The History of Law Enforcement Culture in Hungary

Abstract
In Hungary, Ágoston Karvasy was an early pioneer writing about the history of law enforcement. In his first study he defined the concept of law enforcement as a science. The idea of establishing a national police organisation was first mentioned after the reform era but it has not been realized that time but only in the year of 1872. However, the first professional journal of law enforcement was published in 1869 and the word police officer as the ‘guard of the order’ appeared in the Hungarian language in 1870. The scope of authority and jurisdiction of the Police was declared in a law passed in 1881. In 1873 the Metropolitan Police Department was established and in 1905 the Border Police and the Police Department of Fiume were established. In the period between 1945-47, the police continuously emerged. Although the State Security Office was destroyed by the revolution of October 1956 and it was not restored afterwards, it has not effected the Police itself. The organizational culture of the Police is mostly influenced by its educational and training systems. The training of the probationary police officers was approved first by the prime minister in 1884. In 1920 the training of police officers was unified on new bases by the leaders of the Ministry for Internal Affairs and the Police Department. Then the Police Academy was set up in 1948 and the Police College was established in 1971. In 2012 the University of Public Service and its Faculty of Law Enforcement were established and took over the functionalities of the Police Academy as well.

Keywords: law enforcement, organizational culture, history, police force
Introduction

The beginning of modern law enforcement\(^1\) goes back to the second half of the mid-19\(^{th}\) century. The first word in Hungarian meaning ‘police officer’ was published in 1833 in the book of János Fogarasi. Ignác Zsoldos was the first to write about order and the police force in his work entitled ‘\textit{A few words on public bravery in our country}’ (Zsoldos, 1838, 50). One of the most significant scholars involved in laying the foundations of modern Hungarian law enforcement was Ágoston Karvasy, who discussed policing, public policy, the police force and police science in detail in his three major works; ‘\textit{Political Sciences Presented as a System}’, (1843-44) ‘\textit{The Science of Public Policy}’ (1862) and ‘\textit{The Science of Public Policy and Cultural Policy}’ (1870). In Karvasy’s first work, ‘\textit{Political Sciences Presented as a System}’ he formulates the concept of law enforcement and elaborates on his ideas related to it (Karvasy, 1843-1844), which form the basis for the creation of the concept of law enforcement during his later work. Approximately at the same time, after the Hungarian reform era (1825-1848) during the revolution and war of independence of 1848-49 the question of the establishment of the national police arose, which, however, could not be realised at wartime, with too little time at the disposal of the first government responsible for the Parliament. Following the revolution and war of independence of 1848-49 the Habsburg rule returned, preventing the creation of a Hungarian police force, which would have been the symbol of the facilitation of Hungarian interests. At the same time, the political public sphere had the uniting of Pest, Buda and Óbuda, the state of public safety on the agenda and the demand for the safety of persons and property intensified. The next milestone in the history of the Hungarian police force is related to the uniting of Pest, Buda and Óbuda, that is to the birth of the capital.

Formation of the Capital Police Force

According to the Article 20 of Act XXXVI of 1872 ‘\textit{in the jurisdiction of the local authority of the capital city the police force as a unified organisation called ‘the Police of the Capital shall be managed by the state, through its own functionaries. The rulemaking rights (legislations) of the local authority in local police matters shall not be affected}.’ Thus, the first state police force was creat-

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\(^1\) In this paper, this expression will refer to activities of both the police and all law enforcement organisations.
ed, whose responsibilities, competences and jurisdiction were laid down in law only later (Pichler, 1876). The Act on the institution of reporting on persons and events to the police was passed in 1879 in Budapest. Of course, this new institution could not guarantee a precise registration system until the registration of inhabitants had been introduced in all larger communities in Budapest to serve as a basis for it. The introduction of the population registers – at first related to population policing – is a very important step in the history of law enforcement. It made it much easier to carry out criminal investigation tasks, as finding the place of residence of certain people during an investigation did not absorb so much energy. One weakness of this Act was that at that time it only concerned the capital city, as it was the only place to have a state police force. However, it was used later as a basis for a system of institutions covering the territory of the whole country, a possibility not excluded by the MP introducing the bill in the Parliament, either. Having a similar range of responsibilities and jurisdiction, the registration office in Vienna was taken as a model for the Budapest one. Its structure and budget was also elaborated on in the bill. Simultaneously with the above process the Act on the police was being prepared with the Vienna and the London police forces taken as models. From 15 December 1873 the police force of the capital was directly subordinated to the Minister of the Interior. This was followed by a transition period, during which the capital retained the competence to present the basic regulations for associations and to manage press and passport matters. The Police of the Capital also had to control political workers’ associations and showmen (at fairs etc.), manage announced assemblies and deploy special armed forces, as well as exercise employer’s rights, put forward proposals for the police officers’ salaries and manage the budget of the police. Eventually, the law on the organisation of the police was passed and came into force in 1881. According to it, the jurisdiction of the organisation covered all the external and internal areas of the capital formed on the basis of the Act XXXVI of 1872. According to Act XXI of 1881, ‘the task of the Police of the Capital is to protect the safety of persons and property, maintain peace and public order, prevent if possible the violations of the penal laws and regulations and also the risks and damage due to accidents or omissions of any nature and restore disturbed order and peace in its jurisdiction, detect those breaking them and report or hand them to the competent court or authority to be punished. Also, to fulfil the general tasks of the watching, preventing and discovering police force within the framework of the present Act.’ These tasks demonstrate that the Act mainly defined law enforcement tasks, chiefly of public safety character for the Police of the Capital. They can be divided into three types. Thus, there are state policing tasks, regarding the aversion of
dangers emanating from the assembly of people, public policing ones, aimed at
the elimination of dangers occurring due to people’s ill intentions and will and,
as it was called at the time, those belonging to policing against the elements.
The first Hungarian state police force, then also having an Act on the police,
served as an example for the police officers of the towns in the country since it
had been established. From the second half of the 19th century the issue of the
nationalisation of the country police forces and the centralisation of the police
force were constantly on the agenda.

**Toward of the Modern Law Enforcement**

At the end of the 19th century police experts and lawyers had a discussion about
the discretionary powers of the police and their application. Miklós Rédey, draw-
ing attention on the issue by works satisfying high scientific requirements says
that it follows from this concept that policing should act against the imminent
dangers and not the events that have already taken place, which are the com-
petence of justice. As the imminent events cannot be outlined beforehand, the
police cannot precisely define how to manage dangers. The police force must
be given the opportunity to recognise the danger and evaluate it, depending on
its size and quality and to act and take measures against it at its discretion. The
police, too, should be able to operate only within the limits of the law. For ex-
ample, where the police force would restrict the human rights of the citizens,
also because the police force has the knowledge of these rights and of its dis-
cretionary powers, it is clear that it cannot do it without limitation. According
to Rédey, in everyday life this means that if there are reasonable grounds to
suspect that a citizen wants to behave in an illegal way, the police force must
be provided the opportunity to recognise it according to its discretion and also
to terminate this illegal behaviour according to its discretion, even by restrict-
ing the human rights of the citizen. Similarly, it is very difficult to manage
every mass demonstration in the same way. Every gathering and demonstra-
tion needs a different type of management, also from the aspect of policing,
for which the police must be given the discretionary powers. The guarantee for
its application is provided by the legal and political responsibility of the Gov-
ernment and the criminal liability of those applying them. Rédey published
several books that give good examples for police officers even today. The one
titled *The Manual of Police Service* was published in 1916, during World
War 1. He had been an experienced commissioned police officer, police schol-
ar and author by that time. In fact, he formulated his creed in this book. He ex-
plained who he thought could be a police officer and what requirements should be set for a police officer. In his opinion, a good police officer should first of all be an impeccable man, who had to become worthy of this honourable title. He says, ‘Nobody is born a police officer; he must be educated!’ (Rédey, 1916, 7.) In Rédey’s opinion, those who take to drinking or gambling will sooner or later rush headlong into disaster, and therefore are not fit to be police officers. ‘A police officer must be a whole person. Apart from the time for rest, he must live only for his profession. He must not take up another office or be in any business.’ Also, ‘A police officer should not engage in politics!’ (Rédey, 1916, 19.) He finishes his book with the ten commandments of a good police officer.

We consider Rédey’s book entitled ‘Introduction to the Fundamental Doctrines of Hungarian Police Law’ another exemplary work. It was published in 1923, three years after the nationalisation of the police. According to him, the road to understanding police law leads through the clarification of the basic concepts. For that reason, at the beginning of the book he presents the concepts of order, state and social order, law and order, public order and policing and their content. He also draws attention on the public duties of policing and its place and role in public administration. After this he goes on to present the police and elaborates on what he means by the concept of the police and their tasks. To define the police, he applied a shorter scholarly concept, saying that this authority is the guardian of order and a longer one: ‘The police force is the organisation (a separate institution) of home administration, competent to establish, maintain and ensure the preconditions of public order, even by force if necessary.’ (Rédey, 1923, 9.) Further, he presents his ideas about the character, directions and boundaries of the operation of the police. He thinks that the following comprise the operation of the police force:

1.) It constantly keeps watch to avert illegal attacks.
2.) It prevents already started attacks from being carried out.
3.) It terminates attacks that have happened by immediate response, with the use of force, when needed and according to its subjective discretion.
4.) The court assists with restoring the disturbed law and order.
5.) It also prevents the free activity of certain persons even if this activity does not cause damage to others but may lead to it and may cause discomfort, scandal or fear for others or it may disturb their free activity and the pleasure gained from their property (Rédey, 1923, 10.).

The beginning of the 20th century was dominated by the phenomena identical to those we experience today, that is emigration and immigration. To manage them,
Act V of 1903 on the residence of foreigners in the territory of Hungary, the Acts on emigration and immigration, on the passport and on the Border Police were passed. Thus, the second state police force, the Border Police was established. Large-scale emigration and immigration was stopped by World War I, to be followed by revolutions, resulting in the complete transformation of the police forces. After the disintegration of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, the council dictatorship and the years following it brought about several significant changes that concerned the police. For the 133 days of the dictatorship of the proletariat Red Guard\(^2\) was established, whose main task, according to the Small Textbook of a Red Guard, was ‘to ensure for his proletarian brothers undisturbed work for the purpose of the development of a communist society, that is the happiness of the whole mankind. The Red guard will protect the rule of the proletarians and thus of himself over the bandit bourgeois, be that external or internal enemy and he will ensure the order of the proletarian dictatorship.’ (Huszák, 1919, 8.)

The commissariats took over the jurisdiction of the old ministries and the powers of the police were transferred to the Red Guard. Thus, all law enforcement issues (transport, public safety, public health, customs, railways and navigation, fire safety, vice squads and politics) had to be managed by the Red Guard. After this transitory period, the capitalist system was restored and, as masses of people were on the move, a lot of policing/law enforcement work had to be done. Although the Police of the Capital was established in 1873 and the Border Police and the Police of Fiume were created in 1905, there was a serious need for a unified state police force with a central management. In 1893 this movement was led by Sándor Hégedűs, the head of the police headquarters, who called the attention of the country and of political decision-makers to the issue by organising congresses and writing articles and studies on the nationalisation of the police force. The purpose of the National Association of Police Officers in Hungary established on 17 December 1907 in Budapest was the same. It published several books and periodicals on law enforcement. In autumn 1919, as a result of political and professional demand for public safety and as a part of a lengthy public administration reform, Government Decree No. 5047/1919. ME was issued, which nationalised the police force in Hungary. It was raised to legislative level by Act I of 1920 on the restoration of constitutionality and the temporary arrangement of practicing supreme state power. In Hungary we have had a police force with national jurisdiction, having different names in each historical peri-

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2 Decree No. 1 BN of the commissar for internal affairs of March 30 established that laying the foundations of the internal order and its maintenance was the duty of the Red Guard. At the same time all the armed forces related to the police ceased to exist.
od, since 1920. From 1920 it was called the Royal Hungarian State Police, later the Royal Hungarian Police while after World War II. it was officially called the democratic police. After a few, relatively peaceful years, from the early 1930s the country prepared for the next war, and the Royal Hungarian Police was part of this. The passing of the Act of 1939 on national defence was an unambiguous sign of preparation for the war, which, together with the extraordinary act passed before World War 1 codified a lot of policing administration activities. It set up stricter conditions for leaving the country (concerning persons liable to military service) and for emigrating. It provided the Government Commissioner to be appointed with a wide scope of authorisation for the purpose of maintaining public order and safety. An interesting feature of the act is that it gave the Minister of the Interior the powers to refer the right to issue passports to the Government Commissioner. Considering the interests of warfare (anti-aircraft situation), it gave the powers to military headquarters to evacuate territories. As a result of the well-known military events in 1943 and to manage the evolved public safety situation and to enhance its protection, the Prime Minister’s decree No. 3810/1944 ME on the enhanced protection of public safety gave the Minister of the Interior the opportunity to supplement the staff of the Royal Hungarian Police and organise auxiliary armed units from volunteers. These were followed by the Prime Minister’s decree No. 4190/1944 ME on the organisation of the armed National Service, which, with reference to the Act on national defence, made it possible to organise the armed National Service, whose task, according to its Article 1, was ‘to carry out security duties for the close protection of the Leader of the Nation, to ensure the realisation of Hungarism, the Hungarian embodiment of national socialism and to support public safety armed forces.’ At the same time, the Prime Minister’s decree No. 3430/1944 ME on the establishment of the National Guard was declared. The mission of the National Guard was to support the public safety organisations (Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie and the Royal Hungarian Police) in maintaining the public order and safety of the country; to defeat smaller enemy partisan and paratrooper groups, to prevent and avert acts of sabotage; to guard property important from a military aspect; to secure the hinterland areas of military operations, according to the orders of the commanders of operating military corpses when needed.

The period of Second World War

World War II. brought about significant changes also in the history of policing/law enforcement. During it, a range of regulations were issued, which annulled
its previous civil character. An outstanding example is the Prime Minister’s decree No. 2300/1944 ME, which militarised the police, starting a process that had its impact on policing after World War 2, too. With reference to Article 141, paragraph (2) of Act II of 1939 the Prime Minister’s decree instructed the Ministers of the Interior and of Defence to reorganise the police, as a result of which the Royal Hungarian Police was changed into a body organised in an almost military way. After this the Royal Hungarian Gendarmerie and the Royal Hungarian Police were subordinated to an integrated leadership. The Commander became a Superintendent of the Gendarmerie and of the Police who was recommended by the Minister of Defence in agreement with the Minister of the Interior and appointed by the Regent. After Charles IV was dethroned, Miklós Horthy was elected by the Parliament as the head of the state to serve the Kingdom of Hungary as a Regent. The unified body of commissioned police officers was formed and its members had to be sorted into various ranks.

**After the Second World War**

After the Second World War, following the disbanding of the Gendarmerie and the establishment of the democratic police force, also in accordance with the Soviet practice, army ranks were retained in the police force and they exist even today. In the period between 1945 and 1947 the police force underwent several transformations. While the police officers’ textbooks of 1946-47 retained the earlier professional learning material, later, at the Police Academy -established in 1948- they copied the Soviet model. In the years to follow, for the purpose of maintaining the evolved situation, reinforcing socialist legality, protection of social property and the enhanced fight against criminals, law-decree No. 22 of 1955 on the Police was created to record the range of tasks and jurisdictions of the police. According to the law-decree, the police force, apart from its detection and investigative activities carried out, according to the rights and obligations laid down in the code of criminal procedure, with the purpose of preventing, detecting and disrupting crimes, was entitled to use secret means and methods. Law-decree No. 22 of 1955 stipulated that the police had to carry out duties in three areas, namely the protection of public order, of the order of traffic and administrative policing. In 1956 the outward movement at the western section of the border increased and the impact of tensions in domestic policy were also felt in the law enforcement organisations. In this period the ideas of József Tóth, written in 1938, policing is similar to a mirror, which reflects the image of the state, or like a seismograph, which shows every single vibration,
proved true. The revolution of 23 October 1956 swept the State Security Office away and it was not restored later, either, when the revolution was suppressed. A decision was made about laying the minefield again along the western border and about the reorganisation of the Ministry of the Interior. As a result of the events in 1956, the politicians of the Workers’-Peasants’ Government came to the conclusion that in order to protect public order and safety the Soviet-type state security system must be maintained, albeit not in the form of the former State Security Office, and thus, state security stayed within the jurisdiction of the police, which did very much harm to the public opinion of the organisation. Following the traditions, in the 1970s, based on earlier experience, the essential tasks related to the protection and maintenance of state security and public safety were regulated again by law-decree No. 17 of 1974. Law-decree No. 17 of 1974, the decrees of the Ministers’ Council No. MT 23/1974 (XL 1.) on the Police and MT 40/1974 (XI 1.) on the guarding of the borders of the Hungarian People’s Republic meant that the earlier legislation became obsolete. They also symbolised the consolidation of the socialist regime. These decrees and the regulations built upon them were in force until the removal of the iron curtain in 1989 and the change of the system that followed. The fact that the new Act on the Police (Act XXXIV of 1994 on the Police), which is still in force, took four years to be passed by the Parliament very well illustrates the new times and the transition into the civilian system.

**Law Enforcement Uniforms**

The staff of armed forces and law enforcement organisations typically do their duties in uniforms. ‘*Every organisation is comprised of content, substance and some type of a format. The format holds the substance together and it adapts itself to the content, still, the content is embedded in the format. Our uniform is an essential element of the format of our organisation. We live in this uniform, work in it and, wear it, if the service requires, we make even the greatest sacrifice. Therefore, it is not indifferent what we wear.*’ (Berky, 1940) Before the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy due to the Austrian control, both the Police and the Gendarmerie bore Austrian marks on their uniforms, too. After 1873, until the nationalisation of the police in 1920, members of the town police forces and those of the Police of the Capital had different uniforms. ‘*However, during the dualistic and the Horthy eras a unique uniform was introduced, which had Hungarian roots and was typical exclusively of the police and which – accompanying the organisation all along its development – truly reflected its*
Uniforms are symbols not only of the police forces but also of the states. Also, they emanate authority and dignity, therefore the Hungarian leaders of the state, of the Ministry of the Interior and of the Police paid special attention to the police uniform. That is why tradition was so important in its development, manifested in the helmet resembling that of Miklós Zrínyi (Hungarian hero of the fights against the Ottomans) and in the jacket decorated with braids. A police officer’s weapon accompanied him throughout his career. At first it was a sword, later a baton/truncheon, a pistol, a Mannlicher rifle or a machine gun. After the Second World War similarly to many other things, they broke with the traditions concerning the design of the uniform, too. In the 1950s Soviet-type uniforms and epaulettes were introduced, to be withdrawn from the system in 1956. From 1957 the light grey police uniform was brought into service, which survived the change of the system and was worn by officers until 2001.

The educational and training system

The organisational culture of the police force in every historical period was mainly influenced by its educational and training system (Farkas – Horváth, 2020). The first training courses were conducted at the Police of Budapest, established after the Austro–Hungarian Compromise of 1867. Later, in accordance with an order of 1884 for the service, approved by the Prime Minister, it was decided that the duration of probationary police officers’ training should be six months, after which only those suitable for the job were employed in the service. The preparedness of police officers attracted a lot of criticism in those times, too, and the fact that in different towns they did their duties wearing different uniforms, according to different regulations and after having different types of training seemed to justify it. However, after the nationalisation in 1920 the leadership of the Ministry of the Interior and of the Police put an end to this unfavourable situation, when, laying new foundations for the training of police officers, as they unified it. Prior to it, the types of staff and the number of positions to be filled within the Hungarian Police were specified. According to the Minister of the Interior’s decree No. 102.837/1922 B.M. the organisational structure of the Police at the time was as follows:

- Supreme management
- District police headquarters
- Police headquarters
The police staff was comprised, on the one hand, of persons authorised to and, on the other hand, of persons not being entitled to wear a uniform and/or carry a weapon. Applicants could only become members of the administrative policing officers’ and inspectors’ faculties after they had met the stringent requirements for employment, attended the courses and passed the examinations prescribed by the training system. However, he could only take this exam after passing an entry test, completing a year’s service on probation and a year’s training course. In those times one was admitted to the police as probationary officer if he fulfilled – apart from general conditions prescribed by the law – the conditions as follows: being between 21 and 30 years of age; single marital status; healthy, strong physique and sound financial state. The decree also elaborated on the opportunities for entering the administrative policing officers’ or inspectors’ faculties in another way. Applicants from the Army, (See Minister of the Interior’s Decree No. 36.092/1924 B.M.) the Gendarmerie (Minister of the Interior’s Decree No. 112.957/1922 B.M. Section 6) and public administration were only appointed after passing the police commissioned officers’ or the senior officers’ exam.

While attending the opening ceremony of the first special training course, national educational inspector Dorning Henrik made the following statements concerning the police. I think these ideas are relevant even today:

- The police are the public authority organisation which must protect the existing rule of law against the dangers directly threatening it even by using coercive means.
- The requirement for economic efficiency also applies to the police; to achieve the best possible result while investing the least possible (physical) effort.
- The greatest strength of the police force in all of its work is the unity of its organisation.
- Regarding special training, unified, specialised intensive courses should be supported. Study trips abroad and specialised literature are the two tools of further training.
- Nobody should give up acquiring knowledge in this profession and even a short period of rest results in regression.

Due to the losses during and after the Second World War and many police officials leaving the country and later as a result of left-wing political takeover
there were hardly any well-trained police officers in the service. Therefore, already in the last few days of the war it was necessary to think of their training so that the missing staff could be replaced. ‘In order to fill in the gaps in qualifications, based on the decree of the Temporary National Government No. I690/1945. ME. and following the order of the Ministry of the Interior, firstly a few weeks’ local training courses were conducted, as well as correspondence courses based on self-tuition, with 2-3 days consultations every month, ending in a final examination. This, however, could not replace specialised training. Therefore, the Temporary National Government wanted to restart the pre-war, centrally managed specialised training courses, together with the introduction of a completely new schooling system.’ (Bacsa, 2007, 8.) In 1947 the foundation of the Police Academy was on the agenda, whose purpose was formulated as follows: ‘To ensure the training of the future commissioned personnel of the state police, I intend to establish a police college that will train commissioned police officers equipped with sufficient knowledge of theory and practice and suitable to do their duty in every branch of the police service.’ (National Archives of Hungary, 1947) The years to follow saw various types of training for commissioned and non-commissioned officers in the field of public order, state security and criminal investigation. The length of the training period was also varied, ranging from several months to 2 or 3 years. As the requirements increased and due to the new internal and external circumstances, the President of the Presidential Council established the Police College by law-decree No. 1970.30. Training was first announced at its 3-year full-time course and 4-year correspondence course for the 1971/72 academic year. The curricula for the training of commissioned police officers were approved jointly by the Minister of the Interior and the Minister of Cultural Affairs, which was a new phenomenon. Commissioned police officers graduated from the full-time and correspondence courses of the Police College year after year, which meanwhile became the base of training commissioned officers for the Customs and Finance Guard (Szabó, 2013), the Border Guard (at the border policing specialisation from 1992) and for the Prison Service (at the Corrections specialisation), too. (Ruzsonyi, 2006:a, Ruzsonyi, 2006:b). Considering penal institutions, these officers may serve in detention centres, prisons and maximum security prisons as well (Ürmösné, 2018:a; Ürmösné, 2018:b). The year 1980 brought about great changes in the training of non-commissioned police officers. As a result of proposals to modernise education, issued by the order of the Minister of the Interior No 18/1980, the Academic Work Regulations were published. They contained basic orders concerning the management of tuition in these schools. The original name basic-level police training was changed into non-commis-
sioned police officers’ training. Based on the order, the police training schools in Budapest, Miskolc and Szombathely were named Non-commissioned Police Officers’ Training School of the Ministry of the Interior, Non-commissioned Officers’ Training School of the Ministry of the Interior and Kun Béla Training School for Ensigns of the Ministry of the Interior, respectively. They were joined by the non-commissioned officers’ schools established in Kőrmend, Szeged, Sopron and Adyliget on earlier border guard bases after the change of regime and later, as a result of qualitative developments, transformed into law enforcement secondary schools. Today they are situated in Kőrmend, Szeged, Miskolc and Adyliget and are functioning as vocational (law enforcement) grammar schools. 

From the 1970s the basic training for first-year students of the Police College was conducted in Csopak and a non-commissioned officers’ school was also established here. The year 2012 is another milestone in the history of training commissioned police officers, when the University of Public Service (UPS) and its Faculty of Law Enforcement were established. Since then, the would-be members of the professional intelligentsia of law enforcement have had the opportunity to be trained in the framework of the university education. Today, upon successful completion of their studies, students graduating from the UPS FLE are awarded BA and MA degrees, and, after they have gained a few years’ experience in the field of law enforcement they can return to the University, attend the doctoral school of the FLE (established in 2016) and defend their PhD thesis in police science.

**Conclusion**

In summary, we can establish that the Hungarian police force has a venerable past (Farkas, 2016). In its first major phase, the Police of the Capital, modelled on Western European organisations and confirmed on the level of legislation by Act XXI of 1881, served as a good example for the establishment of the central state police. The second phase of the history of the police lasted from its centralisation and the nationalisation of the police forces in the provinces in 1920 until the end of WW2, by which time faculties of well-trained non-commissioned and administrative policing officers, inspectors and detectives had been formed. The system and content of special training courses introduced in this period turned out to be future-proof. In the third phase, after WW2 the whole commissioned personnel was replaced and law enforcement training was started on new foundations. As a result of this process, from the early 1970s high-standard (higher education) training for commissioned officers and from
1980 for non-commissioned officers was established. Of course, the history of the police, too, was defined by historical events, such as the two world wars, the revolutions, the influxes of migrants and the changes of the political system that brought decisive changes in the life of Hungary.

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