

Chapter 18

Intercultural Education and Training of Slovene Police Officers for the Purpose of International Missions

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ABSTRACT

In this chapter the authors will discuss the importance of intercultural education and training for the purpose of high quality work of police officers during international missions. The Slovene Police is among other basic work areas also responsible for international cooperation, such as cooperation with Europol, Interpol, etc. and among others it his together with Slovene Armed Forces also responsible for international missions. The integration of intercultural perspectives into their education and training is due to the special work conditions during work in international missions highly important. The authors will present the theoretical aspect of the importance of intercultural training for all the employees that work in special intercultural environment and conditions as well as present the results of empirical study. Furthermore, the chapter will present the results of research which was conducted in 2014 among Slovene police officers included in international missions from the beginning in 1997 until 2014.

INTRODUCTION

An increasing number of civilian staff is required in the European Union for participating in various civilian crisis management missions all over the world. The staff that is needed are mostly experts in police matters, justice, customs and public administration as well as human rights experts, social workers, teachers, etc. The availability of civilian experts qualified for work in crisis areas is a great challenge for each Member State as well as the international community as a whole. The Slovene Police takes part in many international organizations and therefore send their members to different international civilian missions (Ministry of the Interior, 2010).

Police officers that cooperate in such missions are required to have special abilities, knowledge and skills, among them also knowledge of intercultural differences and diversity, accepting these differences and ability to cooperate and communicate with people from different cultures as well as with locals. Police officers have to be properly educated and trained for contributing international missions.

The authors present in this chapter the research results about the training, education and competences (from multicultural field) that are needed for successful work of police officers in international civilian missions. Results from the quantitative research made with online questionnaire, which had 57 questions about intercultural education and training, will be presented below.

Several hypotheses set at the beginning of the research will be tested with SPSS analyses. Based on research findings, authors will also prepare the managerial suggestions for the improvement of the intercultural training and education system for the Slovene Police and also the suggestions for such trainings in general. The conditions in Europe are in sense of multiculturalism and interculturalism changing rapidly in last months, and therefore the authors will also discuss the possibility and needs of including the intercultural training and education in general education system for all police officers.

Since the intercultural competencies are essential for successful work in international environment and therefore especially in field of international civilian missions, the chapter will first present some theoretical background about culture and intercultural environment in general and then the importance of intercultural education in training for the purpose of international missions in the detail and at the end for the purpose of international missions of the Slovene Police officers. Several different researches about international competences will be included in this chapter: from Cepol and United Nations studies to different studies of other countries that have already been actively included in several civilian international missions will be taken into consideration. The second part of the chapter will present some of research results of intercultural training for the purpose of civilian international missions in the Slovene Police that shows the current situation in field of intercultural training and can therefore be seen and understood as the key starting point for the improvement of existing intercultural training and education in the Slovene Police.

CULTURE AND INTERCULTURAL ENVIRONMENT

Culture could be defined in numerous different ways. One of the first contemporary definitions of culture was set by Tylor (1974), who define culture as “that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, morals, law, custom and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society.”

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