

Police and private security officers - big and little brothers

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As a transition economy, Slovenia has made significant progress in the market sector over the past decade. Relative to its neighbours in the region, Slovenia has increased its market base in terms of both production and consumption. Together with economic growth, Slovenia has also experienced a significant increase in the employment of private security personnel along with developments in the public law enforcement sectors. These developments provide greater opportunity for interaction between agents from the two agencies. In this study, we examine the attitudes of both police officers and security personnel in Slovenia to the nature of working relationships and strategies for improving relationships between the two groups. The results of the present study show that the police do not respect private security officers, that although police officers require information from private security officers, they are not willing to share it, that private security officers are more optimistic about the development of good relations with the police than police officers are, police officers do not have a positive attitude towards private security in general and private security officers appreciate initiatives for the improvement and development of professional police - private security relations more than police officers do.

Key words: private police, police officers, attitudes, co-operation, Slovenia

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