

6TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON LOCAL SAFETY AND SECURITY



UNIVERZITET CRNE GORE
PRAVNI FAKULTET



University of Maribor

Faculty of
Criminal Justice and Security



arrs

SLOVENIAN RESEARCH AGENCY

“Neither fish nor fowl”

Municipal Law Enforcement Services (MLES) in Germany

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“Neither fish nor fowl”

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Ina Hennen



Agenda

- 1) Policing system in Germany
- 2) Tasks and powers of MLES
- 3) Empirical study: research questions
- 4) Empirical study: data collection
- 5) Preliminary findings: conflicting expectations



Policing system in Germany

Municipal Law Enforcement Services (MLES)

Unity system

Police authorities

Enforcement police	Police administrative authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency response • Investigation of criminal offences • Enforcement assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other policing tasks

Separation system

Police authorities / Enforcement Police

- Emergency response
- Investigation of criminal offences
- Enforcement assistance

Regulatory authorities

- General Risk prevention
- Maintaining order in public space



Tasks and powers Municipal Law Enforcement Services (MLES)

Tasks	Powers	Equipment
Penalization of misdemeanor & administrative offences	Identity checks and detention	Irritant spray
Maintaining security and order	Searching persons	Handcuffs
Supporting the police	Issuing bans	Baton
Show presence	Powers similar to police officers in some cases	Uniform, Stab proof vest
Traffic monitoring		Radio



Empirical study

Research questions

What demarcation tendencies from other actors in public space can be identified in the everyday work of MLES?

Which professional roles can and may the MLES take on to establish security in local communities?

What is the professional and distinctive knowledge base of MLES?



Empirical study

Data collection

Participant observations

- Four German municipalities
- Participation in day and night shifts
- With and without uniform

Expert interviews

- 5 interviews (7 interviewees)
- Management level
- Field staff



Preliminary findings

Conflicting expectations from the outside



<https://wallpapersafari.com/w/uBfGEm>

versus



<https://www.pixel4k.com/tmnt-cartoon-art-43150.html>

- communicative
- attentive
- approachable
- preventive
- recognisable
- de-escalative
- considerate

- assertive
- supporting the police
- protective
- exerting pressure
- supervisory
- proactive
- self-confident



Thank you.

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