

Everyday police: norms in the turmoil of police practice Based on the interviews with police officers from the local police stations of one of the Czech police's districts the author discusses their ability to handle their everyday practice. It is viewed under two sets of effects. The first set consists of three levels of written legal obligations - the constitutional laws defining the basic values of social structure and state system, laws which govern police functions and objectives and internal norms of the police organization specifying their operation. The use of legal norms is penetrated by five sociological dimensions - the ethical and moral values expressed within the written norms (how the police mean their practice); the exact terms of the written norms (how the police should do their practice); the police officers' performance requirements (how the police must do it); the police officers' experience based best practice (how the police would like to do it) and the ability to meet all those requirements (how the police really do it). After framing the analysis, the current knowledge about police is discussed. In the foreign literature we can find two basic fashions of the police performance. The first one sees police practice as reactive, based on crime control and crime-fighting police performance. The second approach sees police practice as proactive, based on cooperation with other agencies and the public and problem-managing police performance. Most of the scholars relate the future of policing to the second strategy. In the next section we can read about the data and the methods used in the analysis. The main importance is given to eight partly structured interviews with police officers. Their statements are understood as subjectively restricted representations of the everyday police practice. Said that the conclusions can be made only as an approximation of what the practice could be like. The main findings are presented and discussed in the last two sections of the thesis. Police officers feel to promote norms and values that are universal and open to understanding of any member of society. The exact terms of written norms are used in two ways - retrospectively as a part of administration of detected crime and momentarily as a tool to support their decisions about immediate penalization of offences, mainly during traffic controls. The organizational structure's requirements on police officers' performance are undermining the use of practical skills gained from their daily experience; the efforts to build positive partnership with the public are affected by the necessity to itemize all their actions within the law enforcement activities which leads to reactivity and instrumentality in their performance and consequently in passivity in communication with the public. Although the newly written internal rules for police performance are supportive to these efforts, the structure is relatively slower in adopting it.