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COMPARISON OF FINANCING OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECURITY

Summary

At present great emphasis is continually being placed on security in local government units. One of possibilities for providing security for local communities is municipality police. Municipality police fulfils tasks while ensuring order in a city and protecting its residents. The paper presents a comparison of investments into security in the largest Polish, Czech and Slovak cities of the Euroregion Beskidy. The paper also offers numerical data of the amounts of financial resources given allocated from the security budget to the city police forces.

Key words: *security, quality of life, municipal police, local government*

JEL Classification: *J28*

Introduction

The environment of a city creates specific space for its residents. On one hand many opportunities for personal development arise (schools, jobs, services), while on the other hand, high concentration of people may have an impact on security and property of city dwellers. Security is one of the main attributes which influences the quality of urban life. For the fee they pay or are otherwise subjected to in a city, citizens demand their personal protection and protection of their property. It is specifically for this reason that cities earmark finances for various security programmes. One of the main components of such programmes is a city or municipal police. Thanks to this uniformed formation cities try to

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minimize criminal activities and thus create a safer environment for local communities.

1. Security in cities

For better understanding of security in cities it is necessary to define what we understand by the idea of security. Security may be considered as a system of actors which are mutually linked and work with one another. Lack of security may impact social developments and negatively influence health, life and all other values of individuals (Hofreiter, 2015). From the viewpoint of real evaluation of security we can define security as such a state of safety of a situation, actors and processes which ensure favourable conditions for the existence, endurance, fulfilment of required functions and development of each reference object (Hofreiter, 2015). We assign the following in particular among reference objects: state authorities and organizations, units of local government (higher territorial units, city, municipality), manufacturing businesses, not-manufacturing businesses, service providers and other for-profit and non-profit organizations. There are many activities in all reference objects, and these may be endangered and therefore it is necessary to protect them (Belan, 2015). It is important to focus attention on a more secure environment.

A secure environment is a sum and concentrated expression of a secure situation in a certain space at a certain time. A secure environment then represents a part of the natural, social and technological environment, in which an adequately secure situation arises in a given time and space, in consequence of interactions of actors and the influence of agents of the environment (Hofreiter, 2015). Each city tries to create the safest environment possible. Therefore, it has finances earmarked for security programmes. A security program, however, can be specified very clearly. This program includes police services (operation of municipality police), civil defence (operation of a civil defence department at the city office) and fire protection (operation of a volunteer fire department) (Štofko and Šoltés, 2014). This program may also consist of sub-programs. One of them which has an impact on the feeling of security in cities and a lowering of criminality is the municipal (city) police forces.

The decision of whether a given act is a criminal one depends on the society and on the political-economic structure of the country. With

definition of a crime and its understanding as a concept of the legal province of defined standards, a crime is the sum of all criminal acts which perpetrators committed intentionally or out of negligence in a certain place and time (Madliak, 1998). We can talk about criminality on national but also on local level. On the national level criminality is dealt with by the Police Force of the Slovak Republic, which is financed by the state. A municipality police force, which is financed by a municipality, also deals with criminality on the local level. The cooperation of these two units is very important as this increases security on the given territory.

2. A comparison of local governments

The Euroregion Beskidy spreads over the territory of Slovakia (SK), the Czech Republic (CZ) and Poland (PL). These states are very similar in various directions. The largest city located in the Euroregion from each state was selected and the 3 cities were compared on the basis of certain parameters which have an impact on security. Each city has certain sums of money earmarked for specific purposes. It is necessary for a city to manage finances appropriately in an attempt to keep the financially healthy condition (Štofková et al., 2015).

Data affecting security in Žilina during the years 2014-2016 are shown in Table 1. The data contains population, city budget, resources earmarked for security, resources earmarked for city police, finances from total budget for security in %, share of finances from security for city police in %, finances for security calculated per resident as well as finances for city police calculated per resident. Regarding data of financial means, they are expressed in Euros.

Table 1: Žilina and data influencing security.

Žilina (SK)			
	2014	2015	2016
population	83 741	83 569	83 545
city budget (Euro)	54 477 037	64 311 840	73 089 732
resources earmarked for security (Euro)	1 778 538	1 819 208	1 960 701
resources earmarked for city police (Euro)	1 735 555	1 742 710	1 900 000
finances from total budget for security in %	3.26	2.83	2.68

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Žilina (SK)			
	2014	2015	2016
share of finances from security for city police in %	97.58	95.79	96.90
finances for security calculated per resident (Euro)	21.24	21.77	23.47
finances for city police calculated per resident (Euro)	20.73	20.85	22.74

Source: Account closing of the city of Žilina.

Žilina covers an area of 80.03 km². The city budget increased during the monitored years. Resources earmarked for security and city police were also increased. With a more detailed measuring, the percentage amount for security from the entire budget for the compared monitored years was found to have a declining character, even when the amount in the calculation per resident is rising.

Data affecting security in Frýdek-Místek contain Table 2. Czech crown was converted into Euros.

Table 2: Frýdek-Místek and data influencing security.

Frýdek-Místek (CZ)			
	2014	2015	2016
population	56 714	58 048	56 879
city budget (Euro)	38 949 021	43 491 913	47 872 935
resources earmarked for security (Euro)	1 179 712	1 237 425	1 579 015
resources earmarked for city police (Euro)	1 070 833	1 168 228	1 410 549
finances from total budget for security in %	3.03	2.85	3.30
share of finances from security for city police in %	90.77	94.41	89.33
finances for security calculated per resident (Euro)	20.8	21.32	27.76
finances for city police calculated per resident (Euro)	18.88	20.13	24.8

Source: Account closing of the city of Frýdek-Místek.

Frýdek-Místek with an area of 51.61 km² also has an increasing budget during the monitored period and with it also finances earmarked for security and city police. From the monitored period it is evident that the city does not underestimate security, and thus in 2016 it earmarked the highest finances for security program, which is visible both in the calculation of amount of financing and per resident. Even though the share for the city police in 2016 from the overall budget declines with calculation per capita, it rose by 4.67€ year-on-year.

Data obtained from Polish sources affecting security in Bielsko-Biała are shown in Table 3. Polish zloty was also converted into Euros.

Table 3: Bielsko-Biała and data influencing security.

Bielsko-Biała (PL)			
	2014	2015	2016
population	173 013	172 781	172 781
city budget (Euro)	172 698 284	181 539 823	209 466 796
resources earmarked for security (Euro)	5 177 527	5 377 166	5 442 863
resources earmarked for city police (Euro)	1 412 197	1 369 045	1 655 571
finances from total budget for security in %	3.00	2,96	2,96
share of finances from security for city police in %	27.28	25.46	30.42
finances for security calculated per resident (Euro)	29.93	31.12	31.5
finances for city police calculated per resident (Euro)	8.16	7.92	9.58

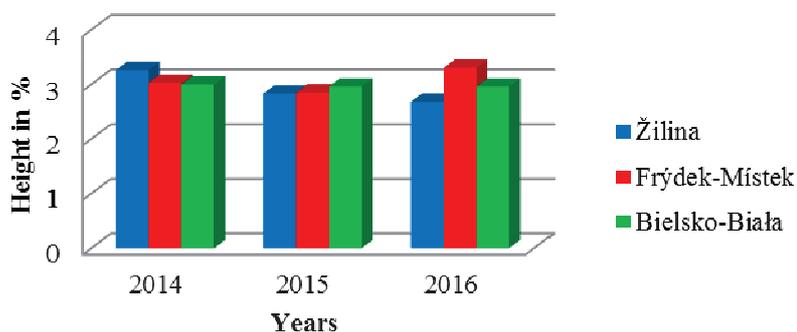
Source: Account closing of the city of Bielsko-Biała.

Bielsko-Biała covers an area of 124.93 km². The city budget is rising as well, as are the resources earmarked for security and the city police. Upon percentage comparison the amount of financing for security recorded a drop versus 2014, but in calculation per resident the amount of financing rose. In 2016 the most resources are set aside for security and city police in the calculation per resident.

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Comparison of the share of budget finances earmarked for security in cities of the Euroregion Beskydy for period 2014 – 2016 is shown in Fig. 1.

Figure 1: Comparison the share of budget finances earmarked for security in cities of the Beskydy Euroregion for a certain period.

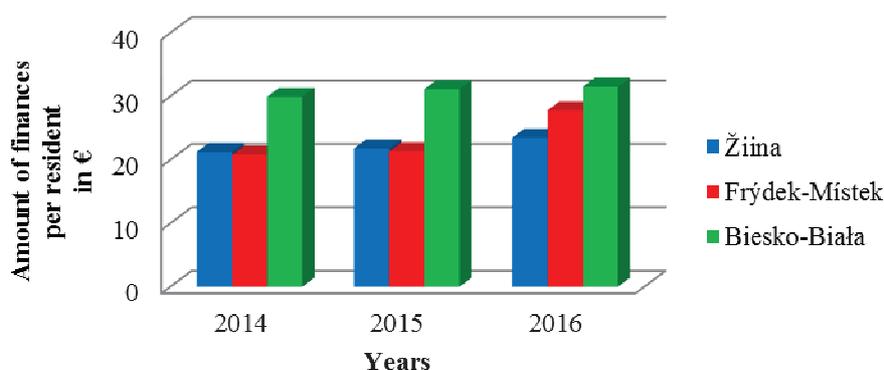


Source: own processing.

The compared cities had approximately an equal share of finances from the budget earmarked for security. In 2014 in the percentage calculation Žilina had the most earmarked finances for security, but in 2016 it had the least earmarked from the compared cities. Frýdek-Místek earmarked the largest share in 2016 of the compared cities.

In the comparison of the amount of finances for security calculated per resident for the monitored period, the city of Bielsko-Biala is first in all the years. Žilina and Frýdek-Místek had roughly equal financing calculated per resident (Fig. 2).

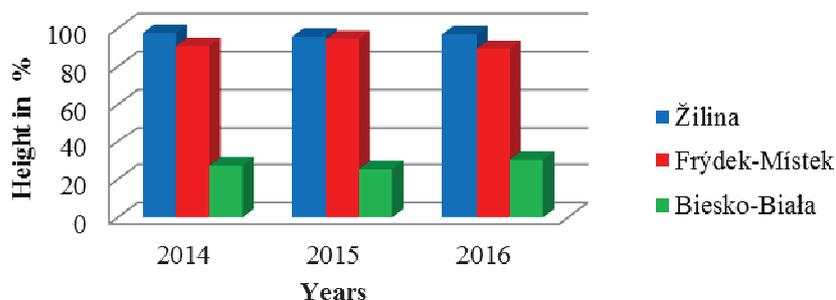
Figure 2: Comparison the amount of finances for security calculated per resident in cities of the Beskydy Euroregion for a certain period.



Source: own processing.

Comparison of the share of finances for security earmarked for city police forces in cities of the Euroregion Beskidy for this certain period shows Fig. 3.

Figure 3: Comparison the share of finances for security earmarked for city police forces in cities of the Beskydy Euroregion for a certain period.

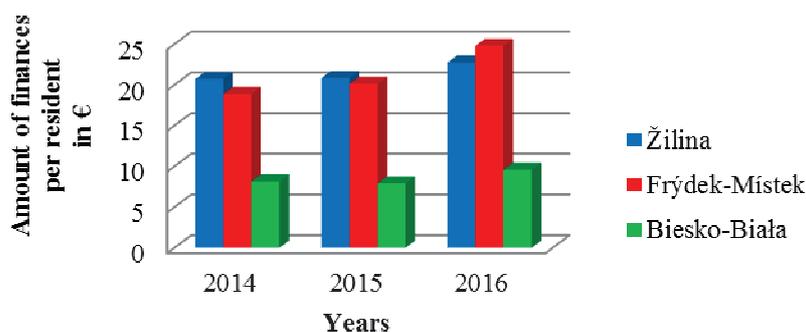


Source: own processing.

Žilina earmarked the highest share of finances from the security program for its city police for all the monitored years in comparison with other cities. Bielsko-Biała has the fewest finances earmarked for all the years. Its amount ranges from 25.46% - 30.42% of the total security program budget, which is significantly less than the second lowest city has in 2016 (89.33%). Comparison of the amount of finances for city police forces calculated per resident in cities shows Fig. 4.

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Figure 4: Comparison the amount of finances for city police forces calculated per resident in cities of the Beskydy Euroregion for a certain period.



Source: own processing.

With depiction of the amount of finances for city police calculated per resident, Žilina had the most finances earmarked in years 2014 and 2015. In 2016 Frýdek-Místek earmarked the most finances from the entire monitored period and from the compared cities. Bielsko-Biała earmarked the least financing for city police for the whole monitored period.

Conclusions

The contribution compares the use of finances for security of local government units in the Euroregion Beskidy. The largest cities located in this region were selected, one from each state, and they were subsequently compared. The main criteria of comparison were the city budgets, resources earmarked for security and resources from the security budget earmarked for the city police. For a more thorough comparison, a calculation of finances per resident for the given cities was also used. Data for year 2016 could still change, but the most current data were used, which could still partially change by the end of the year. The cities had an equal share of their budget finances earmarked for security, but with the calculation of finances per resident Bielsko-Biała earmarked the most. For city police, however, Bielsko-Biała earmarked a significantly lower sum than the other cities. But this city earmarked significantly higher finances to other security measures, such as, for example, the provincial police presidium, the central state district fire services, volunteer fire departments, civil defence and crisis management. For

a more thorough assessment of the suitability of the earmarked finances from the security budgets for city police it would be appropriate to also compare the criminal activities in the given locality.

Grant support

The contribution was processed in the scope of implementation the projects VEGA 1/0787/14, VEGA 1/069316, VEGA 1/0696/16 and IGP 201610.

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