

Abstract

This diploma thesis deals with the democratisation of the police in the four post-communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe – the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland. The interest of the thesis is focused on the transformation of the regular police with regard to the personnel issue. Using the theories of transition three hypotheses are verified. The first one presupposes that the police are the pillar of a nondemocratic regime and the transition to democracy takes a long time in this institution. The other considers the police to be the reflection of society, so its transition is not different from the rest of society and state institutions. The last of the hypotheses says that the police are too important and it is the priority of the new regime to make its quick transformation.

At the time of transition to democracy, there is a change in leadership, verification of police officers, the dismissal of compromised individuals, the appointment of new senior policemen, and the recruitment of the rest of the police force. The perspective of personnel changes is thus an appropriate indicator of the events that the police have undergone in connection with the transformation of the country. Despite a number of different factors and processes, an analysis of the democratisation of the four police forces has shown that a hypothesis claiming that the transformation of an institution like the police is a complex task that takes a long time, has been confirmed in all the countries under consideration. Similarly, it turned out that the character of the previous nondemocratic regime and the way the whole country was transformed were elements that influenced the resulting form of police reform.