

## ORGANISATIONAL FRAMEWORK AND REGULATORY MECHANISMS OF PATROL POLICE: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND UKRAINIAN REALITIES USING THE EXAMPLE OF ODESA

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**Abstract.** The aim of this article is to generalise the experience of the Patrol Police of Ukraine in ensuring road safety and to identify the main way to improve its functioning. It also seeks to understand the experiences of other countries to identify positive aspects in this regard. The authors analyse Ukrainian legislation on national police work and responsibilities, employing various research methods typically used to study law. The functions of patrol police in other countries, such as the USA, UK, Germany and France, are compared with Ukraine. Legislation on the Patrol Police of Ukraine is analysed in comparison with the trends of administrative offences detected in Odesa region. Based on this comparison, it is possible to outline ways to optimise law enforcement in Ukraine.

**Keywords:** National Police, Ukraine, Enforcement, Patrolling, Regulation.

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## Introduction

Changes occurring in modern Ukrainian society, especially in its economic and political spheres, have a systemic impact on the operations of the National Police of Ukraine. Police officers face daily challenges, tackle complex professional tasks and navigate difficult situations and conflicts, with no room for error. Enacted on July 2, 2015, the *Law of Ukraine 'On the National Police'* formally acknowledges the National Police as an executive branch of government that serves the public interest. The major duties of this authority are to defend human rights and freedoms, fight crime, preserve public safety and enforce the rule of law.

An essential component of the National Police of Ukraine system is the Patrol Police of Ukraine. In many cases, its effectiveness depends on how well public safety, justice, and the protection of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of individuals and organisations are maintained. Thus, the Patrol Police help those in need by providing emergency aid (Sokurenko, 2017). Road safety regulation and accident prevention are also key responsibilities of the Patrol Police. In this sphere, social relations are continuously evolving: legislation and judicial practices are being updated, and new legislative initiatives are emerging. Therefore, scientific monitoring and analysis are necessary to objectively address these issues. The best international methods that have previously been effectively applied in other nations must be taken into account while developing the Ukrainian Patrol Police.

A significant corpus of research has concentrated on the analysis of the organisation and regulation of police activities (Bandurka, 2012; Bezpalova, 2020; Bezsmertnyi & Veselova, 2016). Moreover, considerable academic literature has been focused on analysing the operations of the Ukrainian Patrol Police and analogous organisations in other countries (Veselov et al., 2016; Tovstukha, 2011). However, most of these studies were limited to an analysis of normative acts of the selected countries and did not conduct a comprehensive analysis of the activities of patrol police in relation to traffic safety.

In this regard, the purpose of this study was to analyse the functioning of the Patrol Police of Ukraine in maintaining road safety, using the Odesa region as an example, while also taking into account the experiences of the USA, the UK, Germany and France. The object of the research was to explore societal relations related to the performance of functional duties by patrol police officers and rapid response units, illustrated through the example of the Odesa region. We aimed to analyse the effectiveness, accessibility and legal framework of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in addressing international legal disputes, with a particular focus on the ICJ's jurisdictional challenges and the practical impact of its decisions in the evolving international legal order. The purpose of this article is to analyse the organisational and legal foundations of the Patrol Police of Ukraine in the field of road safety, using the Odesa region as a case study, and to compare this with the experience of the USA, the UK, Germany and France, in order to identify effective mechanisms of police operation and propose recommendations for improving the Ukrainian patrol policing system. To achieve this purpose, the study set out to examine the role of the Patrol Police of Ukraine in ensuring road safety, to analyse the legal and institutional framework that regulates its operation, and to compare the Ukrainian experience with international practices in countries such as the USA, UK, Germany and France in order to identify effective solutions and develop recommendations for improving the Ukrainian patrol policing system.

To achieve the aim of the research, several methods were used to analyse the regulatory framework and functioning of the Patrol Police of Ukraine and compare them with the experiences of other countries. The primary method of research was an analysis. Using this method, the Patrol Police of Ukraine and its analogues abroad were considered to determine the organisational structure and regulatory framework of the Patrol Police of Ukraine and suggest recommendations for its improvement, which ensured the relevance and scientific novelty of this research.

The material basis of the research consisted of normative legal acts that regulate the organisation, responsibilities and procedures of the Patrol Police of Ukraine. These legal documents define the structure and powers of the police, establish guidelines for maintaining public order and road safety,

outline the use of technical equipment, and determine the procedures for documenting administrative offences and responding to incidents.

Furthermore, legislative acts and regulations governing the functioning of the police in the USA, the UK, Germany and France were analysed. For a comprehensive analysis of the organisation of police work, official reports, recommendations, reviews and statistics published by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and the National Police of Ukraine were considered. The hermeneutic method was applied to interpret the legislative texts. With the help of this method, legislation relating to the police in Ukraine, the USA, the UK, Germany and France was compared to identify the best practices that could be adopted in Ukraine. Using the method of legal analysis, the foundations of the Patrol Police in Ukraine and other countries were studied, and their compliance with international standards was determined.

Statistical analysis was used to process data on administrative offences identified by the Patrol Police in the Odesa region and assess the effectiveness of its activities. The sociological method was employed to study social processes and phenomena affecting the fulfilment of the Patrol Police's duties. The employment of these methods enabled the implementation of an integrated research approach, identifying the strengths and weaknesses of the Patrol Police of Ukraine and offering recommendations for its enhancement. AI-assisted technology was used in the preparation of this article to check the grammar and spelling.

## **1. Patrol Police of Ukraine: role, tasks and functions**

The role of the Patrol Police within the National Police of Ukraine is defined by the responsibilities assigned to the police and codified in law (Kulikov, 2016). The *Law of Ukraine 'On the National Police'* specifies that various structural units are included in the composition of the police management, ensuring the functioning of police leadership and the fulfilment of assigned tasks. Among these structural units are the Criminal Police, Patrol Police, Pre-Trial Investigation Bodies, Security Police, Special Police and Police of Special Purpose. A recent restructuring of the Patrol Police force has seen a number of functions previously performed by Patrol-Post Service, State Auto Inspection and Precinct Inspectors now being undertaken by the aforementioned Patrol Police officers (Budzinskyi, 2017).

In this case, the functions of the Patrol Police include the key areas and types of activities required to maintain public order and safety in public places. Platonov et al. (1996) claims that these functions are created to support the overall goal of the police. The principal legal acts that expressly define the general responsibilities and activities of the police are the *Law of Ukraine 'On the National Police'* (2015) and the Regulation on the National Police, authorised by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers No. 877 (2015). These documents state that the Patrol Police's general duties include offering police assistance in the following areas: guaranteeing the safety and security of the public; preserving individual rights and liberties; safeguarding the interests of society and the state; combating crime; and providing assistance to individuals who require support due to various factors, including personal circumstances, economic conditions, social needs and emergency situations.

It is imperative to acknowledge the concurrent execution of responsibilities by the National Police of Ukraine and those delineated within the framework of the Regulation on the Patrol Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as stipulated by the directives enumerated in Ministry Order No. 796 of 2015. This Regulation specifies and elaborates on the functioning of the patrol service. According to it, the main tasks of the patrol service are as follows: ensuring public order and safety, preserving individual rights and liberties and safeguarding the interests of society and the state, as well as the material and spiritual values of society; preventing, detecting and stopping crimes and administrative offences, as well as identifying the causes and conditions contributing to their commission; interacting with society and collaborating with the population, public organisations and authorities to prevent offences, ensure safety, reduce the crime rate, and create trusting relations between the police and the population; and maintaining road safety, including monitoring compliance with traffic rules by vehicles and pedestrians.

According to management theory, functions can be divided into primary, support and managerial functions. The primary functions of the police are focused on the execution of their assigned police activities, and these functions are subject to strict regulation by the prevailing norms and standards (Lipkan, 2007). Support functions are intended to guarantee the effective performance of primary functions and relate to organisational issues, such as personnel, material-technical supply and financial support. Managerial functions have a role to play in ensuring the efficiency of police unit management. These functions relate to the activities of leaders of structural units (Pietkov, 2004). Disciplinary standards encompass the police's commitment to uphold the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, international treaties ratified by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, decrees issued by the President of Ukraine and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, directives of the National Police of Ukraine, regulations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the Police Oath, and instructions from higher-ranking officials.

The *Law of Ukraine 'On the National Police of Ukraine'* (2015) determines the key functions and duties of the police. The National Police is the principal executive authority responsible for protecting human rights, maintaining public safety, preventing criminal activity and helping those in need. These duties are assigned to police officers, who are subject to strict discipline and are bound by a sacred oath. To maintain public safety and ensure that police activities are carried out effectively, disciplinary regulations place a strong emphasis on the necessity of impartial, accountable and professional behaviour.

The operational response area of the Patrol Police is a zone designated for that patrol under the information portal of the National Police of Ukraine system. The delineation of these zones is determined by the authority of territorial police units and is subsequently endorsed through the issuance of an order. The concept of operational response encompasses a series of coordinated actions undertaken by various police patrols, including Patrol Police, Traffic Police and other designated patrols. The primary objective of these actions is to facilitate the prompt arrival of police officers at the location of an incident, thereby aiming to prevent the commission of an offence, establish the identity of a potential offender, detain such an individual if necessary, and preserve critical evidence at the scene of the crime. These efforts are intended to provide assistance to victims or affected individuals within the scope of the police's authority (Sushchenko, 1999).

It is crucial to recognise the overlap in the role of upholding law and order across various structural divisions that are seen throughout the demarcation of powers. Patrols operating in a service area may have operational management issues as a result of this duplication. A number of variables, including the urbanisation of territory and the increase in population density, have contributed to the complexity of the operational management systems used by patrol units. These systems are separated into regular units of combat units and duty sections of territorial authorities. Furthermore, a number of issues have arisen as a result of the integration of information technologies and efforts to harmonise the operations of agencies responsible for public safety. As a result, new management strategies were included in the administration of patrol activities. As a result, Patrol Police units are managed more effectively. Beshchastnyi and Tymchenko (2014) assert that the management function is made up of a number of fundamental elements. These include the upholding of supervision and control; the process of making decisions about individuals; taking responsibility; and organising, coordinating, interacting and regulating.

However, there is currently no separate legal act that defines the organisation of the activities of the Patrol Police, specifies tasks and functions unique to it, and specifies the powers of Patrol Police officers. As a result, a thorough description of the Patrol Police of Ukraine's obligations must be developed, taking into consideration the aforementioned regulatory acts. The Patrol Police's obligations may be divided into a number of concerns aimed at attaining the fundamental goal: guaranteeing public safety and order, hence creating a sense of security among the population. This purpose demands the formation and operation of a Patrol Police unit. In this regard, the definition of the functions of the Patrol Police should be aimed at identifying areas of activity that are relatively independent of the National Police.

## **2. Organisational units of patrol services in other countries**

Analysing the experiences of other countries is critical for understanding the various techniques used in the organisation of patrol services. It is essential to recognise the major duties allocated to specialised service units for securing public safety and preserving public order. These units are responsible for patrolling allocated service zones. In the UK, territorial police constables have this role. The National Gendarmerie in France, federal marshals in the USA, and Germany's law enforcement police (Schutzpolizei) all have comparable roles (Koller & Burbii 2017). There is a solid case for using such units, although their operational effectiveness, structural composition and patrol management components vary significantly.

The USA lacks a cohesive police system. Police unit configurations vary depending on state legislation, town size, funding and other variables. Generally, patrol duties are fulfilled at three tiers: state, county and local levels. Police services at these different levels operate independently of each other. This prompts questions about how patrol responsibilities are allocated, which can be addressed as follows. The state police are responsible for ensuring safety on federal and regional highways. Although the state police in certain states, such as California, have jurisdiction over the entire state, their main duty is to monitor the roadways. Despite the fact that they carry out other duties as well, state police units are sometimes referred to as highway patrols.

In the USA, patrol unit administration is managed by a police service branch specialised in this job, known as the Bureau of Field Services. This bureau's responsibilities also include public safety and special forces units. Organisational patrol units are formed based on territorial divisions, where the territory under police service jurisdiction is divided into zones, each with its own patrol unit. Separate units may also be created to perform specific tasks. For example, the California Highway Patrol (officially known as the state police) divides its field services into 11 divisions, comprising 8 territorial divisions, a protection division, an aerial protection division and a state capital security section. Patrol officers actively detect crimes, traffic violations, suspicious individuals, and incidents that deviate from the norm. They also contribute to crime prevention through their presence, maintain community engagement and respond to citizen requests (Cordner, 2013).

The UK has a complex and well-organised patrol system that ensures public order through territorial police units, each responsible for its own area. The police force in the UK has a lengthy history, stretching back to the nineteenth century when the first police force was established. One of the most significant changes in policing occurred in the mid-twentieth century, with the implementation of the territorial patrol (Tuffin et al., 2006). There were some changes in the way the police were managed, which enabled a more centralised structure to be established. Thus, the system of law enforcement and patrol service is organised in such a way that each unit has a clearly defined territorial duty and specialised responsibilities. In addition to specialist divisions, such as the British Transport Police that operate nationwide, there are specialised territorial units, such as the Metropolitan Police. To increase efficiency, the police collaborate with the community and use contemporary technology, such as video surveillance and personal cameras (Brown, 2021).

In Germany, the federal concept governs the organisation of the patrol police. The Schutzpolizei (SchuPo), a division of the Land Police, is responsible for carrying out the main law enforcement duties. Each of the 16 federal states has its own police force, subordinate to the land government, that performs patrols and tasks related to road safety, public order and emergency response. The patrol service specialises in crime prevention in public places and security during mass events, protests and sporting events. A distinct federal police unit (Bundespolizei) is in charge of guarding national facilities, including airports, trains, railway stations and borders (Feltz et al., 2013). A combined training approach ensures that patrol officers who use modern technology, such as automated traffic control systems and mobile information platforms, maintain a high level of professionalism. The principles of the rule of law and protecting citizens' rights are central to every police operation. Consequently, the public gains confidence in the law enforcement system.

France has adopted a new strategy to ensure public safety. Prior to 2002, these functions were shared between the National Police and the Municipal Gendarmerie. The National Police operated in cities, maintaining order in heavily populated areas. This included reacting to criminal activity, safeguarding public safety at major events and supervising traffic. It was made up of specialised groups, including the patrol service, traffic police, and fast reaction service. Meanwhile, the National Gendarmerie was in charge of operations in rural regions, highways, small towns, airports and nuclear power facilities. It was a military corps that served a dual purpose by integrating military and law enforcement aspects. Its major mission was to maintain public order, patrol regions and provide protection for government offices. It also had the task of defending national borders (Zagrodzki, 2017).

However, the high crime rate, principally related to widespread immigration, particularly from North African nations in the mid-twentieth century that were former French colonial areas (Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria), raised serious public concerns. This situation required the application of unique approaches to secure the maintenance of law and order. In this regard, the French President announced plans to merge the police and gendarmerie into a single organisation, with the goal of eliminating the dualism within the police system. On May 15, 2002, a Decree was issued, transferring responsibility over the Municipal Gendarmerie to the federal government. According to the Law of August 3, 2009, entitled '*On the National Gendarmerie*', the aforementioned entity's units were merged with those of the National Police (Dossier Législatif: LOI n° 2009-971). In addition, much attention is paid to public cooperation, for example, through the participation of residents in neighbourhood patrol programmes. Such division of responsibilities ensures the execution of patrol functions in different parts of the country and optimises the use of police resources.

The UK, Germany, France and the USA demonstrate a variety of structures, functions and approaches to patrolling. This research has helped to identify the qualities of experiences in other countries that may be applied to Ukrainian reality. To demonstrate this concept, it is possible to examine the UK's geographical principle, Germany's technological skills, France's unit integration and the multi-level structure found in the US. It is proposed that these features can serve as a foundation for optimising the structure of the Patrol Police of Ukraine, with a focus on function distribution, mobility, and technology integration.

### **3. Analysis of the Patrol Police and administrative offences in the Odesa region of Ukraine**

The activity of the Patrol Police of Ukraine is a key element in ensuring law and order and security in Ukraine, particularly in the Odesa region, where administrative offences require continuous improvements in law enforcement agencies. As the Patrol Police interact with citizens, their effectiveness depends on their ability to rapidly respond to traffic offences and other incidents that threaten public safety. However, there has been an increase of administrative offences detected by the Patrol Police and response groups. In some areas, the rate of administrative offences almost doubled within a year, such as in the Odeskyi District Police Department No. 2, Rozdilnyanskyi District Police Department No. 1 and Podilskyi District Police Department No. 1, where it increased by 187.8%, 165.8% and 181.4%, respectively (Figure 1).

**Figure 1.** Changes in policing indicators between 2022 and 2023 by police territorial areas.

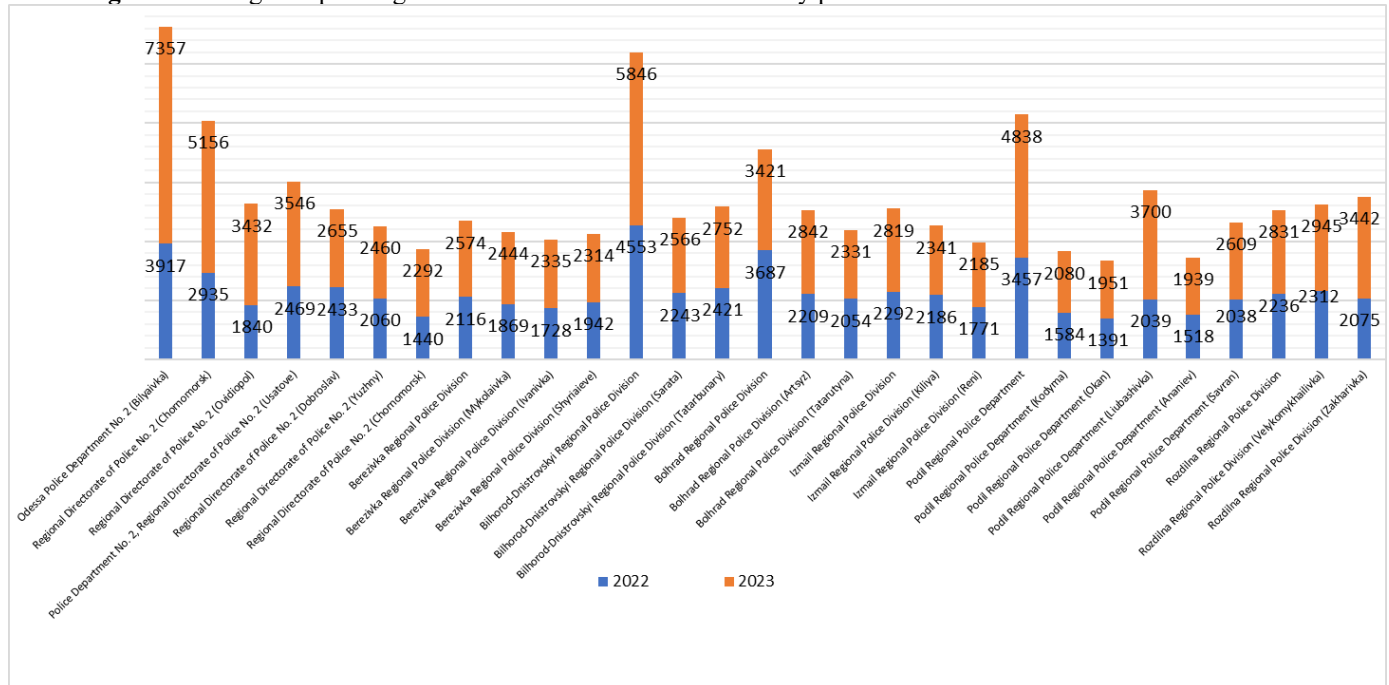
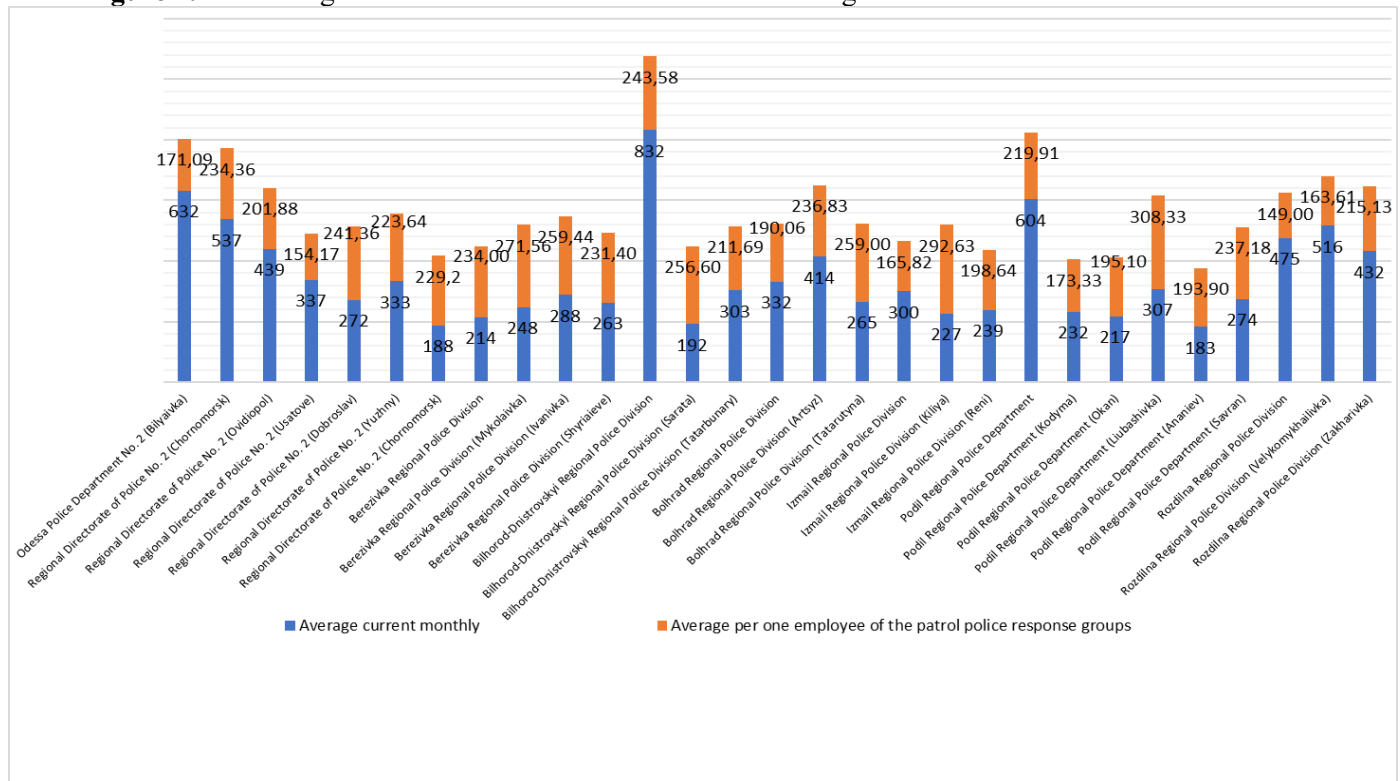


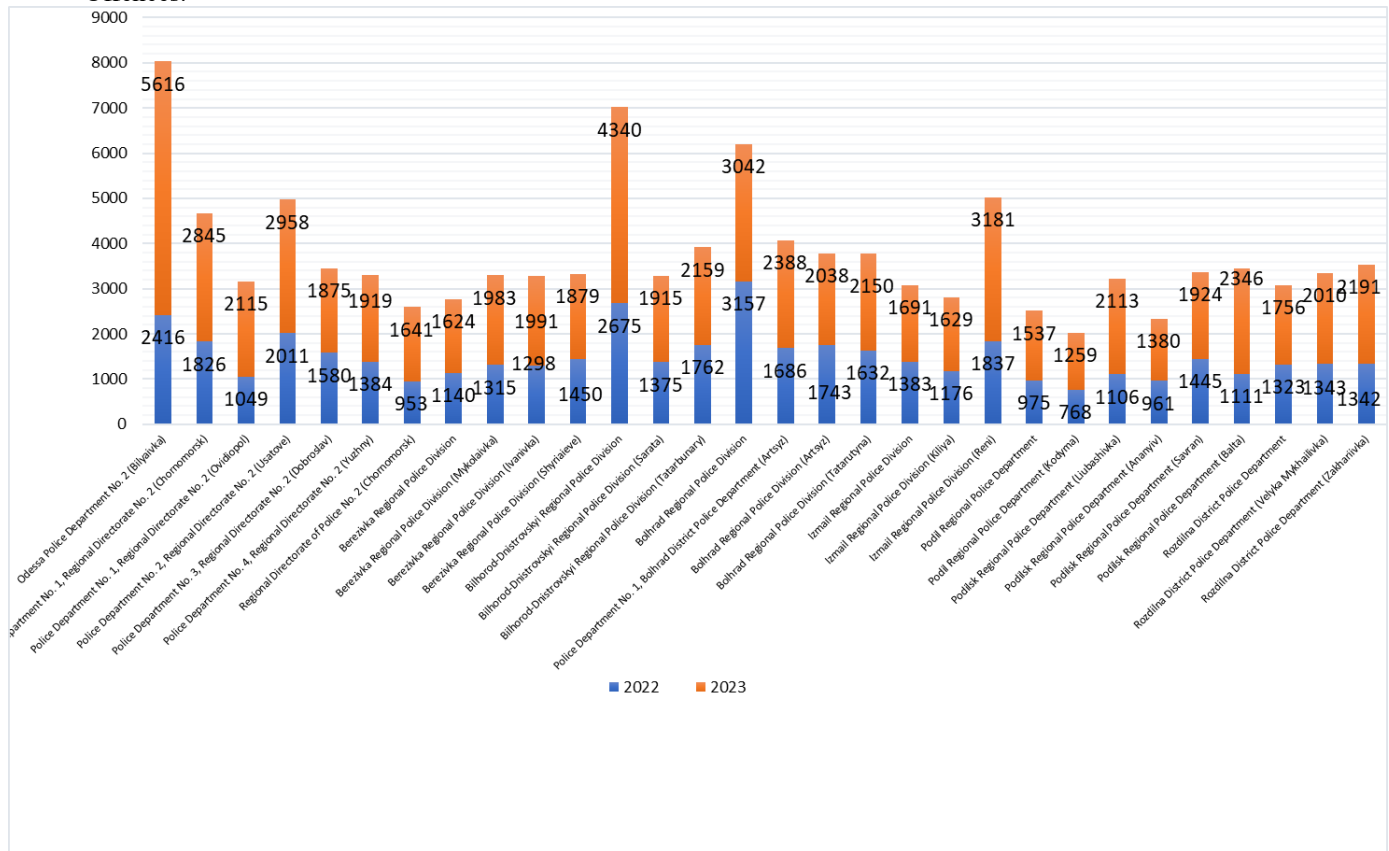
Figure 2 shows average indicators detected per district, per patrol police response team member and the average monthly figure, i.e. approximately 500 offences per team member based on the presented indicators.

**Figure 2.** The average indicators for the districts of the Odesa region.



The most common administrative offences are listed in Table 1, with the numbers of these offences presented in Figure 3.

**Figure 3.** Administrative offences specified in Articles 121–127 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences.



**Table 1.** The most common administrative offences

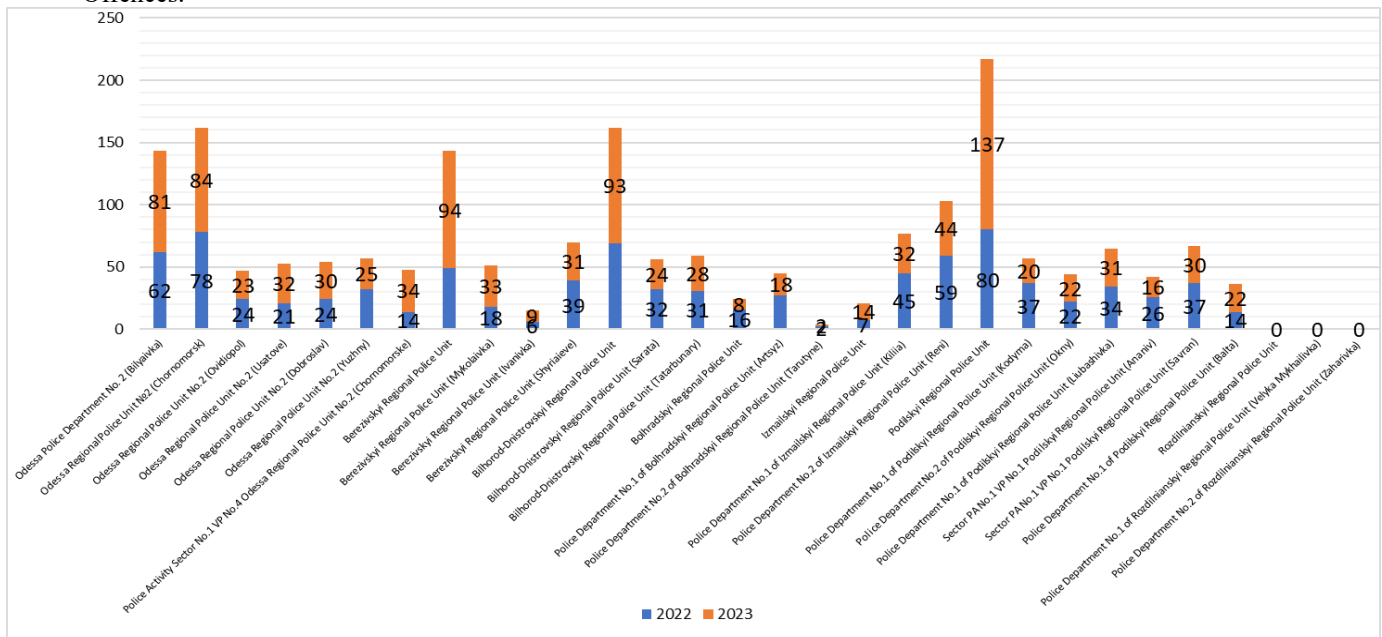
<b>Article 121</b>	<b>Infraction of traffic regulations, safety standards, seat belt usage or helmet regulations</b>
<b>Article 121<sup>-1</sup></b>	Operation of vehicles by drivers whose component part identification numbers do not correspond to the records in the registration documents
<b>Article 121<sup>-2</sup></b>	Violation of passenger transportation rules when providing passenger transportation services
<b>Article 121<sup>-3</sup></b>	Violation of legislation requirements regarding the use of vehicle registration plates
<b>Article 122</b>	Exceeding established speed limits, running a red traffic light or violating other traffic rules
<b>Article 122<sup>-2</sup></b>	Non-compliance with drivers' requirement to stop
<b>Article 122<sup>-4</sup></b>	Leaving the scene of a road traffic accident
<b>Article 122<sup>-5</sup></b>	Violation of legislation requirements regarding the installation or use of special light or sound signalling devices
<b>Article 123</b>	Violation of traffic rules at railway crossings
<b>Article 124</b>	Violation of traffic rules resulting in damage to vehicles, cargo, roads, streets, railway crossings, road structures or other property
<b>Article 124<sup>-1</sup></b>	Failure to provide vehicles to police and medical workers, as well as failure to provide military vehicles to officials of the Law Enforcement Service in the Armed Forces of Ukraine
<b>Article 126</b>	Operation of a vehicle by a person who does not have the required documents for the right to operate such a vehicle or has not presented them for inspection, or who is subject to a temporary restriction on the right to operate such vehicles
<b>Article 127</b>	Violation of traffic rules by pedestrians, cyclists or individuals operating animal-drawn vehicles, as well as by animal handlers

Between 2022 and 2023, the detection of administrative offences increased significantly. In some districts, such as Odeskyi, Razdelnyanskyi and Podilskyi, the numbers almost doubled. This indicates both an increase in the efficiency of the Patrol Police and the need to enhance the system of crime prevention. The most common violations were traffic violations, speeding, use of unregistered vehicles, and other administrative offences related to road safety.



We will now analyse the data from individual units and rapid response groups of the Patrol Police in the Odesa region. Bilyaivka, Odesa District Police Department No. 2, recorded 2416 offences in 2022 and 5616 offences in 2023, constituting a 232.5% increase compared with the previous year. Chornomorsk, Police Department No. 1 (Police Department No. 1 of Odesa District Police Department No. 2), reported 1826 offences in 2022 and 2845 offences in 2023, showing a 156% increase compared with the previous year. These are the largest numbers, but even the lowest figures indicate an increase. In Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi Police Department No. 2, there were 2421 offences in 2022 and 2753 offences in 2023, constituting a 113% increase compared with the previous year, while Bolhrad Police Department No. 2, District Police Department, reported 2054 offences in 2022 and 2331 offences in 2023, a 113.5% increase compared with the previous year (Figure 4).

**Figure 4.** Analysis of administrative offences under Article 173 of the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences.



After analysing administrative offences committed during the operation of vehicles (Figure 4), which are directly within the scope of the Patrol Police's work, it can be observed that, similar to the previously examined statistical indicators over the past year, there has been an increase. Officers of the Patrol Police response team participating in the operational response system are required to carry out the following actions upon receiving a task from the dispatcher (operational duty officer) to respond to offences or incidents classified as 'Alpha' or 'Beta': (1) immediately proceed to the scene of the incident (or another location determined by the dispatcher or operational duty officer of the Main Department of the National Police); (2) if equipped with a tablet device, record the corresponding entries in the Information Portal System of the National Police, indicating the acceptance of the call, arrival at the scene, completion of the task, circumstances of the offence, and response results.

For the staff members comprising a Patrol Police response team and engaged in the operational response system, when assigned a task by a dispatcher (operational duty officer) to respond to offences or incidents categorised as 'Gamma' or 'Delta', it is imperative that they follow certain instructions. If equipped with a tablet device, they must record the following entries in the Information Portal System of the National Police, indicating the acceptance of the call, arrival at the scene, completion of the task, circumstances of the offence, and response results. They must call for emergency medical aid if there are individuals at the site who need it. They must take prompt action to save and preserve lives before emergency medical aid arrives. They must provide specifics about the offence if a victim is present. If signs that a criminal offence has been committed are confirmed, they must inform the dispatcher (operational duty officer) about the need to dispatch an investigative-operational group, and they must remain at the scene until this group's arrival.

It is suggested that police units arrive at the location of a crime or event within the following periods, assuming an average vehicle speed of 40–50 km/h: a) when a unit is located inside the operating response zone in an urban area, the response time might be as long as 7 minutes. When a unit from another service zone is engaged, the response time is increased to 10 minutes. b) When a unit is placed inside the operational response zone, the response time in rural regions might be as long as 20 minutes. When a unit from another district is engaged, the response time is increased to up to 40 minutes (Bandurka, 2017).

According to data provided by the National Police, the Patrol Police have continuously improved their performance, indicating both a continuous improvement in the patrol service's work and, on the other hand, suggesting that individuals committing offences are not being rehabilitated. It is essential to further explore the functions of the Patrol Police and observe how they carry out their responsibilities in accordance with the law. According to the legal framework, a Patrol Police Response Team should comprise at least two police officers who work within the operational response zone to maintain public safety and order, engage with the community, ensure traffic safety, prevent offences or incidents, and respond to them quickly (Tkachuk, 2016).

#### **4. Increasing Patrol Police efficacy through public engagement and operational integration**

Regarding the police's involvement in providing social and legal assistance to citizens and organisations, it is important to highlight specific tasks and functions directed towards the functioning of the Patrol Police of Ukraine. The Patrol Police of Ukraine provide socio-legal assistance to citizens and organisations by monitoring public opinion, improving forms of interaction with the population, developing recommendations for management, evaluating police activities, promoting the police profession, establishing partnerships with the community, popularising the idea of cooperation between the public and the police, as well as planning and allocating resources to perform these tasks.

The degree of public confidence in law enforcement is a fundamental measure of its efficacy. In this context, it is important to analyse relevant data provided by independent sociological services in Ukraine. Establishing priorities for the transmission of information from services with operational control to units performing patrol duties can present difficulties, similar to those encountered during the implementation of the intricate 'Safe City' hardware and software system, also known as the 'Safe City' HSC (Betschart, 2017).

In addition to the municipal police forces, law enforcement agencies in the Odesa region were put under the operational jurisdiction of the Safe City unit in 2018. Here, the troops in question were referred to as 'duty units by territory' or DUT. Depending on the situation, the institution involved might be the administrative district, Task Force Group, Patrol Police Reaction Group (PPRG), or Traffic Patrol Service (TPS). It was shown that having a complex system for assigning patrol responsibilities to different duty units hinders the ability to respond operationally to new information.

In operational and technological areas, there is a gap in the management system used for patrols carrying out patrol tasks. For example, different task force units use different communication routes to manage patrols, and these units have different levels of access to shared databases. We provide the following situation as an illustration. In the city of N, a citizen named Ms A contacted the patrol-post service of the local police department. She explained that around 15 minutes previously, a group of young people had stolen her cell phone. Following the established procedure for Criminal Offence Response Patrol units, a citizen informed the patrol unit (through radio communication) and then the task force unit about the suspects' physical characteristics, as well as their geographic and temporal context. These processes take around 5 to 10 minutes to complete.

Subsequently, the patrol unit set off to pursue the suspects. The duty unit needs time to process and relay the information to other patrols. Initially, the information was broadcast on the Criminal Offence Response Patrol communication channel. After that, it is transmitted on the Road Patrol and then

forwarded to the Service Operations Centre to be distributed via its corresponding channels. Multiple instances of information being conveyed across different communication channels may occur, according to this report. This is due to the intrinsic processing that must be carried out before any information can be sent, as well as the broadcast period, which is believed to be between 2 and 4 minutes. As a result, patrols informed later received the information with a delay of 8–16 minutes. This is sufficient time for possible offenders to flee (Communication Department of the Main National Police in Kharkiv region, 2015).

It is important to note that the commanding officers of operational units have taken steps to address the aforementioned shortcomings, such as equipping vehicles with several radios that receive information via different communication channels. Other staff units have been added to the Duty Unit and the Operational Management Group, which allows information to be shared simultaneously through several lines of communication. The application of these solutions has provided considerable advantages; nonetheless, it is necessary to acknowledge they are only a temporary solution.

Firstly, they simply ameliorate some parts of the problem (information sharing through various channels, service-to-service contact, etc.) rather than addressing the gap in patrol unit management. Secondly, these actions require a greater investment of time and money. This entails adding more staff to the duty unit and combat units, as well as equipping both the duty unit and combat units' trucks with numerous radios. This represents an overuse of existing resources and, at times, their inefficient use. Thirdly, the issue of prioritising given tasks and the duplication of duties of the patrol unit management system are not addressed by these rules. For example, the Traffic Police simultaneously evaluated the performance of a traffic patrol unit in connection with a road traffic accident that occurred at a nearby traffic junction. Meanwhile, the Duty Unit of the Territorial Unit reported a robbery in progress in the opposite direction from the RTA location. The patrol unit's time spent on deciding which tasks to prioritise, which depends on a number of variables, including the seriousness of the offence, the responsiveness of other units, the distance to the scene of the incident, and the presence of victims in the RTA, is the cause of this delayed response. As a result, operational responsiveness to aid requests is decreased as a result of this response time.

It is critical that all concerns raised throughout this process be addressed by a comprehensive revamp of law enforcement action in public spaces. One proposed solution to these issues is to combine the different patrol units responsible for maintaining public order into a single operational organisation known as the 'Unified Patrol Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine'. Furthermore, the management structure for patrol units can be consolidated by assigning all tasks to a single decision-making body. It is believed that establishing a centre based on the Safe City hardware and software complex would be ideal. It is necessary to recognise that the integration of patrol units in law enforcement requires a comprehensive analysis of the organisations responsible for ensuring public order and safety as a whole.

Understanding the role of the Patrol and Post Service among all internal affairs agencies is essential to clarifying the core tenets of the patrol service. On the one hand, it serves as a well-planned system of structural elements that are intended to maintain public safety and order in metropolitan regions and other highly populated locations. On the other hand, it functions more like a dynamic activity with the goal of maintaining public safety and order. The patrol service's dual character highlights the variety of ways it contributes to upholding public safety and order.

When the historical origins of the Patrol Police are examined, it becomes clear that modern law enforcement has changed significantly, leading to a new organisational design. Until recently, there existed the patrol service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the main purpose of which was to maintain public order and citizens' safety, uphold their rights and liberties, protect legitimate interests and property from criminal encroachments, and prevent offences in public places. In modern times, attitudes regarding how the Patrol Police should function have changed significantly.

The modern Patrol Police operate independently of police units and perform the following tasks:

1. conduct round-the-clock patrols of a city or district to guarantee public safety and order, monitor compliance with traffic rules and ensure road safety;
2. respond to reports of offences, provide immediate assistance to citizens in cases of accidents, emergencies, fires and other emergencies;
3. identify offences observed when on patrol, document them and hold individuals accountable;
4. halt identified criminal and administrative offences and apply appropriate measures under the relevant legislation;
5. detain offenders in cases prescribed by legislation and take further steps to guarantee prosecution;
6. adjudicate cases of administrative offences.

According to the regulatory acts of Ukraine, the Patrol Police perform other functions aimed at fulfilling their tasks. Assigning duties to the Patrol Police that are beyond their competence is not allowed unless the law provides otherwise. However, in reality, the functions performed by the Ukrainian Patrol Police are not limited solely to law enforcement activities. It is crucial to acknowledge that everyone has the inalienable right to contact law enforcement at any time, whether as a witness or as a complainant. Regardless of the time of day or an officer's position, an officer of the Patrol Police must take into account any request to defend the rights and liberties of people, organisations, the public interest, and the state against illegal activity.

## Conclusions

A cross-national comparison of patrol police forces can reveal the optimal models for their management. Accordingly, an analysis of the patrol structures, roles and techniques of the police in the UK, Germany, France and the US was undertaken. The fundamental concept in the UK is territorial policing, which is attributed to historical traditions and the application of modern technology. The German Federal Police is organised on a federal basis, with responsibility for specific tasks assigned to federal police bodies. The primary functions of the Federal Police include maintaining public order and responding to crises. In France, the military gendarmerie and civilian police are integrated to prevent duplication of effort and boost efficiency.

The US patrol police is set apart, with a wide range of techniques, strategies and procedures. While the absence of a unified police system in the USA makes coordination more difficult, it also gives police officers more freedom to adapt to local demands. Nevertheless, the extensive autonomy of American police forces is rooted in historical conditions and might not be universally applicable to the context of Ukraine. Therefore, the incorporation of elements from the American experience in managing patrol units in Ukraine should be approached with caution.

Regarding the implementation of certain aspects of the American experience in the functioning of the Patrol Police in Ukraine, the following points can be highlighted:

1. incorporating the experience of directed patrolling, including tactical techniques already applied in Ukraine, and exploring new aspects such as split patrolling;
2. applying the experience of creating crime activity maps to identify areas requiring special attention during the planning of city patrols – this approach can be expanded and improved to analyse the criminal situation and plan Patrol Police actions;
3. examining the experience of using different types of patrol groups, such as motorised, foot and bicycle patrols, etc., based on the needs and characteristics of the patrolled area.

The analysis of norms of national legislation on Patrol Police allows the following conclusions to be drawn. The fundamental function of the Patrol Police is to ensure that law enforcement duties are carried out with consistency and on a 24/7 basis. Their primary objectives are to uphold citizens' rights and liberties and maintain public safety and order. The Patrol Police also have the function of combating and preventing unrest in a variety of locations, including streets, squares, parks, roads, ports and airports, particularly during large gatherings. Furthermore, they provide assistance, including emergency medical

and pre-medical aid, to individuals affected by violations, accidents, and natural or human-caused disasters.

Establishing a separate regulatory Law 'On the approval of the regulations on the Patrol Police of Ukraine' is essential. The conceptual framework of the Patrol Police, including their duties, values and roles, shall be outlined in this act. It should also clarify the authority that patrol officers possess and the organisational structure that regulates their activities. The idea of administrative and legal support for the Patrol Police of Ukraine should develop in three main ways: first, by establishing legal standards that regulate the Patrol Police of Ukraine's operations and administration; second, by regulating the legal aspects of the state-legal mechanism of management of the Patrol Police of Ukraine; and third, by defining legal standards relevant to the Patrol Police of Ukraine's operational areas.

Finally, four different categories of norms should be used to classify the regulations governing the Patrol Police. The first category includes norms that outline the duties, responsibilities and authority of the Patrol Police. The second group comprises norms that regulate the Patrol Police's managerial activities. The third group includes norms for preventing and combating crimes and delivering assistance. The fourth group prescribes that the Patrol Police communicate with the public, state agencies and other National Police units.

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