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## Effectiveness of administrative and legal mechanisms for the implementation of community police in EU countries: the case of Ukraine

### Ефективність адміністративно-правових механізмів впровадження Community Police в країнах ЄС: приклад України

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#### Abstract


The Community Policing model is an approach to public safety that focuses on collaboration between police and the community. This model has been implemented in many EU countries, and the objective of this study is to analyze their experience. The study used the formal-legal method, the comparative-legal method, the content analysis method and statistical observation. As a result of the research carried out, the main tools to introduce the concept of Community Policing in the United Kingdom, Netherlands, Denmark and France were characterized. It was established that these tools aim to engage the public in collaboration, education and instruction of law enforcement personnel, providing guidance and consultation to citizens, as well as analysis and deterrence of criminal activities. Various forms of police interaction with the public in the United


#### Анотація


Модель Community Policing — це підхід до громадської безпеки, який зосереджується на співпраці між поліцією та громадою. Ця модель була впроваджена в багатьох країнах ЄС, і метою цього дослідження є аналіз їх досвіду. У дослідженні використано формально-юридичний метод, порівняльно-правовий метод, метод контент-аналізу та статистичне спостереження. У результаті проведеного дослідження охарактеризовано основні інструменти впровадження концепції Community Policing у Великобританії, Нідерландах, Данії та Франції. Встановлено, що ці інструменти спрямовані на залучення громадськості до співпраці, навчання та навчання працівників правоохоронних органів, надання рекомендацій та консультацій громадянам, а також аналіз та стримування злочинної діяльності. Розглянуто різні форми

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Kingdom are examined and the official website of the country's police service is characterized as a good example of an electronic platform for interaction with citizens. The results of the study can be applied by law enforcement agencies to optimize the implementation of the Community Policing concept, taking into account international experience. Future research may highlight the specific forms of, in particular, the Neighborhood Watch Network and the Home Watch Network.

**Keywords:** Community Policing, police-community interaction, administrative and legal tools, "Neighbourhood Watch", public safety, crime rate.

## Introduction

Community policing can be defined as a law enforcement model focused on building strong partnerships and collaboration between police officers and the communities they serve. The main goal of the strategy is to create a more inclusive environment for cooperation, where law enforcement agencies and the community work together to prevent and solve security problems, strengthening mutual trust and understanding.

The primary goal of any country's police service is to ensure public safety and reduce crime. Nevertheless, contemporary socio-economic processes necessitate an evaluation of the current protocols implemented by law enforcement entities (Charalambous et al., 2019). One of the innovative methodologies currently gaining traction in developed nations, including the European Union (EU), is the concept of Community Policing (Skogan, 2019; Kutnjak Ivković et al., 2020; Oosthuizen, 2021). This approach involves proactive measures aimed at predicting and preventing crimes through close cooperation with the community (Medvedenko, 2019; Malone & Dammert, 2021). Community Policing models are based on mutual trust between the community and the police and are implemented by establishing effective communication between these parties (Mills et al., 2021). This communication encompasses both counselling and raising awareness of the community as well as proactive engagement of volunteers in cooperation with the police.

Successful examples of Community Policing implementation in developed economies

взаємодії поліції з громадськістю Великобританії та охарактеризовано офіційний сайт поліцейської служби країни як гарний приклад електронної платформи для взаємодії з громадянами. Результати дослідження можуть бути використані правоохоронними органами для оптимізації впровадження концепції Community Policing з урахуванням міжнародного досвіду. Майбутні дослідження можуть висвітлити конкретні форми реалізації концепції, зокрема, мережі сусідського спостереження та мережі домашнього спостереження.

**Ключові слова:** Community Policing, взаємодія поліції та громади, адміністративні та правові інструменти, "Сусідська варта", громадська безпека, рівень злочинності.

function alongside the unsuccessful experiences of individual states (Davis et al., 2003; Connell et al., 2008; Blair et al., 2021). The challenges of implementing Community Policing in such nations are linked to various distinct factors, encompassing cultural, political, socioeconomic and additional features (Schlosser et al., 2021). Not the final factor contributing to Community Policing success is the level of public trust in law enforcement agencies, which is considerably influenced by the history of police corruption and aggressive actions of police officers against citizens (Elphick et al., 2021; Kammersgaard et al., 2023). Accordingly, the implementation of the underlying concept should be preceded by an applicable evaluation of social dynamics, cultural features of the community, views of separate individuals and other socio-political features.

The current study examines the administrative and legal instruments used in the EU countries during the implementation of the Community Policing concept. The experience of the UK, the Netherlands, Denmark and France was explored and a particular emphasis was placed on specific tools that could be considered for adaptation in other countries and the future change in terms of the policing landscape thereof. Ukraine is taken as an example of an emerging economy but nevertheless having prospects for the Community Policing to be successfully implemented.

The purpose of the article is to examine the experience of the EU countries in terms of utilizing administrative and legal instruments to

implement the Community Policing model and adapt it in other countries following the example of Ukraine. To that end, the following research tasks were addressed in the article:

- to highlight the key administrative and legal instruments for implementing the Community Policing model in individual EU countries;
- to reveal the experience of the UK regarding the implementation of various forms of police-community interaction;
- to evaluate Ukraine's readiness for further elaboration of the Community Policing model within the framework of legislative support and the level of citizens' trust in police authorities.

It is assumed that as a result of the research, the following results will be obtained: firstly, the main approaches and strategies to the introduction of Community Policing in individual countries, in particular, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Denmark and France, will be revealed. Secondly, the most successful practices for the implementation of the Community Policing model will be revealed as an example for Ukraine. Thirdly, Ukraine's readiness to introduce Community Policing will be assessed in terms of the presence of favorable legal and social conditions.

## Literature Review

The scrutiny of scientific literature pertaining to the application of Community Policing reveals the pivotal function this approach plays in crime reduction via preventive measures. Prokopenko et al. (2021), while addressing the preventive activities of the police in Sweden, emphasised the effectiveness of the implementing the Community Policing approach to strengthen the proactive component of police activity. This entails that the police activities should involve not only responding to offences and crimes, but also carrying out preventive measures to counter these phenomena. In Sweden, this strategy is executed through guidance directed towards mitigating specific classes of criminal activity.

The primacy of "anticipatory" actions by police authorities over reactive actions is also noted in the article by Tsurkalenko (2021). Taking into account the experience of Ukraine with regard to the stage of reorganising the militia from a purely repressive body into the police - as a body of "round-the-clock service", the researcher underscores that the vector of activity of the new body has changed to crime prevention rather than only responding to them. In his work, relevant approaches and tools are revealed that take place

while implementing the Community Policing concept.

On the other hand, Koper et al. (2020) demonstrated through empirical research that the scope of proactivity in policing is substantially constrained in practice. Furthermore, there exist significant obstacles to accurately evaluate proactive measures, thus hindering the ability to accurately assess the efficacy of Community Policing.

Didyk and Kostovska (2020) center their attention on the administrative and legal facets of police-community interaction. Scholars identified that society's adequate perception of the police is a significant predicament. That being said, the well-established communication between the populace and law enforcement is pivotal to Community Policing success and achieving its main objective of impeding and curbing crime magnitude. Currently, researchers consider several factors as being relevant in police interaction with communities, in particular: prompt responsiveness to citizens' reports, maintaining sustained communication, tolerance for marginalised groups requiring special attention, constant monitoring of societal issues, adherence to the rule of law, protection of human rights. The level of trust bestowed by citizens upon the police serves as a vital criterion for evaluating the activities of police entities.

Aston et al. (2023) identify specific factors that contribute to the strengthening of public trust and facilitate the information exchange with the public. Such factors include as follows: demonstrating aspects of fair interaction, consisting of appropriate attitudes and behaviour, personal contact and relationships, as well as accessibility and relevant communication; procedural justice, which includes security, including protection of personal data, as well as indicators of efficiency and effectiveness; distributive justice, the essence of which is the justice of distributing police services.

Schaap (2021), underscores the indispensability of public trust in ensuring optimal police operations and elucidates on strategies for cultivating such trust. The scholar delineates the intricacies inherent in this matter, associated with a large number of factors, process participants, uncertainty, communication errors, false assumptions, selective blindness, culture and a number of other factors. The research is based on case studies of developing trust-building strategies in countries such as England and Wales, Denmark and the Netherlands.

Akarsu (2020) explored the Community Policing strategy in Turkey. Scholars note that this form of policing, occurring primarily at the local level, demonstrates the growing interaction of citizens and the police. Community functions as auxiliary police forces, contributing to the consolidation of state power and enhanced state repression, especially against "suspicious Others".

In a study carried out by Blair et al., (2021) with the use of field experiments in the Global South region, it was established that the introduction of Community Policing practices does not have a significant impact either on increasing citizens' trust in the police or on reducing crime. In this context, researchers underscore the crucial significance of collecting empirical data on the efficacy of Community Policing as most nations are currently undergoing police reform, especially in developing countries, countries with high crime rate.

The multifaceted ways and results from implementing the concept of Community Policing, in particular in developed and transition economies, were underscored in the study of de Maillard and Terpstra (2021). Such diversity is revealed by comparing the implementation of the Community Policing model in various national configurations: the Netherlands, open to Anglo-American influences; Scandinavian countries with a high level of trust in the police; centralised France with her own administrative traditions, as well as post-conflict societies such as Northern Ireland and South Africa.

Madsen and Kammersgaard (2022) conducted field research on resistance and perceptions of Community Policing using the example of a district in Denmark defined as a "ghetto". Academics underscore the significance of delving into citizens' perception of Community Policing, and notably not only from the perspective of personnel and the impact on the policing practice. The scholars determined that, notwithstanding the benevolence inherent in specific law enforcement initiatives, the responses of civilians to said efforts can vary greatly.

## Methodology

### *Research procedure*

The research procedure consists of three interrelated and mutually coordinated stages. At the first stage, an analysis of administrative and legal instruments for the implementation of the Community Policing model in individual EU

countries was carried out. The major directions of police operations, which are implemented with the help of defined tools, were identified. The following countries were considered: the UK, the Netherlands, Denmark and France. These countries were taken as interesting scientific examples in connection with the following: the UK has a long history of Community Policing where trust in the police is somewhat taken for granted. However, given the challenges and changes in modern society, it is necessary to constantly adapt strategies. In the Netherlands, trust is seen as a valuable resource to be earned. Here, the Community Policing approach meets the needs of a demanding community and creates a platform for active engagement. Denmark is a clear positive example of police-community relations. Trust among the population is built into the perception of a prosperous state and a disciplined community, which contributes to the effective implementation of the concept of Community Policing. In France, there are challenges in police-community relations, but the application of community policing principles indicates some improvements.

The second stage is devoted to the characteristics of various forms of police-community interaction with citizens on the example of the UK. The official website of the country's police service was also shown to be a successful example of introducing an electronic platform for interaction between citizens and the police.

At the third stage, Ukraine's readiness for further elaboration of the Community Policing concept was evaluated. On the one hand, the legislative consolidation of the foundations of police-community interaction was noted, on the other hand, the level of public trust in the National Police and its dynamics over time were analysed. Finally, drawing on the study findings, some recommendations were proposed regarding the introduction of the Community Policing concept in Ukraine.

### *Sample*

The sample for the current study comprises the EU countries (namely, the UK, the Netherlands, Denmark, France), the experience of introducing Community Policing in which can be considered the most successful. It is worth noting that the list of countries with positive experience in the researched issue is not limited to the specified countries. However, these countries are bright representatives of different approaches to introducing the Community Policing concept. In light of the above, the Netherlands tends to

follow Anglo-American traditions, Denmark exhibits a remarkable degree of confidence in its law enforcement agencies, and France has a more centralised approach. As a matter of fact, the UK is the country from which the concept of Community Policing originates, and in which to date this concept has reached a high level of development due to the variety of forms of interaction and ground-breaking expertise. Ukraine was chosen as an example of an emerging economy that has the potential to successfully implement Community Policing. Importantly, this choice is due to Ukraine's European integration intentions as well as recent considerable growth of the population's trust in the police authorities. It is also worth noting Ukraine's special need to ensure the safety of her citizens in the context of the Russian Federation's full-scale territorial invasion.

### *Methods*

During the examination of administrative and legal measures for implementing the Community Policing model in EU member states, both formal legal methodology and comparative legal methodology were applied. The combination of the said methods made it possible, on the one hand, to briefly characterise the available administrative and legal tools for the implementation of the Community Policing model in the studied country, and on the other - by comparing them with each other, to identify common directions that are implemented while utilizing these tools.

To characterise the variety of forms that exist in the UK for community-police interaction, the method of content analysis was employed to expound on the roles and capacities of volunteers engaged in police activities. The study also appraised the efficacy of the official website of British law enforcement as a commendable exemplar for its innovative application of electronic communication channels with citizens.

The formal legal method in combination with the method of statistical observation enabled assessing Ukraine's readiness for further development of the Community Policing concept from a legal standpoint, as well as from the citizens' perspective. The method of statistical

observation contains an assessment of the fluctuations in the degree of community's confidence in the National Police for the period from 2016 to 2023.

### **Results and discussion**

#### *Administrative and legal tools for implementing the Community Policing model in individual EU countries*

The administrative and legal tools for implementing the Community Policing model differ in different countries depending on a number of features. Those comprise cultural, historical features, police history of engaging in corrupt and aggressive behaviour, relations between the state and the police, the police and citizens, the level of crime and so on. It is common knowledge that Community Policing models work much more efficiently in developed countries than in countries with emerging economies. Therefore, despite the cultural, economic, political and other features of each specific country, it is expedient to pay attention to the expertise of the EU countries, because it is here that the concept of Community Policing originated and underwent substantial evolution. Figure 1 compares specific community policing tools in some of the above countries.

The implementation of the Community Policing model is subject to a range of administrative and legal tools that vary across different countries. These differences are influenced by a variety of factors, including cultural and historical features, the police force's history of corruption and aggression, as well as the nature of relationships between state authorities, law enforcement agencies, citizens, and levels of crime within each jurisdiction. It is generally accepted that Community Policing models are more effective in developed nations than in emerging economies. Thus, despite variations in culture, economics or politics among different countries implementing this model; it is advisable to draw on the expertise gained from EU countries where Community Policing first originated and has undergone significant evolution over time. The figure below presents a comparison of specific community policing tools utilized within several relevant jurisdictions for reference purposes.



The UK	The Netherlands	Denmark	France
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Community police services</li> <li>•Community Safety Partnerships</li> <li>•Community Policing Teams</li> <li>•Training and Instruction Programs for Police Officers</li> <li>•Consultations and Cooperation with the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Municipal Security Councils (Veiligheidshuizen)</li> <li>•Community Policing Teams</li> <li>•Interactive Programs and Web Platforms</li> <li>•Instruction and Training for Police Officers</li> <li>•Crime Analysis and Prevention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Community Safety Partnerships (Sikkerhedsfora)</li> <li>•Community Policing Teams (Lokalpolitienheder)</li> <li>•Instruction and Training for Police Officers</li> <li>•Consultations and Dialogue with Community</li> <li>•Crime Prevention Programs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Municipal Security Councils (Conseils Locaux de Sécurité et de Prévention de la Délinquance)</li> <li>•Community Policing Teams (Brigades de proximité)</li> <li>•Community Police Prefects</li> <li>•Crime Monitoring and Analysis</li> <li>•Information Campaigns and Public Control</li> </ul>

**Figure 1.** Community Policing tools in individual European countries. (elaborated by the author based on (Police.uk, 2023; CCV, 2023; European Commission, 2019; OSCE, 2023))

Having examined Figure 1, it becomes apparent that the Community Policing models presented in the above countries demonstrate both divergent and convergent parameters. This knowledge can be utilised to customise and implement the model in other nations. Notably, these instruments can be primarily categorised into groups with shared vectors of action, including: public participation in Community Policing; instruction and preparation of law enforcement personnel; provision of guidance and consultations; crime analysis and deterrence:

- public engagement in Community Policing;
- instructing and training of police officers;
- provision of advice and consultations;
- crime analysis and prevention.

Public involvement in Community Policing is implemented through such measures as, for example, the creation of Community Safety Partnerships that take care of safety at the municipal level and involve local residents, as well as through the formation of Community Policing Teams that actively interact with the community. Among other things, training and instruction of police officers is aimed at

improving their communication skills for effective cooperation with the community, educating them on the necessity and tactics of Community Policing. The provision of advice and consultations is aimed at increasing citizens' awareness of how to safeguard oneself from criminal offences, what to do in the event of a crime, and providing other informational support. Crime monitoring and analysis is aimed at crime prevention, including in areas where crimes occur most frequently.

#### *Experience of the UK*

For a more profound understanding of all possibilities and forms of police interaction with citizens within the framework of the concept of Community Policing, it is suggested to take into account the example of the UK. Following Brexit, the United Kingdom does not belong to the EU, while during its stay in the union the concept of Community Policing has undergone significant development, representing one of the most successful examples of police interaction with the public. The official website of the UK Police (Police.uk, 2023) offers a wide range of forms of interaction with the police for citizens wishing to become volunteers (Table 1).

**Table 1.**

*Forms of interaction with the police for citizens wishing to become volunteers in the UK (elaborated by the author drawing on Police.uk, 2023)*

Form of interaction	Content
Special constabulary	Special Constables are volunteers who were trained to work with and support local police. A special constable can be a person from any profession who is willing to volunteer at least four hours a week to the local police. An important function of special constabulary is to establish a connection between the state police force and the local community. Special constables have the same powers as full-time officers and also wear a regular uniform, after completing the training phase.
Police Support Volunteers – PSVs	Police Support Volunteers are recruited from citizens who are willing to volunteer their time to perform tasks, helping to free up officers and police personnel for core operational duties. Such volunteers can perform various tasks: provide medical services, deal with administration, follow up on crime reports and incidents with members of the public.
Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch Network (NHWN)	Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch Network are neighbourhood associations formed with the aim of strengthening communities, improving friendly relations within such associations, potentially contributing to the reduction of crime and anti-social behaviour. This network provides participants with resources needed for meetings, schemes initiation, know-how exchange, etc. Currently, there are more than 170,000 NHWN schemes in England and Wales.
Crimestoppers	Crimestoppers is an independent charity whose main aim is to find and solve criminals. The organization provides an anonymous telephone number that citizens can call 24 hours a day to report crimes. Also, it is possible to inform the organization anonymously through the Crimestoppers website. The organization has more than 500 volunteers.
Street Pastors	A street pastor is a leader/minister or member of the Church. Such individuals are ready to communicate with people on the streets, encouraging them to listen and dialogue. These figures broadcast the Church's interdenominational response to problems existing in a certain community. They pay special attention to work with young people who feel marginalised.
Street Angels	Street Angels operate in different cities across the UK and work on specific issues relating to the night time economy in city centres on Friday and Saturday nights and are linked through the Christian Nightlife Initiatives Network.
National Association of Chaplains to the Police	Police chaplains care for individuals in all departments and can provide critical input to the organization in decision-making. Chaplains are recruited from all denominations; they can volunteer for at least two hours a week.
Victim Support	Victim Support is a national charity that offers confidential and complimentary assistance to individuals impacted by criminal activity, including victims, witnesses, their family, and other affected parties. Most of the participants are volunteers, whose number is almost four times greater than the number of employees.
Community Speedwatch	Community Speedwatch is a scheme aimed at reducing road speed through awareness and control of the problem at local level, implemented through the cooperation of volunteers and the police.
Independent Custody Visitors	Independent Custody Visitors include members of the public whose task is to review the custody standards. The task is implemented through regular unannounced visits to check the conditions of custody.
Independent Advisory Groups	Independent Advisory Groups are groups of community representatives who meet regularly with the police, providing community feedback and community views to the police.
Police Consultation Efforts	It is mandated that all law enforcement facilities must implement measures to obtain the views of the local community regarding the activities of the local police, which enables community participation in the development of police policy.
Citizens in Policing	Citizens in Policing is a general term applied to the thousands of people across the UK who volunteer their time to support the police.

Actually, the Police.uk website deserves special attention due to its wide functionality, which provides visitors with the following opportunities:

- provides information regarding the available avenues for contacting law enforcement in

relation to the degree of urgency, whether immediate or non-emergent, via telephone, both online and anonymously;

- informs about options for contacting the police in terms of urgency or if the situation is not urgent by phone

- provides information about support services for children and youth, offenders and their families, victims and witnesses, businesses;
- discloses information about existing types of offences and crimes and provides applicable counselling;
- defines the policing mechanism of the nation and specific localities;
- provides statistics of committed crimes for recent periods and a cartographic representation denoting the frequency of criminal activity within specified regions, etc.

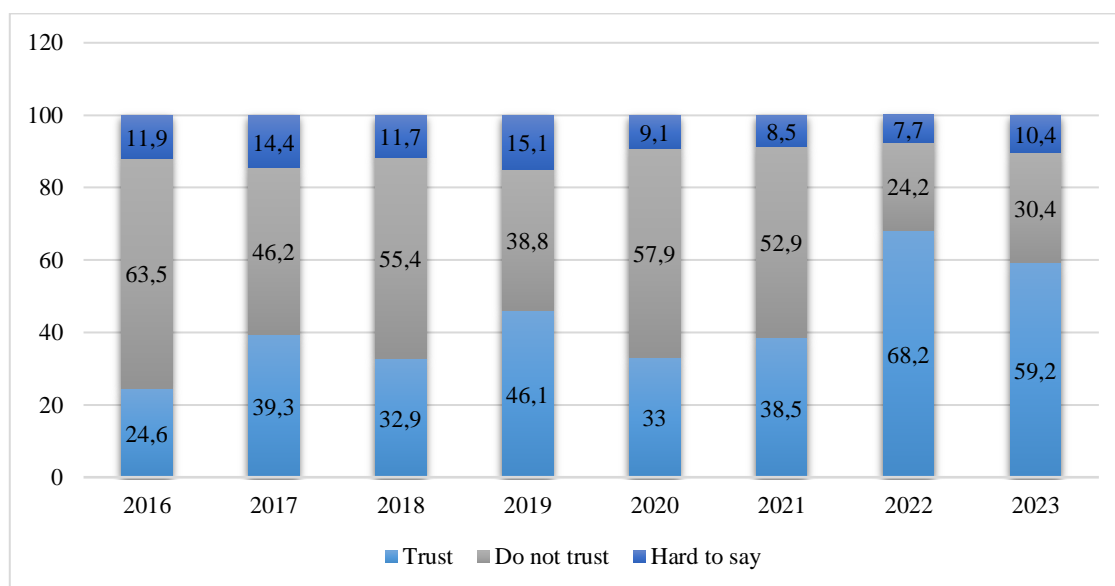
The provided description of the administrative and legal tools of Community Policing provides ample opportunities for analysis, selection and adaptation of the most appropriate tools to the practice of other countries. It is important to bear in mind that the efficacy of enacting the overall concept hinges less on the selection of tools and techniques, but on establishing communication with the community, taking into account the differences between regions, as well as particular individuals and groups.

#### *Evaluation of Ukraine's preparedness*

Ukraine belongs to emerging economies, hence the introduction of the Community Policing concept may face more significant obstacles than in developed countries. However, Ukraine's European integration intentions, as well as

significant threats to the security situation in the country, related to the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation on its territory, necessitate more decisive steps in the direction of ensuring the safety of citizens, including through their communication and cooperation with the police. Therefore, an important scholarly enquiry is the study of Ukraine's preparedness for more active development of Community Policing in current conditions.

The need for interaction and cooperation between the police and citizens on the basis of partnership is defined in the Law of Ukraine "On the National Police" (hereinafter - the Law) (Safety in the community, 2023; Law of Ukraine No. 580-VIII, 2023). Article 11 of the Law states that police activities must be carried out in close interaction and cooperation with the population, territorial communities and public associations on the basis of partnership and aimed at meeting their needs. Further, the Law specifies that the particular region and the problems of territorial communities should be taken into account when planning police activities, thus enabling to identify the reasons or conditions for committing crimes. The key criterion for evaluating the effectiveness of police bodies and units is defined in the Law as the level of public trust, which is evaluated by autonomous sociological agencies in a corresponding method (Law of Ukraine No. 580-VIII, 2023). Figure 2 shows the dynamics of the level of public trust in the police in Ukraine.



**Figure 2.** Dynamics of the level of trust of Ukrainians in the National Police (elaborated by the author based on (Slovo i dilo, 2023))

As can be seen from Figure 2, for the six consecutive years preceding the large-scale

invasion, the level of Ukrainians' trust in the National Police was not too high and did not



exceed 46.1%. However, after the onset of the invasion, this rate increased significantly, reaching a record high of 68.2% in 2022, and declining slightly in 2023 to 59.2%. Thus, at the current stage in Ukraine, favourable conditions have been created for the development of Community Policing both at the legislative level and from the point of view of citizens' readiness. Based on the analysis of foreign experience, the following are the possible directions of the government's further actions in this area:

- developing websites and platforms in each locality, which, following the UK example, will allow the public to report crime, raise awareness and consider volunteering initiatives;
- providing round-the-clock avenues for citizen expression, including anonymous channels, while also guaranteeing comprehensive review of all appeals;
- developing initiatives that facilitate communication with disenfranchised youth;
- further elaborating the NHWN concept taking into account national characteristics, etc.

### Discussion

In view of the conducted investigation, the best practices regarding the introduction of Community Policing administrative and legal instruments in different countries were described and Ukraine's preparedness and need for the development of the concept were assessed. This is due to a number of advantages that Community Policing provides to ensure citizens' safety. Prokopenko et al. (2021) conclude that the concept of Community Policing provides such advantages as predicting the mitigating the decline of criminogenic conditions in specific areas by preventing deviant conduct from its inception, and more effective collection of testimony and evidence in the event of a crime. According to the example of Sweden, scientists call one of the tools for implementing the concept an official web resource that contains advice on preventing certain types of crimes (counselling tourists, travelers, visitors on protecting credit cards, office, production, etc. rules of conduct on a construction site, burglary, etc.). The need to introduce electronic resources as a Community Policing tool is also emphasised in the author's work, however, in the context of Community Policing, it is crucial that such a resource not only imparts knowledge but also affords the populace with amplified prospects for communication and engagement (Kappeler et al., 2020).

Didyk and Kostovska (2020) study the administrative and legal component of police interaction with the community. According to scientists, this component entails fostering a favourable perception of law enforcement, bolstering community trust and enhancing their perceived legitimacy, ensuring communication, taking the views of the community into account by the police, etc. Therefore, the said scholars reached unanimous conclusions with the author of the current article regarding the priority of establishing fruitful communication and trusting relations between the police and the community.

Tsurkalenko (2021) provides a list of areas of activity in which the population cooperates with the police using the example of Ukraine. In particular, these are as follows: public health, road safety, work with children and youth, combating gender-based violence, sports and eco-projects, cooperation with foreigners, inclusive direction and informal communication. In particular, the researcher carries out such projects as "Neighbourhood Watch", "School Police Officer", "DrugHunters" and "Community Police Officer". Emphasizing that the transition to a fully functioning Community Policing concept in Ukraine will take decades, the scientist notes the double effect of such a transformation: on the one hand, it is a reduction in tension between the population and the police, on the other hand, a probable increase in crime in the period when the police reorients itself to new realities, and the population will not keep up with it. Considering the results of the research, in modern conditions, according to the author, such a transition can be accelerated, and the negative effects are levelled by adapting foreign practices, including negative experience. For instance, Koper et al. (2020) conclude that assessing police proactivity is a complex process, and individual agencies track only a few forms thereof. Thus, measurement of proactivity is most often limited to the quantitative calculation of traffic issues, inspections of businesses, property, and various forms of preventive patrolling. In fact, there is often no way to realistically estimate the amount of time officers have for proactive work. Therefore, official policies and clear criteria for assessing proactivity are mostly not established (the study was based on data from US agencies). Given the above, reform plans in Ukraine, should take into account the introduction of more effective approaches to assessing proactivity. An example of a negative experience with the introduction of Community Policing can be seen in the work of Blair et al. (2021). Scholars found the lack of a noticeable effect in the application of the Community Policing concept in the

countries of the Global South on reducing crime and increasing public trust in the police. The factors as follows could have potentially contributed to these outcomes: lack of support from police leadership, frequent rotation of police leadership and officers, and insufficient resources to respond to issues noted by citizens.

Aston et al. (2023) note that the primary impediments to optimal police engagement with the general public are rooted in instances of violent law enforcement practices and a lineage of malfeasance. That being said, fairness in the interaction of the police with citizens, as well as procedural and distributive justice contribute to increasing the level of trust in the police. Moreover, drawing on scholarly insight, several useful tools can be cited to improve the effectiveness of Community Policing. Thus, researchers emphasise the significance of fostering personal engagement with the populace, maintaining a continuous state of accessibility, and cultivating meaningful interaction with law enforcement personnel. At the same time, it is expedient to use up-to-date digital communication (programs, social networks), ensuring the preservation of citizens' data. This proves the author's views on the need to develop effective digital platforms for interaction with citizens. An important emphasis in this work is the emphasis on the need to save user data, which was not taken into account in the above research.

According to Akarsu (2020), the development and funding of Community Policing in Turkey, with the primary goal of reducing authoritarianism and police violence through strengthening community relations, led to somewhat different outcomes. Specifically, the reform stimulated the population to strengthen police activity, creating a new type of community-police interaction. Hence, the previously despised figure of the police informer was transformed into a respected, responsible and vigilant practitioner involved. In author's opinion, both alternatives are a positive result from the implementation of Community Policing. However, the result must be predictable, and therefore, given the experience of Turkey, before the implementation of specific reforms, it is expedient to consider all possible scenarios and evaluate their potential effect. The establishment of trust between law enforcement and society is a multifaceted undertaking, as noted by Schaap (2021), due to the intricate interplay of institutional and social factors that are highly variable in nature. Thus, as exemplified in the author's research, the large-

scale invasion of the Russian Federation on its territory turned out to be a significant trigger for the augmentation of confidence in law enforcement in Ukraine. This is evidently related to the effectiveness of law enforcement in critical conditions and the growth of national unity. In Ukraine, the National Police should use this important stage to consolidate its authority and improve relations with citizens, which ultimately should lead to a reduction in the crime rate and effective prevention thereof.

Similar conclusions are drawn by Madsen and Kammersgaard (2022), who maintain that the effectiveness of community police initiatives depends on the ability of the latter to fit them into social processes that reflect community's social dynamic. Scholars hold that Community Policing should become a reflexive practice, not just apply evidence-based method regardless of the community. De Maillard and Terpstra (2021), noting the differences in the implementation of the Community Policing model in different countries, highlight the following barriers to effective reform: political priorities, socio-economic differences and ethnic tensions, professional interests, available organizational resources. The said scholars call the political climate, socio-economic inequality, relations between the police and the government, and police traditions as factors influencing reforms. These factors necessitate a thorough examination of the historical, political, cultural, and socio-economic contexts in order to implement targeted reforms. Consequently, this further underscores the author's conclusions as presented in the current article.

## Conclusion

The primary objective of the police force in any nation is to maintain law and order, ensuring the safety and protection of its citizens. A major impediment to achieving this aim is the pervasive lack of confidence that many individuals have towards their local law enforcement agencies. This leads to the need to review the existing practices of the police service and direct the vector of such activities to the cultivation of reliable and trustful relationship with the community, alongside with efficient communication. This study considered one of the popular approaches to the development of police-community interaction currently, namely the concept of Community Policing.

The analysis carried out in the study made it possible to reveal approaches to the introduction of Community Policing in some EU countries

(the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Denmark and France). During the characterization of these approaches, prevalent strategies were identified that are utilised through specific administrative and legal instruments utilised by these nations, namely:

- public engagement in Community Policing;
- instructing and training of police officers;
- provision of advice and consultations;
- crime analysis and prevention.

The analysis of the diverse forms of interaction between law enforcement and citizens in the UK has bolstered its reputation as a successful model for Community Policing implementation. This suggests that selecting and adapting optimal modes of interaction to specific country conditions can enhance efficacy when introducing Community Policing. The significance of developing effective electronic platforms for police-community interaction was underscored.

The evaluation of Ukraine's preparedness for the implementation of Community Policing has demonstrated that the country has favourable conditions, both legally and socially, to further advance the above concept. The population's trust in law enforcement agencies appears to be a crucial factor in the successful implementation of the researched concept.

The outcomes of this research can be utilised by law enforcement agencies to enhance the execution of the Community Policing concept, while considering global practices. Subsequent investigations should delve into revealing the nuances of particular engagement modes between police personnel and society, in particular, Neighbourhood Watch and Home Watch Network.

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