

JACEK DWORZECKI

Wyższa Szkoła Policji w Szczytnie

DOMINIK HRYSZKIEWICZ

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The National Police Academy as a leading component of the police education system in France

Introduction

In the field of public security and public order in France, police provenance tasks are assigned to three institutions, namely: the National Police (fr. Police nationale), being under the plenipotentiary of the Minister of Interior Affairs of the French Republic, the Municipal Police (fr. Police municipale), whose officers are subordinate to the local governments (mers of the cities) as well as the National Gendarmerie (fr. Gendarmerie nationale), which is a component of the French national armed forces. In the latter case, it should be pointed out that, despite the status of military formation within the Ministry of the Army (until May 2017, it was called the Ministry of Defence), in terms of content, that is in the field of internal security, the National Gendarmerie has been under the authority of the Minister of Internal Affairs since January 1, 2009.

This article presents the organization and management of the National Police Academy, which is the central component of the French police education system. The text is addressed to people professionally or scientifically concerned about widely understood issues of internal security, as well as to students in such fields as internal security, national security, law, administration or management in dispositional groups. The material has been prepared as part of a research project under the name of “Building of an information system that promotes communication at the Police and other services subordinated to the Minister of Internal Affairs in the aspect of internal security”, No. DOB-BIO7/03/01/2015.

1. Organization of the National Police in France

The organizational structure of the National Police, which is the largest French uniformed formation, consisting of 145,000 officers, is responsible for public safety and order. The National Police is well-developed, with a wide range of tasks assigned to this formation. The Directorate-General of the National Police (fr. Direction générale de la police nationale) is the organizational unit of the central level with its headquarters in Paris.¹ In addition, the organizational segments/units of the aforementioned formations are amongst others composed of:

1. Directorate of the National Police Administration (fr. Direction de l'administration de la police nationale);

2. Directorate for Human Resources and Competence Management of the National Police (fr. 3. Direction des ressources et des compétences de la police nationale);

4. Directorate of Criminal Police (including judiciary) (fr. Direction centrale de la police judiciaire);

5. Directorate for Public Security (Preventive Service) (fr. Direction centrale de la sécurité publique);

6. Intervention Groups of the National Police (fr. Groupes d'Intervention de la Police Nationale). These are regional special troops dedicated to activities requiring special tactics and intervention techniques assigned to cohesive detachments (counterterrorist), capable of performing uncomplicated special operations such as the seizure of dangerous criminals, the releasing of hostages or the protection of special convoys;

7. Directorate of Border Police (fr. Direction centrale de la police aux frontières);

8. General Inspectorate of the National Police (realizing tasks of the internal control in the formation) (fr. Inspection générale de la police nationale);

9. Directorate of the Republic Security Company (substantial counterpart of prevention troops) (fr. Direction centrale des compagnies républicaines de sécurité);

10. Directorate of International Cooperation (fr. Direction de la coopération internationale);

Central Directorate of Interior Intelligence (fr. Direction Centrale du Renseignement Intérieur);

11. Directorate of Central Selection and Training of the National Police (fr. Direction centrale du recrutement et de la formation de la Police nationale);

12. Government Protection Bureau (fr. Service de protection des hautes personnalités);

13. Prefecture of Paris Police (fr. Préfecture de Police);

¹ J. Tulard, *Histoire et dictionnaire de la Police: du Moyen Âge à nos jours*, Paris 2005, p. 231.

14. Central Counter-terrorism Unit of the National Police (fr. Recherche Assistance Intervention Dissuasion, RAID). It executes counter-terrorist interventions under serious incidents at the national level.²

Taking into consideration the descriptive character of the General Directorate of the National Police, it should be pointed out that it is only to a small extent a substantive equivalent of the Polish Police Headquarters. The plenipotentiary of the Director-General include both strictly police matters, including the management of police departments, as well as wide responsibilities in the field of crisis management, which in Poland is attributed to others than the police, departments and institutions of state and local administration. In terms of decision-making competence, the Director General of the National Police is similar to the Polish Minister of Interior Affairs and Administration. This is due, among other things, to the fact that individual French ministries of central administration are heavily focused on legislative initiatives and to a lesser extent on executive actions.

All prefectures and officers employed there, civil corps officials and intervention groups — most often they are used in cases of collective public order abuse, judiciary police and other police services are subject to the Directorate-General of the National Police. The Director General also has a substantive impact on the functioning of the Prosecutor's Office, the National Gendarmerie (including gendarmerie miners and pyrotechnics units), the professional fire brigade, and the local civil protection structures.

According to the current administrative division in the French Republic there are Regional Directorates of the National Police (roughly equivalent to the Voivodship Police Headquarters) and the Directorates of the National Police Departments (roughly equivalent to the District Police Headquarters).

2. Selection of candidates for service in the National Police

Recruitment to both the largest police internal security formation (the National Police, the National Gendarmerie) takes place while maintaining a specific territorial division. The National Police has jurisdiction over the agglomerations as well as large and medium towns, while the Polish National Gendarmerie operates (and recruits) mainly in smaller towns, rural areas and border areas. Generally, the basic requirements for candidates for both departments are alike. Applicants for police/gendarmerie ranks must have:

- French nationality;
- 17–35 years old;
- in good health;

² J. M. Tanguy, *Le RAID — 30 ans d'intervention*, Paris 2015, p. 90.

- be fluent in spoken and written French;
- confirmed participation in the national celebration of the Defence and Citizenship Day.³

Obviously the candidate cannot have a criminal record. People with higher education are preferred (a minimum of secondary education is needed). The above criteria differ slightly from one another, depending on the corps to which the candidate applies.

Application for admission to the National Police is possible in two ways. The first possibility is to send the candidate's application to the appropriate — announcing competition/selection for service, regional police directorate. It is important that the candidate is obliged to serve in the region in this case for a minimum of 8 years. The second possibility is to participate in the process of selection for the formation announced at the central level. Candidates have to accept that after being admitted to the formation, they will be obliged to serve throughout the country (they may be transferred depending on the needs of the formation) for a minimum of 5 years. In both cases, premature cessation of their of service will incur financial penalties.

The admission procedure includes a multiple choice test, whose thematic scope concerns both current issues of state functions as well as broader issues of security. Moreover, candidates have three hours to write an essay on social issues, for which they can receive a maximum of 20 points (the candidate will be disqualified by getting fewer than 5 points). The selection procedure also includes a physical fitness test, a psychological test (including dealing with stress), an interview, and a short test from the basics of a selected foreign language (English, Dutch, Arabic, Spanish or Italian).

Following the adoption of the National Police position, young police officers are sent to the National Police Academy, where they receive the status of trainee. During annual training they participate in the didactic cycle, which combines both theoretical elements and field practice. Resigning during basic training is associated with an administrative penalty imposed financially. After completing the training, the graduates go to further service of linear detachments.

³ The Day of Defense and Citizenship was established in 1998 by President Jacques Chirac, as one of the elements of the reform of the national security system. As a result of the reform, among others, military service was abolished and one of the initiatives to promote national security and defense issues was the establishment of the aforementioned holiday, addressed to all citizens of the Republic of France aged 17–25. Candidates for State services must have recorded participation in the Defense and Citizenship Day. Source: own elaboration based on <http://www.defense.gouv.fr/jdc> (access: 1.07.2017).

2.1. Preparatory courses for performing functions in public administration institutions implemented within the governmental program “Promoting equal opportunities”

French society, as is widely known, is multi-cultural, affected primarily by people of migration origin without any start-up capital and support from autochthonous ancestors. The social structure of the country is characterized by significant and constantly deepening stratification. Therefore, in the institutions of state administration various initiatives are being undertaken which are in essence supposed to eliminate the existing social contrasts.

The vast majority of job vacancies in French public administration institutions are based on competition. It is also no different in the case of recruitment advertising for service in the National Police.⁴ In order to encourage young people to join law enforcement organs, including people from socially discriminated backgrounds, preparatory courses (rebalancing) are organized. Information about these courses can be found on the Public Service website.

Preparatory courses for candidates applying to join the National Police are organized by the National Police Academy. As part of the course, its participants prepare for written tests (including, among others, questions of the legal system in the republic, regarding functioning of the Police as well as general knowledge), which as previously indicated are part of the selection process. In addition, the trainees will improve their knowledge of a selected foreign language and their physical fitness, considering condition tests as part of the selection procedure for the National Police.

3. The Police education system in France. Outline of the problem

The police education system (considering the National Police) in France is established within one central didactic unit and police training academies and training centres located throughout the country. The higher education institution is the National Police Academy, where future National Police officers are studying or the representatives of the managing staff improve their knowledge. The infrastructure of the academy, which was officially inaugurated under its current name on January 1, 2013, is located in two sites: in Saint-Cyr-au-Mont-d'Or in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, in the Rodan department and also in Cannes-Écluse, in the Île-de-France Region, in the Seine and Marne department. In France, the National Police Academies are located in: Dra veil, Vincennes, Châtel-Guyon, Fos-sur-Mer, Périgueux, Reims, Roubaix, Saint-Malo, Sens,

⁴ L. Bui-Trong, *La Police dans la société française*, Paris 2003, p. 112.

Toulouse, Montbéliard, Nîmes, and Oissel, and National Police Training Centres are located in Chasseur and Nice. In addition, police training centres are located in French territories and overseas communities in New Caledonia, French Polynesia, French Guiana, and the Mayotte. Primarily, academies and training centres are responsible for the implementation and realization of professional courses and the improvement of officers' skills at the elementary level.

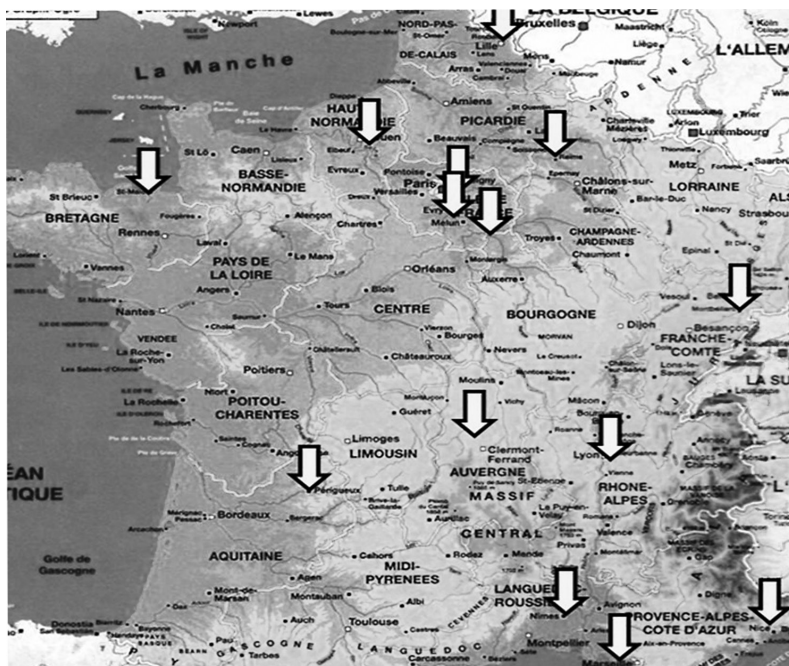


Figure 1. Location of academies and training centres of the National Police in France

Source: own elaboration.

While attempting to compile a short list of the characteristics of vocational course's forms, offered in teaching and training centres of the French police, it is worth mentioning that e.g., the security course for apprentices (equivalent to a trainee), organized by police schools, lasts for 12 months. The course programme includes not only theoretical blocks (e.g., administrative law, criminal proceedings, penal code, and other certain branches of law, but also, interestingly—stenographer) as well as blocks of practical classes (including self-defence, shooting, general development activities of physical education, tactics, and intervention techniques). In addition, as part of the course, apprentices have field practice in police units. The selection process for candidates for the security course of apprentices is carried out by personnel cells located at the Departments of National Police. Persons applying for accession to the course must be under 30 years old. It is worth mentioning that in the selection procedure, the average grade of a secondary school leaving certificate

is not taken into account. Apprentices who have worked in security for a period of at least one year before being accepted onto a course (vocational training and vocational internship is not included in this period), may apply for promotion to the rank of a referent, already in the course of training (this is the third title in the corps of apprentices and security assistants — more or less equivalent to the combined Polish corps and non-commissioned police officers). During the course, the participant receives a salary of 1351 Euro. The ranking of the achieved learning results, which is organized with the contribution of all participants at the end of the course, provides the basis for proposing to the best students interesting official positions in the formation (at the level assigned to the corps of apprentices and security assistants).



Figure 2. Official ranks in the National Police of the Republic of France

Source: own elaboration.

The course ends with state examinations. The National Police has a contract with the security apprentices for a period of three years, which can be extended for another three years. During this time, applicants are obliged to improve their qualifications and to obtain a rank of promotion (by the same token in the applicant's classification in grade) so that their form of employment can be changed (concluding a contract for an indefinite period).

The Police School also organizes several forms of preparatory courses for applicants for National Security Police apprentices. For example, people aged 18–25

may participate in the courses of general profile. During this 28-week theoretical course combined with 12-week practical training (including 7-week apprenticeship at a police station), they are prepared for the state examination for the rank/position of security applicant.

On the other hand, on the preparatory course with a preventive profile, candidates during the course of five months acquire skills in the scope of: actions of compact subdivisions and interventions undertaken to restore security and public order.

The training cycle contains two months of practical activities and simulations. Of course, the following are also covered by its scope: organization and functioning of the police, the code of criminal procedure, criminal, administrative, and misdemeanours law as well as self-defence classes, intervention techniques, and shooting training. Individuals of French nationality aged under 35 may attend this course.

Candidates applying for admission to these courses must have a general or technical secondary education. Apprentices applying for admission to these courses may exceed the above age limits, provided that they have at least one year's experience of service in security services.

After four years of service, police officers with the rank of security applicant, referent applicant, referent and sub-brigadier can apply for a higher rank in the *corps of applicants and security assistants*, i.e., a brigadier level (equivalent of a Polish police sergeant).

4. The National High School of the National Police (fr. École Nationale Supérieure de la Police)

The National High School of the National Police (NHSNP), as a higher education institution of police, was established under the Decree of the President of the French Republic on 28th April 1988. At the time of its inauguration, the NHSNP acquired the status of departmental higher school recognized in the general French system of higher education. It should be noted that the school has to date functioned under the following names:

- University of Security of Officers until 1995;
- State Higher School of Police Officers until December 2012;
- State Higher School of the National Police from 1st January 2013;

The mission of the university is to train officers at the rank of lieutenant in the *corps of commanders* and in officer courses for the commissioner in the *corps of the management staff* and management of the units of the National Police. The university also implements studies which have accreditation of state centres and courses, training and professional development addressed to officials and employees of state and local government administration. In addition, the NHSNP conducts scientific research in favour of safety as well as promotes their results

in the national and international arena. The university cooperates in scientific and didactic fields with many national and foreign academic centres and institutions of public safety and order.

The NHSNP in conceptual and organizational terms falls under the authority of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. The Chief Executive Officer also has an impact on its functioning, especially in the context of offered forms of development and vocational training. The NHSNP has financial autonomy and a legal personality.

As mentioned before, the university's facilities are located in two places. In Saint-Cyr-au-Mont-d'Or, where the university has functioned (on an area of 5 hectares) in various guises since 1941, there are the following buildings: didactic buildings (3 lecture rooms, 15 teaching rooms and thematic workplace, workplace for simulation for the criminal service, 2 computer laboratories, workplace for social communication and audio-visual workshop — operational technique, shooting range, library and reading room, museum of criminology), accommodation and social facilities (prepared for up to 168 participants, including: 160 dormitory rooms, 4 dining rooms, cafe, television room with Internet) and sports infrastructure (gymnasium, exercise room, 2 martial arts mats, police obstacle course).

Whilst, in Cannes-Écluse the infrastructure of the university (located on 17 hectares, including 33,000 square metres of didactic and accommodation facilities) provides facilities, where 720 students can simultaneously be educated and live. The training base includes: 18 teaching rooms, 2 lecture rooms, 2 language rooms, 4 specialist rooms, 4 thematic simulation facilities, a library, shooting range and a facility to simulate police interventions. The sports complex consists of: 2 gymnasiums, 3 exercise rooms, a football field, rugby court and 2 tennis courts.

The strategy of development and budget expenditures are determined by the College of Senators, which consists of:

- 4 representatives of the leadership of the formation i.e., Chief Executive Officer of the National Police, Prefect of French Police (the equivalent to Polish Commander of Police, the Director of the Central Selection and Training Department of the National Police and Director of the General Inspectorate of the National Police;

- 4 members nominated by the Minister of Internal Affairs from among the ministry employees;

- 3 members appointed by the Minister of Internal Affairs from among senior government officers of state administration (these include persons who are experienced in security matters);

- 10 members elected by the Director of the National Higher School of the National Police at the rank of Inspector General, head of the NHSNP among the staff of the school, students, and trainees.

The Senate College is headed by a chairman who is not a member of the management staff of the college. This composition allows the College of Senators to monitor continuously and model the directions of university development and to facilitate the partnership between the institutions concerned (Ministry of Interior, Police Directorate, and National School). This composition allows the College of Senators to continuously monitor and model the directions of university development and to facilitate the partnership between the institutions concerned (Ministry of Internal Affairs, Police Directorate, and National School).

On the other hand, the Teaching Council has a major influence on the process of education, including programmes, forms and contents of the teaching. This council of consultancy character is headed by the Director of the NHSNP, who appoints and dismisses members of the Council. The Council, as a part of its powers, proposes, gives opinions and recommends the implementation of changes in educational policy, modifications of teaching and implementation of new education and vocational training programmes. The role of the Council encompasses:

- analysing the content of education included in the programme of courses and vocational training offered by didactic units of the police education system;
- identifying new training needs with particular consideration of criminal staff;

- approval of officer training programmes and fields of study addressed to apprentices for promotion to a higher (officer) rank.

Apart from the Inspector General, the composition of the Didactic Council is formed by:

- Director General of the National Police;
- Director of the Inspectorate General of the National Police;
- Director of Public Safety Directorate (Preventive Service);
- Director of Criminal Police Directorate;
- Director of the Republic Security Company;
- Director of the Central Directorate of Internal Affairs;
- Director of Border Police;
- Director of the Directorate of International Cooperation;
- Director of the Central Selection and Training Department of the National Police;
- Prefect of the Parisian Police;
- Director of the Department of Staff and Training of the Parisian Police Department;
- Director of the Parisian Department of Public Safety and Road Traffic of Prefecture Parisian Police;
- Director of the Criminal Staff Department of the Parisian Police Prefecture;
- Director of the Department of Public Safety of the Parisian Agglomeration (responsible for suburban areas of the Parisian agglomeration);

— Director of the Department of Internal Intelligence of the Parisian Police Department;

— Associate Director of the NHSNP (equivalent to the deputy Commandant-Rector);

— Deputy Director, NHSNP for development strategies, education and scientific research;

— Director of the NHSNP Research Centre;

— Two representatives from apprentices participating in officer training for candidates for the rank of commissioner in the corps of management staff and management of police units, implemented by the NHSNP;

— Two representatives from apprentices participating in officer training for candidates for the rank of lieutenant in the corps of commanders implemented by the NHSNP.

The third collegial body functioning inside the NHSNP is the Scientific Council. The Council is responsible for approving reports on implemented projects and reports for the Director of the NHSNP, determining the direction of academic development of the university, including identifying new research areas and supervising the principles and guidelines related to the ethics of researchers. The Scientific Council is headed by the chairman, who is not a permanent staff member of the university. The chairman is often selected from the members of the French Academy of Sciences. The composition of the Scientific Council is often formed by people with degrees or academic titles and personalities with brilliance in the field of security (12 in total). Moreover, seven institutions⁵ nominate one representative for the Scientific Council.

As indicated above, the head of the college is the Director of the NHSNP (the General Inspector — the second highest official in the National Police), supported by: Deputy Director (General Controller — third highest official rank in the National Police) and Deputy Director of development strategy, scientific research. Furthermore, the following persons constitute close staff of the university, being responsible for i.e., the functioning of the university research centre, as well as the implementation of vocational training, finance, and quartermaster matters.

The Director of the NHSNP is responsible:

— for the implementation and modification of training programmes on all professional courses offered by the institution;

— for the management of human resources (personnel, students, and employees of the administration and didactic personnel);

⁵ Persons delegated to the Scientific Council represent: the General Institute of National Police, unit for combating cybercrimes located within the structures of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, unit on strategy and development located in the structures of the General Directorate of National Police, National Institute of Advanced Studies on Safety and Justice, National Prison School, Military Academy in Saint-Cyr, Directorate for Central Selection and Training of National Police. Source: own elaboration based on <http://www.ensp.interieur.gouv.fr> (access: 12.05.2017).

- for professional courses and professional development of officers who are under the aegis of the NHSNP in cooperation with other national police schools;
- for professional courses and professional development of officials, which are fulfilled under the aegis of the NHSNP in cooperation with other national police schools;
- for training organized by the NHSNP for employees of state and local administration;
- for the arrangement of II degree (MSc) studies in the field of Internal Security;
- for training courses offered to students and trainees from other countries;
- for the Career Guidance Unit including the Centre for Vocational Information and Legal Guidance;
- for scientific research implemented by university staff;
- for fixed and mobile assets of the university;
- for spending the university's budget;
- for social communication and international cooperation.

4.1. Officer course for lieutenant applicants in *the Corps of Commandants* of the National Police

The NHSNP offers a course for officers (candidates for the rank of lieutenant in *the Corps of Commandants* — equivalent to the corps of junior officers in the Polish police) which lasts 18 months, of which 12 months are focused on theoretical classes and 6 months on field practice. The theoretical part of the course includes, inter alia, issues of management, security and public order, code of criminal procedure, penal code, administrative law, computer science, operational investigations and investigations carried out by the police. Practical classes include self-defence, tactics and intervention techniques, and firearms training.

Persons who possess French nationality, up to the age of 35, with a minimum of a bachelor's degree may be eligible for the course. Those with a higher degree in law or with a similar degree are best rated in the qualification process. The course offers about 45–50 available spots and there are on average about 3,000 applicants. It is one of the most elite forms of education for public administration employees in France. Applicants who may apply for participation on the course can be both civilians and officers, already serving in *the Corps of Applicants and Security Assistants*. After completing the course, accepted civilians are obligated to stay in service for a minimum of 4 years (in case of resignation, they may be financially punished).

The officer course also has a profile for officers from special units and local rapid response units. Annually, 20 spots are reserved for candidates from these

specialized units. During the course, the participant receives a salary of 1923 Euro monthly.

After completing the course and passing all the final exams, the graduates are appointed to the rank of lieutenant. Another promotion, to the rank of captain, is possible after five years of serving at the lieutenant's rank. A minimum of four years must be passed as a lieutenant in order to apply for the position that the police commissioner's rank is assigned to (this is the first rank in *the Corps of Executives and Management of Police Units* — this is equivalent to the Polish corps of senior police officers).

4.2. Officer course for commissioner candidates in *the Corps of Management Personnel and Management of Units* of the National Police

The NHSNP also offers officer courses for candidates for senior officers of the National Police (for candidates for the rank of Commissioner in *the Corps of Management Personnel and Management of Police Units*).

Officers with a rank in *the Corps of the Management Personnel and Management of Police Units* belong to the strategic resources of the National Police. They lead, among others, the field units of this formation, as well as heading specialized organizational units. They preside the decision-making bodies initiating solutions to improve public safety and public order on a local and regional level.

This course lasts 24 months, of which 12 months are devoted to theoretical classes and the subsequent 12 months to field practice. Similar to junior officers courses, also this form of police course contains in its theoretical part issues of management, security and public order, code of criminal procedure, penal code, administrative law, computer science, operational investigations, and investigations carried out by the police as well as the basis of forensic investigation of the scene of the crime occurrence and identification of forensic traces. Practical classes include self-defence, tactics and intervention techniques and firearms training. Persons who possess French nationality and graduates of masters degree in education may be admitted to the course. Preferred candidates are those who have masters degree studies in the field of law, administration, security management, or a similar profile. The university offers 25–30 places per year. According to experts, it is the most elite form of education for public officials in France. Applicants for this form of vocational training may have different ranks in *the Commandant's Corps*, provided that they have served a minimum of four years at the last rank they've been given. There is a possibility of accepting officers for the course in the competition procedure (without entrance exams) who fulfil the criteria for a position in *the Corps of Management Personnel and Management of Units* and who have served at least five years at the rank of captain or commander.

4.3. Preparatory training for aspiring officers to attend the commissioner course (in *the Corps of Management Personnel and Management of Units* of the National Police) organized under the governmental programme “Promoting equal opportunities”

Each year, the NHSNP organizes training for candidates who wish to participate in the course for senior officers of the National Police as part of the governmental programme “Promoting equal opportunities”. The university offers 20 places for participants of this course.

The basic conditions that applicants must meet to participate in this training include:

- a master’s degree;
- motivation to undertake training, ensuring commitment to the didactic process (verified during the interview with the presence of a psychologist);
- guarantee of a competent supervisor in personnel matters of the official position awaiting the candidate, in order to obtain what he or she is required to complete the course for the rank of commissioner in *the Corps of Management Personnel and Management of Units* of the National Police;
- holding a certificate of the appropriate (as to the place of service) financial unit or tax office (as to the place of residence) of the applicant’s annual income level (if living alone) or income of his immediate family (if married). The annual income of the applicant for preparatory training cannot exceed EUR 30,000.

The 8-month training, which is carried out by the NHSNP in cooperation with the University of Lyon or the University of Paris, consists of two stages (theoretical and practical classes).

Selection (recruitment) for the preparatory training takes place both among the cadets/students of police courses conducted by the National Police training units (examinations are conducted by the NHSNP) as well as among the officers serving in the field units of that formation (examinations are held in the Regional Police Headquarters). Officials who have shown special merit in service may also be referred to this preparatory training.

4.4. Forms of vocational training offered by the NHSNP

In addition to officer training as well as studies of a second/higher degree, the NHSNP also offers other forms of vocational training, addressed to officers representing all corps in the National Police. Organized training includes management of organizational units of formation, trainings for officers performing operational and investigative work, crisis management training, conflict management, implementation of internal control activities in formation, training for police officers

on international cooperation, and also for participants representing other state administration units and for police officers from other countries.

University policy is based on three principles:

- bilateral cooperation and constant communication with field units of formation and dialogue with state administration units, local governments and social organizations in identifying training needs for their officers, employees, and members;

- searching for strategic partners, patrons, and subjects involved in security and public order activities;

- promoting a culture of security and modern methods of security management.

The school conducts courses (also in English) devoted to police cooperation (including international cooperation) for representatives of French and foreign uniform formations, representatives of central state administration and students-candidates for service. Topics covered during the course include:

- French security cooperation platforms (SCTIP, SCCOPOL);

- Interpol;

- Europol;

- European Police College (CEPOL);

- Frontex;

- Central City Police Department (CCPD).

60 hours of this course cover English classes (improving the professional language of internal security). The main aim of this training is to achieve a level that enables students to communicate effectively in an international operating environment.

The NHSNP also offers participation in courses and training modules:

- ESPOC AEPC (in English);

- CEPOL (in English).

The training offer also includes courses in community security management and implementation of regional security strategies. Seminars addressed to officials — mainly local government representatives — are held at the NHSNP or in local government buildings. The thematic scope of the discussed courses includes:

- discussing the role and tasks of local government officials responsible for modelling security and public order;

- discussing forms of cooperation between local governments and public administration institutions in terms of public safety;

- creation of a local self-government security formation;

- organization and functioning of state institutions responsible for public safety and order (National Police, National Gendarmerie);

- legal responsibility of local governments for the implementation of security policy.

When discussing the forms of vocational training, as well as courses and conversations preparing for career advancement, the following should also be mentioned:

- an extramural preparatory course for applicants participating in open competition proceedings for the position of police commissioner;
- course for officers serving at the border crossing points of the republic.

Forms of vocational training offered by the NHSNP are modified on the basis of the current needs of the National Police or other service units performing tasks in the field of public safety. The university is very flexible in this regard thus, for example, it is possible to pursue vocational training activities carried out by NHSNP personnel in police units throughout the country.

Conclusion

The French Republic is one of the most powerful countries in the world, among others, in terms of population, economic potential, and position in Europe, as well as a strong army. Many experts from opinion-making circles and representatives of international organizations say France is one of the five best-developed countries in the world. Whereas, in terms of living conditions, this country holds eleventh place in the world rankings. The opinion about the level of everyday life of the French, which constitutes a visible contrast to the position in the world, is due, among other things, to a number of threats whose effects have been felt in France in recent years. The terrorist attacks in Paris, Nice, and the act of terror in Normandy (Saint-Étienne-du-Rouvray) have clearly reduced the level of security of the French, as reflected in the results of the recent presidential elections.

Citizens expect governmental and subordinate agencies, institutions, and formations to take decisive and effective action to improve the level of internal security. One of the leading roles is played by the National Police, which is the largest police formation in France. In order for this corps to succeed in the fight for the security of the Republic's inhabitants, all its components must work together perfectly to meet the changing social situation in the country and the continent of Europe. Selection, training, and further vocational training of officers who deal with police training units are one of many important elements of the proper functioning of the National Police. It is only synergistic, coordinated, and multi-level actions which can bring about results in the fight against crime, terrorism, and other security threats and public order.

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THE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY AS A LEADING COMPONENT OF THE POLICE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN FRANCE

Summary

The purpose of the study is to present the functioning of the police education system in France by the example of the organization of the National Police Academy. The authors of the material discuss the management of this institution, which is the central component of the French police education system. The reader will also be presented with a selection procedure for the National Police and the forms of education and professional training offered by French police academies and training centres. The introduction to the main part of the study describes the central organizational unit of the French Police, i.e., the General Directorate of the National Police, with its headquarters in Paris.

Keywords: internal security, National Police, France, National Police Academy.

Jacek Dworzecki

j.dworzecki@wspol.edu.pl

Dominik Hryszkiewicz

d.hryszkiewicz@wspol.edu.pl