

Finnish-Hungarian International Law Enforcement Cooperation Between the Two World Wars

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Abstract:

As a result of the Industrial Revolution and civic development, the cultural, economic, and professional relationship between states grew steadily. These were based on common interests and historical, friendly relations. At the same time, crime has become international. One reason for this is that criminals, fearing prosecution, tried to hide in neighbouring states. The most effective action against this was international law enforcement cooperation. Collaborations began in the late 19th century when international criminal congresses were organized. As a result, international law enforcement relations between the countries have deepened, and professional relations have developed. The establishment of Hungarian-Finnish police relations was facilitated by the historical friendship between the two countries, the linguistic kinship, and the fact that, although in different ways, the police of both countries had almost similar tasks and problems.

Keywords: law enforcement; law enforcement cooperation; Finnish-Hungarian friendship; crime; police

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“International relations are important to the police in every country. Here are the roots to which common threads run from everywhere. This has necessitated the development of international relations.”¹ You can read this quote from Dr. Henrik Dorning,² in his book on the analysis of international relations. Even before the World War I, the international relations of the Hungarian police were not limited to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy countries. Hungarian officials and leaders have been regular participants in international conferences since the second half of the 19th century.³ Contact with the Finnish police was part of this system of international relations after the World War I.

The beginning of the Finnish-Hungarian relations can be traced back to the middle of the 19th century. Initially, the initiatives of mainly linguists, ethnographers, and individuals who considered the importance of the Finnish-Hungarian friendship led to institutional Finnish-Hungarian cooperation.^{4,5,6} The Finnish-Hungarian friendship and cooperation have stood the test of time in the last century. There have been several turning points and significant events in the two nations’ history in the 20th century, when friendship intensified and manifested in practice despite the great distance.⁷ One of the symbolic beginnings of this was when Finland recognized Hungary on September 10, 1920 (after the World War I, when the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy disintegrated), and two years later also sent an ambassador.⁸ (Due to its geopolitical position and history, Finland initially approached the Baltic States and Poland.)^{9,10}

Both countries have been fighting for independence for centuries. Finland became independent after the occupation by the Swedes and Russians, while Hungary became

¹ BORBÉLY, Z. – KAPY, R. *A 60 éves magyar rendőrség 1881–1941 (60 years old Hungarian Police 1881–1941)*. Budapest: Halász irodalmi és könyvkiadó vállalat, 1942, p. 540.

² SALLAI, J. Muncipiális rendőrségektől a centralizált, állami rendőrségig: 100 éve centralizálták, államosították a magyar rendőrséget (From municipal police to centralised state police). *Rendőrségi Tanulmányok*. 2020, Vol. 3, különszám, p. 35.

³ RIEGE, P. *Die Polizei aller Länder in Wort und Bild (The police of all countries in words and pictures)*. Dresden: Metro, 1928, p. 261.

⁴ VIRKKUNEN, P. *A harcoló finn hadsereg szelleme (The spirit of the fighting Finnish army)*. Budapest: Finn-Magyar Társ, 1942, p. 28.

⁵ SIEVERS, J. *Rokoni körben – A magyarországi finn képviselő története (Among relatives – History of Finnish representation in Hungary)*. Budapest: Finn Nagykövetség, 2010, pp. 142–143.

⁶ ZSIRAI, M. *A finnugorság ismertetése (Description of Finno-Ugricism)*. Budapest: Tankönyvkiadó Vállalat, 1952, p. 11.

⁷ SALLAI, G. Finn kitüntetések a HM Numizmatikai Gyűjteményében (Finnish medals in the Hungarian Military Numismatics Collection). In: *A Hadtörténeli Múzeum Értésítője. Acta Musei Militaris in Hungaria*. Budapest: Hadtörténeli Múzeum, 2014, Vol. 14, pp. 271–294.

⁸ During the study period, the following ambassadors were in the two countries. Finnish ambassadors: Karl Gustaf Idman ambassador (Copenhagen) 1922–1927; Emil Nestor Setälä ambassador (Copenhagen) 1927–1930; Onni Talas ambassador (Copenhagen) 1930–1934; Onni Talas ambassador 1934–1940. Hungarian ambassadors: György Nagycásanyi Barcza managing director (Copenhagen / Stockholm) 1920–1921; Gyula Kornoni Bornemisza ambassador (Stockholm) 1921–1923; Mihály Jungerth managing director (Tallinn) 1923–1933; Sándor Nemeskéri managing director 1933–1934, ambassador 1934–1937; Béla Török ambassador 1937–1939; Lajos Villani ambassador 1939–1940.

⁹ ANTAL, I. – GASKÓ, D. – NAGY, I. *Finn-magyar kapcsolatok (Finnish-Hungarian relationship)*. Budapest: Magyar-Finn Társaság, 1943, p. 8.

¹⁰ SZÜCS LÁSZLÓNÉ SISKA, K. Finn-magyar diplomáciai kapcsolatok története (History of the Finnish-Hungarian diplomatic relationship). In: *Finn-Magyar Nemzetközi Konferencia*. Debrecen: Debreceni Egyetem Állam – és Jogtudományi Kar, 2010, pp. 115–125.

independent after the World War I, after the Turkish occupation and Habsburg domination. (As the foreign-military-financial administration was common in the Monarchy, Hungary could not be considered as a completely independent country. The consequences of this could also be felt at the Paris Peace Conference, with which the war ended and where Hungary could not represent its interests properly due to the lack of national diplomatic presence.)

The Finnish Parliament declared its independence on December 6, 1917. This was followed by a bloody civil war from January to May 1918, and, after great debates, the form of the republic was decided in 1919. Finland became a member of the League of Nations in 1920.^{11,12}

In 1918, there was quite a turbulent time in Hungary. At the end of the World War I, more than five hundred thousand soldiers returned from the fronts and wanted to go home immediately. At the same time, there was a shortage of food and fuel, which resulted in a great deal of dissatisfaction in the country and continuous protests. This led to a revolution. During the time of the Károlyi government, the Entente authorities announced their plan for the territorial mutilation of the country. After this announcement the “aster revolution” broke out, which was followed by the proletarian dictatorship and, after a short period of transition, by the Horthy era. In the first period of the Horthy era, the new state had to be built, though the new borders set by the border-setting committees did not agree with Hungary’s historical borders. Hungary has lost 2/3 of its territory, a significant part of its raw material deposits. Millions of people of Hungarian nationality came under the rule of new countries.

The mutual recognition of the two countries is also well illustrated by the archival material preserved in Hungarian and Finnish. According to it: “The moment when Finland enters the ranks of politically independent states, it is asking the authorities to recognize its independence, among the very first ones the mighty Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. The Finnish government feels the need to welcome the related Hungarian nation on behalf of the Finnish nation and to express the feelings that fill the Finnish nation.”¹³

Later, in addition to historical friendship and linguistic kinship, the two countries’ nations were also brought together by a common enemy, the Soviet Union.

1. Presentation of the literature on the Finnish-Hungarian law enforcement topic

Unfortunately, the study of the Finnish-Hungarian law enforcement history is one of the least researched topics. Moreover, between 1945 and 1989, this topic could not be dealt with in Hungary. The authors did not find any references or publications about Hungarian-Finnish police cooperation neither in archives nor in books dealing with Finnish-Hungarian

¹¹ EGEY, E. Első világháborús magyar hadifoglyok hazahozatala a Szovjetunióból észt-finn-lett-német közreműködéssel. (Repatriation of Hungarian prisoners of war from the Soviet Union with the participation of Estonian, Finnish, Latvian and German). *Múltunk*. 2004, Vol. 49, No. 2, p. 112.

¹² EGEY, E. *A két világháború közötti magyar-finn-észti kapcsolatok történetéből: Társasági, diplomáciai, katonai együttműködés (Details from the Hungarian-Finnish-Estonian relationship between the two world wars: Social, diplomatic and military cooperation)*. Szombathely: Nyugat-magyarországi Egyetem Savaria Egyetemi Központ, 2010, p. 199.

¹³ Magyar Nemzeti Levéltár (Hungarian National Archives) K. 26. 1918. XVI-os. 9107.

relations. Therefore, events and sources related to the topic between the two world wars were searched. In the 1920s, the establishment of an independent police force began in parallel in the two countries. The Ministries of the Interior and the police of the two countries established direct professional contact. Later this led to the organization and conduct of reciprocal study tours, which allowed the two countries' police to get to know each other's organization and staff, and benefit from each other's law enforcement experience. Three major groups of resources can be distinguished:

- a) Hungarian language sources:
 - Articles from one of the authors (János Sallai)¹⁴
 - Archive sources (police magazines and books before World War II)¹⁵
- b) German language sources:
 - Articles by Hungarian authors¹⁶
- c) Finnish language sources:
 - Archive sources (police magazines before World War II)¹⁷

As you can see, the English language sources are not available on the topic. This is extremely sad, as the Hungarian-language articles are incomprehensible to Finnish and the Finnish-language articles are also incomprehensible to Hungarian researchers. English could be the common language of communication. It would be worth for Finnish and Hungarian law enforcement researchers to get to know the common history and each other's thoughts as far as possible.

2. Beginnings of the Finnish and Hungarian police

2.1 About the Finnish police

The Finnish police was organized after the establishment of the independent statehood, and then in 1925, it was reorganized on a completely new modern basis. Its peculiarity is that the municipalities paid a part of the expenses of the state police with national competence. The central administration of the police was managed by the Ministry of the Interior, where a department was set up only for police matters.¹⁸ The head of the department was Esko Heilimo, who was also the Finnish representative of the International Criminal Police Commission.¹⁹ In the same committee, Hungary was represented by dr. Henrik Dorning.

¹⁴ SALLAI, J. Dorning Henrik rendőrségi szakíró, a rendőrség országos szaktanulmányi felügyelője és zoológus (Henrik Dorning police specialist, national police supervisor and zoologist). In: BODA, J. – FELKAI, L. – PATYI, A. (eds.). *Ünnepi kötet a 70 éves Janza Frigyes tiszteletére = Liber amicorum in honorem Friderici Janza septuagenarii*. Budapest: Dialóg Campus Kiadó, 2017, pp. 483–493. SALLAI, Muncipiális rendőrségektől a centralizált, állami rendőrségig: 100 éve centralizálták, államosították a magyar rendőrséget (From municipal police to centralised state police).

¹⁵ VIRKKUNEN, *op. cit.*; DORNING, H. *A bűnügyi rendőrség nemzetközi összeműködése (International operation of the criminal police)*. Budapest: Pallas, 1937; DORNING, H. *A rendőrség intézményének fejlődése (Development of the police institution)*. Budapest: Budapesti Hírlap, 1922.

¹⁶ DORNING, H. *Die Staatspolizei Ungarn (Hungarian State Police)*. Budapest: Pester Lloyd, 1926; RIEGE, *op. cit.*

¹⁷ Reise nach Ungarn. *Suomen Poliisilehti*, 01. 08. 1931. Suomesta Lahtiessa. *Suomen Poliisilehti*, 31. 08. 1931. Unkarilaisia Vieraita. *Suomen Poliisilehti*, 01. 08. 1931.

¹⁸ HIETANIEMI, T. *Lain vartiossa: poliisi Suomen politiikassa 1917–1948*. Helsinki: SHS, 1992, p. 101.

¹⁹ *Rendőr (Policeman)*, 1930, 14.

E. Heilimo and H. Dorning were probably able to meet at the committee meetings, and the Finnish-Hungarian delegation could also discuss an exchange program. Later, the two leaders were always present in Hungary and Finland during the delegations' programs.

The organization of the Finnish police has adapted to the Finnish administration. The organization of the police districts was divided into two departments, the administrative department, and the criminal department. The Finnish police consisted of more than four thousand policemen in the 1920s. Roughly 2,200 served in the cities, while the number of police officers in the villages (countryside) did not reach 2,000.²⁰ A National Crime Center has been set up in Helsinki for effective criminal intelligence. There was a separate political police department under the Ministry of the Interior. A police school was established in Suomenlinna, where prospective Finnish police officers were trained in a 4–5-month course.²¹

2.2 About the Hungarian police

Unlike the Finns, Hungary has taken a different path, and as a result of a process of about 70 years, the police have been centralized and nationalized. The Royal Hungarian Police was established by the former city police and by the two types of state police (Border Police and Metropolitan State Police). The period leading up to the World War I was followed by chaos in public life and law enforcement.^{22,23} The lost war and revolutions “made their impacts” and shattered the administration, police, and army. During the Hungarian Soviet Republic, the former police and gendarmerie were abolished, and the Red Guard,²⁴ which operated for a few months only, was established. After the fall of the Hungarian Soviet Republic, the Romanian occupation made it even more difficult to establish a unified police force, but it could not prevent it.²⁵

In 1920, the city police was nationalized, and the two former types of state police were merged into the national police.²⁶ This created the state police with national competence under the Ministry of the Interior.

Decree No. 5047 of 1919 served as a guideline for implementing the nationalization of the Hungarian police. However, several further decrees had to be issued for the practical implementation. These were among the main tasks for the coming years. According to H. Dorning, the most important decrees for establishing the organization of the Royal Hungarian State Police appeared from the beginning of 1920. The legislation he considered to be the most significant was Act No. 90,089 of 1919 (decree of the Minister of the Interior). This decree regulated the state police powers and thus also defined the tasks that were now to be performed by the municipal administrative authorities instead of the former city police captains and police. The decree was not promulgated or entered into force until January 27, 1920. Following a number of further provisions, the full implementation of the

²⁰ RIEGE, *op. cit.*

²¹ *Rendőr (Policeman)*, 1930, 14.

²² DORNING, *A rendőrség intézményének fejlődése (Development of the police institution)*, p. 6.

²³ DORNING, *Die Staatspolizei Ungarn (Hungarian State Police)*, p. 14.

²⁴ During the Hungarian Soviet Republic (21. 03. 1919 – 01. 08. 1919), the newly established police was called Red Army (in Hungarian: Vörös Örség).

²⁵ BORBÉLY – KAPY, *op. cit.*

²⁶ DORNING, *A rendőrség intézményének fejlődése (Development of the police institution)*, p. 21.

nationalization was completed by 1922, when the uniform organizational and service regulations of the body were issued to the state police (Decree No. 39.820 / 1921, B.M.). Thus, the year 1920 was a turning point in the history of the Hungarian law enforcement agencies and the Hungarian police. The history of the former various police forces was completed, and a new central state police force was established. However, due to the Romanian and Serbian occupation, the practical realization could only take place by the end of 1921.

From the above it is clear that in almost the same period, the establishment of independent statehood, guaranteeing security for citizens, and the establishment of well-prepared, unified state police in both countries was a priority. Former historical friendship and linguistic kinship strengthened Hungarian-Finnish relations in all areas of life. The strengthening of Finnish-Hungarian cultural relations was shown by the visit of Pál Teleki (the Hungarian prime minister) to Finland in 1924, Kunó Klebelsberg (the Hungarian minister of culture) in 1929, and the signing of the agreement on the Hungarian-Finnish cultural cooperation.²⁷

During the research period, the Royal Hungarian Police and the Ministry of the Interior paid a particular attention to establish and prepare a unified and trained corps of police officers (drafters, supervisors, detectives). In the frame of this process textbooks and training materials were written and published under the leadership of H. Dorning. These textbooks and training materials built on previous international experience and gathered new information. Therefore, the leadership of the Hungarian police sought out those countries whose police experience could be important for the high-quality training of the police in the 1920s. In addition, delegations were continuously sent to international conferences and events from which the Hungarian police could leverage, in order to develop and improve the efficiency of both the domestic and international law enforcement.

At the same time, the authors consider it essential to note that in parallel with the establishment of Finnish-Hungarian police relations, the General Staff and Intelligence of the Royal Hungarian Army cooperated with the Finnish General Staff since 1924.²⁸ The Finnish-Hungarian military cooperation lasted until the end of the World War II and was most intense during the war.²⁹ Due to this constructive and active cooperation, several Hungarian and Finnish military officers and generals received Finnish and Hungarian awards based on the principle of reciprocity in the period between the two World Wars and during the World War II.^{30,31,32}

The Hungarian-Finnish police relations were strengthened by the historical friendship between the two countries and the fact that, although in different ways, the police of both countries had almost similar tasks. The mobile crime, which has developed as a result of technical development, could only be tackled through international police cooperation.³³

²⁷ SIEVERS, *op. cit.*, pp. 142–143.

²⁸ SALLAI, G., *op. cit.*, pp. 271–294.

²⁹ KINCSES, L. *Diplomácia történet (Diplomacy history)*. Budapest: ELTE, 2005, p. 144.

³⁰ RICHTER, J. A finn honvédelmi nevelés és testnevelés nemzet erősítő törekvései. (The strengthening efforts of the Finnish military education and physical education). In: *Magyar Katonai Szemle*, 1943, 13. évfolyam, 1. negyedév, p. 79.

³¹ SALLAI, Dorning Henrik rendőrségi szakíró, a rendőrség országos szaktanulmányi felügyelője és zoológus (Henrik Dorning police specialist, national police supervisor and zoologist), pp. 483–493.

³² SALLAI, G., *op. cit.*, pp. 271–294.

³³ BORBÉLY – KAPY, *op. cit.*

This motivated the Hungarian home affairs and police leadership to get to know the police and criminal situation in Western Europe. As a result, H. Dorning visited police conferences abroad several times, and also sent delegations of the Royal Hungarian Police to conferences in different European countries.³⁴

3. Mutual visiting in each other country

3.1 Visit of the Finnish police delegation to Hungary

The Finnish police was following a similar practise at that time. In 1926, police officer Onni Armas Vilkmonn, director of the Vyborg police, was sent on a study trip to Western Europe. He visited Austria and Hungary.³⁵ The primary purpose of his study trip was to collect international literature to reorganize the Finnish police. He visited Germany, Austria and then Hungary for a few days. Here he inquired about the situation and organization of the capital's police and met in person with Deputy Chief Captain Hugó Szeszlér.

At the same time, according to the *Turán* newspaper, R. Syrjönen (district police captain) also visited Budapest to study the police administration of the capital. "The captain was satisfied with the results of the study trip and will use the experience gained in Budapest for the benefit of the Finnish police."³⁶

In order to get to know the two police organizations better, the organization of mutual visits of a Finnish police delegation in Hungary and a Hungarian police delegation in Finland has begun. This first happened in the 1930s, when "on May 1st, Finland's most renowned and distinguished twenty-five forensic scientists – including high-ranking interior and justice ministry officials, police chiefs, prison directors, department heads, many well-known scholars – explored the police institutions and culture of the fraternal nation."³⁷ On the eve of this visit, the *Magyar Detektív Magazine* issued a sixty-page special edition with pictures written in German by H. Dorning in honor of the Finnish guests. He also welcomed the delegation visiting Hungary in the language of the Finnish guests. The Finnish delegation was received at the highest level by the Ministry of the Interior, within the framework of which the Minister of the Interior Béla Scitovszky entrusted the Chief Captain of Budapest, Miklós Bezegh-Huszágh, with the reception of Finnish police guests and the implementation of their program. The members of the welcoming committee were Deputy Chief Captain Henrik Dorning, Lajos Szilaveczy, Chief Police Adviser, Police Captain Ferenc Pászkan, Police Captain Dániel Schreiber, Chief Inspector Lajos Hajós and Detective Alajos Gál.³⁸

The Finnish delegation to Budapest consisted of the following members: Esko Heilimo, District Chief of the Police Department of the Finnish Ministry of the Interior (Helsinki); Paavo Mustala, Head of the Prison Department at the Finnish Ministry of Justice (Helsinki); Esko Riekkö, Chief of the Finnish Political Police (Helsinki); Kaarlo Soinio, Deputy Chief of Police of Helsinki (Helsinki); Yrjö Vikman, Head of the Police Department of

³⁴ DORNING, *A bűnügyi rendőrség nemzetközi összeműködése (International operation of the criminal police)*, p. 2.

³⁵ 'A Rend' (The Oder), 1926, 6.

³⁶ *Turán*, Hírek (News), 1927, 3–4.

³⁷ *Magyar Detektív (Hungarian Detective)*, 1926, 15.

³⁸ *Magyar Detektív (Hungarian Detective)*, 1930, 65.

the Government Office (Mikkele); Toivo Hämäläinen, Chief of Police and Head of Police Training Courses (Soumenlinna); M. E. Koskimies, Government Secretary in the Police Department of the Finnish Ministry of the Interior (Helsinki); Yrjö Orkamo, Chief Adviser in the Prison Department of the Finnish Ministry of Justice (Helsinki); Mikko Tallroth, City Police Chief (Waasa); Ilmari Pohjanpalo, City Police Chief (Kuopio); Arvo Lindh, City Police Chief (Kokkola); Elis Sipild, Head of District Police Department (Waasa); Police Major Allan Lumme (Turku); Arno Grönman, Prison Director (Mikkeli); Johann Routinen, Prison Director (Kuopio); Emil Huitti, District Police Chief (Lokja); Ilmo Linturi, District Police Captain (Impilahti); Reino Niemi, District Police Captain (Mikkeli); Väinö Soinio, District Police Captain (Seinäjoki); Arvi Sario, District Police Chief (Virrat); Jussi Saarinen District Police Captain (Suonenjoki); Bertil Lagercrantz, District Police Captain (Suistamo); Niilo Järvilehti, District Police Captain (Ähtäri); Eero Tiusanen, District Police Captain (Parrkala); Hans Julius Jocmosson, District Police Captain (Uusi Kaupunki).³⁹

It is clear from the list that the Finnish police delegation consisted of the team of leaders in the area of law enforcement. Therefore, the Hungarian host paid attention not only to familiarize the guests with Hungary and the Hungarian culture, but also to provide the Finnish colleagues with high-quality accommodation and care, and to organize diverse professional program for them. During the professional visits, the following program took place:

- Study of the location and programs of the Budapest International Fair;
- Visit of the headquarters of the Budapest Police Department, the Dagály Street Police Station, the police welfare institutions, the Mosonyi Street police barracks, the Police Hospital, and the Kun Street Headquarters of the Fire Brigade;
- Visit of the Parliament and the Ministry of the Interior;
- Visit of the gendarme barracks on Böszörményi Street, the Fehérvári Street police housing estate, and the Police Radio Station (this was the most modern police radio station in Europe);
- The program ended with a tribute to the memory of the Anonymous Soldier, a tour of the collections of the Agricultural Museum, the Széchenyi Spa, the Municipal Food Factory and the brewery;⁴⁰
- The Finnish guests viewed the exercises of the infantry and cavalry gendarmes, as well as the presentation of the Budapest Police Cavalry Department.

In accordance with the custom of the time, no information was given about the detailed program, and no material remained in the archives.

The Finnish echo of the delegation was published in the daily newspaper “Suomen Poliisilehti”, which reported extensively on a successful professional trip to Hungary. Both the Hungarian and Finnish press reported on the Finnish delegation’s journey.⁴¹

3.2 Visit of the Hungarian police delegation to Finland

Thanks to the successful trip of the first Finnish delegation the mutual trust increased significantly both politically as well as from the police’s point of view. Therefore, the

³⁹ *Ibidem*.

⁴⁰ *Rendőr (Policeman)*, 1930, 14.

⁴¹ Magyar Távirati iroda (MTI) (Hungarian Telegraphic Office), hírek 1920–1940 (News 1920–1944).

Hungarian police were invited to Finland shortly, in August 1931. Deputy Chief Captain H. Dorning led the Hungarian delegation. The members of the delegation were Béla Hörti and Vilmos Benárd, Chief Police Advisors, Oszkár Pataky, Police Adviser, Jenő Guóth, Chief Inspector, and Péter Háin, Detective Chief Inspector.⁴² The journey of the Hungarian police led to Helsinki via Poland, Latvia, and Estonia. During the trip, the delegation studied the Polish police's organization and operation in Warsaw for a day and visited the Polish capital. After that, the Hungarian police got to know the police of Riga and Tallinn. In accordance with the Finnish hospitality, the Finnish hosts paid attention to the Hungarian delegation's crossing already at the Estonian-Latvian border and welcomed the Hungarian guests in Tallinn. Arriving in Helsinki, the following Finnish police chiefs were waiting for the Hungarian police: Esko Heilimo, Chief of the Police Department of the Finnish Ministry of the Interior and Chief of the entire Finnish Police; Kaarlo Soinio, Deputy Chief of Helsinki; Poivo Hämäläinen, commander of the police school; Pohjanheimo, commander of the Finnish Maritime Guard.

Regarding the reception of the delegation and its results, the *Magyar Detektív* magazine wrote the following: "Not only the Finnish police but also the entire Finnish nation received the representatives of the Hungarian police with boundless enthusiasm and unparalleled hospitality. The Finns' hospitality was a great recognition not only for the Hungarian police team but also for the whole Hungarian nation. The Hungarian delegation facilitated the establishment of a friendly relationship between the Finnish and Hungarian police. It also promoted political and economic cooperation between the Finnish and Hungarian nations, which will have an impact in the future."⁴³

After the general protocol events, the delegation studied the Finnish police administration, which aroused great recognition among Hungarian police officers. The fact that the Finnish government's administration fitted in one building surprised the members of the Hungarian delegation very much as well as the fact that "the entire Ministry of Interior consists of only ten rooms. It has a staff of barely twenty, twenty-five. For an annual archive – the files are bound in a book – three or four volumes."⁴⁴

The following stops on the official visit were the Finnish Police Headquarters, the Central Criminal Office, two district capitals, the guard school, the prison, and the police training school. At the police school, it came as a surprise "the rational structure of the training system, its smart sense of purpose, with the help of which the Finnish leadership can ensure the high standard of the entire police corps, both mentally and morally. In addition to the high standard of academic training, we were very impressed by the military discipline of the guards."⁴⁵

They could watch modern equipment at the Central Criminal Office, such as a camera and a spectral analytical machine. In the crime museum of the Finnish police, a large collection of crime signs, as well as Soviet (Cheka) relics, could be found.

In connection with the Finnish alcohol ban, Hungarian police officers got to know the fight against alcohol smugglers and vendors. "District captains have at their disposal a number of modern and hygienic prison cells, most of which are filled to capacity on

⁴² BORBÉLY – KAPY, *op. cit.*

⁴³ *Magyar Detektív (Hungarian Detective)*, 1931, No. 31.

⁴⁴ *Ibidem.*

⁴⁵ *Ibidem.*

Saturdays and Sundays. The high traffic is mainly caused by violations of the alcohol ban committed in these days. As a team, the police escort the drunks found on the street, who sober up on the floor of the prisons.”⁴⁶

The next stop on the study tour professional program was the Russian-Finnish border (Wiipuri). The guests visited a military base there and viewed the training of the Finnish cavalry police. The program of the Hungarian delegation was closed in Konnunsuo. There was the largest and the most modern furnished prison. “The Konnunsusu Penitentiary is almost unmatched among European prison systems with its humane treatment system for prisoners and agricultural employment of prisoners.”⁴⁷

During their travels, the Hungarian police officers could personally experience the silence of Helsinki, the Finnish traffic culture, which was devoid of unnecessary shouting, pointing, and honking. In Finland, the motorists were only allowed to horn if they wanted to overtake.⁴⁸ The members of the Hungarian delegation studied with interest the equipment of the Finnish police (sword, rubber stick, submachine gun, gas mask, etc.) and the volunteer police force, in which many thousands of women also took part (in Hungary, no woman could serve in the police at that time).

The Hungarian police was travelling home through the Stockholm, Copenhagen, and Berlin route. During their journey, they took part in professional programs in the intervening big cities.^{49,50}

The trip of the Hungarian delegation to Finland proved to be at least as useful and adventurous as the visit of the Finns to Hungary a year earlier. At the end of the trip, the Hungarian police officers said goodbye to their Finnish colleagues with a broader perspective and richer professional experience. The visit was widely covered in both the Finnish and Hungarian professional press.

In connection with the visits, in 1932, *Magyar Detektív Magazine* wrote the following about the symbolic result of Finnish-Hungarian police relations: “In two years, friendship and comradeship between Finnish and Hungarian police officers were born. The mutual study trips connected the police of the two countries, which was also reported by the *Magyar Detektív Magazine*, which was a faithful chronicler of the events. In recent days, Finnish-Hungarian relations have borne great fruit for two employees of the Hungarian Ministry of the Interior and the Budapest headquarters. The Finnish Minister of the Interior awarded Dénes Kovács, Head of Department, and Henrik Dorning, Deputy Chief of Police, by the Middle Cross of the Finnish White Rose Order. This is one of the most beautiful and highest awards in Finland.”⁵¹

Due to known historical circumstances, visits with such a large number of delegation members did not happen in the second half of the 1930s. There was only one exception to this, when in 1937 the Hungarian police had a Finnish visitor again on a large European

⁴⁶ *Ibidem.*

⁴⁷ *Ibidem.*

⁴⁸ *Magyar Rendőr (Hungarian Policeman)*, 1939, 132.

⁴⁹ DORNING, H. *Külföldi rendőrségek, a német, osztrák és francia rendőrségek szervezete és működése (Foreign polices – Structure of the German, Austrian and French police)*. Budapest: Pátria Ny, 1916, p. 122.

⁵⁰ DORNING, *Die Staatspolizei Ungarn (Hungarian State Police)*, p. 8.

⁵¹ *Magyar Detektív (Hungarian Detective)*, 1939, 23.

tour. Police officer Arno Anthoni, the police inspector of Uusimaa province, studied the Hungarian public security bodies during his short stay in Budapest.

4. Summary (The afterlife of the Finnish-Hungarian professional exchange program)

Thanks to Finnish-Hungarian international relations, the press of law enforcement corps in both countries reported on the criminal situation in the other country. In 1938, the Hungarian police magazine reported that the Finnish magazine “Poliisimies” “described the organization and division of the Hungarian police in five pages, in a huge article, and dealt with the Budapest and rural police stations separately.”⁵² Another issue reported on police preparations for the 1940 Olympics in Helsinki. We learned that Finnish police officers are learning English, German and Swedish to prepare for contact with foreigners during the Olympics. The strengthened friendly and professional relations are well illustrated by the fact that the Helsinki police continuously informed the Hungarian police and its professional newspaper about the Olympics’ preparations. From these, the Hungarian police officers were able to find out the degree of readiness of the Olympic facilities. The photographs sent to Hungarian colleagues well illustrate the enormous work that the Finns have put into the Olympics. Of course, the Finnish police did not want to lag behind the Western world in policing either, and its plans included that those coming to the Olympics meet a modern Finnish police force. Therefore, all police officers were required to know at least one foreign language. Only the Hungarian police magazine remarked that it would be good if the Hungarian language could be included among them.

The relationship between the two countries was improved by the reciprocal abolition of the visa requirement for the two countries’ citizens from 1936 onwards. Thus, from May 1st, 1936, Hungarian and Finnish citizens were free to travel to the two countries with a passport, except for those wishing to travel for establishment and employment.⁵³

The columns of the Hungarian Police repeatedly refer to the visits of former Finnish-Hungarian delegations. The Finnish-Hungarian relations’ main conclusions were presented by the editor of the police magazine below: “Our Finnish police comrades know Hungary well. Their leaders have been on a study trip with us. Their magazine deals with the Hungarian police quite often, and the Hungarian Police’s magazine can be found on a Hungarian-speaking Finnish police officer’s desk. Apart from these multiple friendships, it is no secret that we are related: Finns and Hungarians.”⁵⁴

Nine decades have passed since the Finnish-Hungarian professional delegation’s exchange, but the authors opinion is that it can still be exemplary in Europe today. The globalization of crime can only be tackled within the framework of international police cooperation. Therefore, for a successful fight against international crime, it is essential for the police of the EU Member States to maintain contacts with each other, to get to know each other’s organisations and practices through mutual study trips. This is especially true for two countries that have historically been linked, such as Finland and Hungary.

⁵² *Magyar Rendőr (Hungarian Policeman)*, 1938, 132.

⁵³ MIHALOVICS, Á. – RÉVAY, V. (szerk.). *Hétnyelvű politikai és diplomáciai glosszárium*. Budapest: Aula, 2002, p. 408.

⁵⁴ *Magyar Rendőr (Hungarian Policeman)*, 1939, 132.