based on experiential learning, open communication, and the active involvement of young people in discussing current social problems.

The campaign is intended primarily for pupils in the second stage of primary school and secondary school students, while also involving teachers and parents in individual activities. In the first weeks of implementation alone, more than 12,000 pupils from across Slovakia signed up for the project, underscoring its extraordinary social importance and schools' interest in modern preventive education. The campaign is part of the Safe and Resilient Slovakia project.

The project is implemented through an interactive truck that visits cities across Slovakia and offers young people a unique experience through simulations of real-life situations. Instead of traditional lectures, it uses emotionally powerful stories, multimedia elements, and interactive activities that help participants understand the consequences of wrong decisions and their impact on their own lives and on the lives of those around them.



Source: <https://www.minv.sk/?tlacove-spravy&sprava=ministerstvo-vnutra-odstartovalo-roadshow-na-vlastnej-kozi>

The content of the campaign focuses on three extremely topical areas – drug addiction, cyberbullying and animal cruelty. The common denominator of these phenomena is the loss of empathy, the anonymity of the environment, and the negative influence of peers. Therefore, the aim of the project is not to moralize but to develop critical thinking, responsibility, and young people's ability to make the right decisions in risky situations through authentic experiences. Experts from the Ministry of the Interior of the Slovak Republic and the Police

Force are also an integral part of the events, discussing current security threats with pupils, teachers and parents, answering questions and providing practical recommendations for preventing risky behavior. The project thus creates space for an open dialogue among experts, schools, and the public, and at the same time strengthens young people's trust in security institutions.

The 'On your own skin' campaign is an example of a modern prevention policy based on partnership, interactive learning and practical experience. Its main goal is to strengthen the resilience of children and young people to negative social phenomena, promote their safety and legal awareness, and prevent tragic events before they occur. At the same time, the project confirms that effective prevention must be understandable, authentic, and implemented in ways that are close to young people and truly appeal to them.

The Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava has long supported the Police Force's preventive activities and actively participates in developing modern forms of security education and crime prevention. To strengthen legal awareness, safety literacy, and preventive action regarding children and youth, selected teachers from the Police Force Academy in Bratislava, in cooperation with students, prepared a scientific research task titled "Strengthening justice and security through education in primary schools". The project is based on the current needs of security practice and represents an innovative model of cooperation among the academic environment, the Police Force, and primary

schools to build legal and security awareness among the younger generation.

The current security environment is characterized by the dynamic evolution of security threats, the growing prevalence of hybrid risks and societal challenges, and increasingly evident effects on the behavior of children and young people. In this context, there is a growing need to systematically build legal awareness, safety literacy, and preventive mechanisms from the second level of primary school onward. Pupils in grades 6 and 7 are in a significant period of the formation of values and attitudes, while experience from pedagogical and police practice indicates insufficient knowledge of criminal and administrative liability and the consequences of unlawful conduct.

The proposed scientific research task addresses these challenges by developing an interactive educational module for pupils in the second stage of primary school. Its content will focus on criminal and administrative liability, crime prevention, legal awareness, and the explanation of the consequences of unlawful conduct through model situations and practical examples. The aim is to encourage responsible behavior among young people and increase their ability to make the right decisions in everyday situations.

The module will also include education on safety and behavior in crisis situations. Following the Action Plan for the Protection of Soft Targets, attention will be paid to developing security awareness, adopting the principles of safe behavior, and building the

ability to respond appropriately to emergencies. An innovative element of the project will be the use of virtual reality, through which pupils will safely practice correct decision-making and procedures in simulated crisis situations.

An important benefit of the project is the close cooperation between the Police Force and the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava, which has the professional, scientific, research, and pedagogical potential to create modern preventive educational tools. Students of the Academy will also be actively involved in implementing preventive measures and conducting educational activities in primary schools throughout Slovakia. Their generational proximity to the target group creates more natural communication, strengthens trust, and increases the effectiveness of preventive action.

An important partner in the project is the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia, which will ensure the effective implementation of the results in practice by cooperating with local governments, the founders of primary schools.

At the same time, it will make it possible to identify regional specifics and current security problems so that the content of the educational module reflects the real needs of individual regions. The project will thus contribute to strengthening cooperation among the academic sphere, the Police Force, the local government, and schools, and to creating a methodologically proven tool for increasing the legal and security awareness of the younger generation.



Source: Authors' own photograph

Building public trust in the Police Force is a long-term, systematic process, the basic pillars of which are professionalism, ethics, integrity, respect for human rights, and open communication with citizens. Today, the modern police no longer fulfills only a repressive function, but increasingly acts as a partner to the public, contributing to the creation of a safe and resilient society through prevention, education and active cooperation.

The Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava plays an irreplaceable role in this process. Through modern police education, scientific research activities, international projects, and close cooperation with the Police Force, it creates conditions for preparing police officers who are ready to perform their duties professionally, lawfully, and with respect for the fundamental rights and freedoms of each individual. Equally important is the systematic integration of theoretical knowledge and practical experience, which enables future police officers to respond effectively to evolving security challenges.

The examples of good practice presented in this publication – from the teaching of professional ethics, protection of human rights and communication skills, through the work of anti-conflict teams, specialized training in the field of working with particularly vulnerable victims, European projects to preventive activities aimed at children and young people – confirm that quality police education is one of the most effective tools for building public trust in the Police Force.

Of particular importance is the development of preventive activities carried out in cooperation with schools, local government, academia, and other partners. Early formation of legal awareness, safety literacy, and responsible behavior among children and young people significantly contributes to crime prevention, strengthens social responsibility, and builds a positive attitude in the public towards security forces. Experience shows that prevention, implemented through modern, interactive forms of education, can reach the younger generation much more effectively than traditional approaches.

At the same time, the publication confirms the importance of international cooperation and the exchange of experience in implementing European standards for police education. The involvement of the Academy of the Police Force in Bratislava in international projects creates a space for sharing best practices, supports educational innovation, and contributes to the harmonization of police training across Europe.

We believe that the experience and examples of good practice presented in this publication will be an inspiration not only for police educational institutions but also for security forces, public institutions, and all professionals involved in protecting human rights, preventing crime, and building trust between the police and the public. Only a police force that acts professionally, transparently, and with respect for people can earn citizens' long-term trust and successfully fulfill its mission in a democratic society.

- <https://www.minv.sk/?tlacove-spravy&sprava=ministerstvo-vnutra-odstartovalo-roadshow-na-vlastnej-kozi>
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