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*Crime scene investigation involving the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal  
Affairs and the Police: Selected Issues*

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# Secção I

## Investigação Científica\*

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## Crime scene investigation involving the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Police: Selected Issues

### Investigação da cena do crime envolvendo o Serviço de Perícias do Ministério da Administração Interna e a Polícia: Questões Seleccionadas

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**ABSTRACT:** The purpose of this study is to establish the main features in the interaction and joint participation of specialists of the National Police of Ukraine and the Expert Service of the Ministry of internal affairs of Ukraine in the implementation of such an investigative action as conducting an inspection of the scene of an illegal act, as well as determining the real state of their functioning and problems that arise during such interaction. Among the methods used to study this topic can be distinguished: dialectical method, formalisation method, law-recognising method, formal-legal method, hermeneutical method, logical-legal method, system, structural-functional method, axiomatic method of induction and deduction, method of analysis and synthesis, and others. The results of this article are the definition and establishment of the characteristics and features of interaction and joint participation of the National Police of Ukraine and the Expert Service of Ukraine during the inspection of the scene of the committed crime; characterised the units of the Expert Service that are involved in the implementation of such an investigative action as the inspection of the scene of the committed criminal act; identified the main problems on the way to effective interaction of specialists of these bodies and services that prevent a high-quality investigation of crimes committed; developed recommendations for overcoming obstacles to the interaction of relevant bodies and services.

**KEYWORDS:** Forensic; interaction; pre-trial investigation bodies; operational search activities, criminal proceedings.

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**RESUMO:** O objetivo deste estudo é estabelecer as principais características da interação e participação conjunta de especialistas da Polícia Nacional da Ucrânia e do Serviço de Peritos do Ministério de Assuntos Internos da Ucrânia na implementação de uma ação investigativa como a condução de uma inspeção da cena de um ato ilícito, bem como determinar o estado real de seu funcionamento e os problemas que surgem durante essa interação. Entre os métodos utilizados para estudar este tópico podem ser distinguidos: método dialético, método de formalização, método de reconhecimento de lei, método formal-legal, método hermenêutico, método lógico-legal, sistema, método estrutural-funcional, método axiomático de indução e dedução, método de análise e síntese, e outros. Os resultados deste artigo são a definição e estabelecimento das características e recursos de interação e participação conjunta da Polícia Nacional da Ucrânia e do Serviço Especializado da Ucrânia durante a inspeção da cena do crime cometido; caracterizou as unidades do Serviço de Perícias que estão envolvidas na implementação de uma ação investigativa como a inspeção da cena do ato criminoso cometido; identificou os principais problemas no caminho para a interação efetiva dos especialistas desses órgãos e serviços que impedem uma investigação de alta qualidade dos crimes cometidos; desenvolveu recomendações para superar os obstáculos à interação dos órgãos e serviços relevantes.

**PALAVRAS-CHAVE:** Perícia judiciária; interação; órgãos de instrução; atividades operacionais de busca; processo penal.

## Introduction

In Ukraine, the realities of today require improved approaches to investigating criminal offenses and combating crime. An effective tool in the way of the set tasks is the interaction of law enforcement agencies, in particular the National Police (NP) of Ukraine and institutions and services of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine (MIA), among which is the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine (ESMIA).

In 2012, a new Criminal Procedural Code of Ukraine was adopted, which in Article 2 set out the main tasks of criminal proceedings. One of them is to ensure a rapid, impartial and complete investigation of the committed illegal acts so that everyone who committed a crime is brought to criminal responsibility for the crime committed by them<sup>6</sup>. For the effective implementation of this task, it is necessary to interact with bodies and services whose activities are aimed at investigating, disclosing and countering the commission of criminal illegal acts<sup>7</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup>Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine. 2012. Available from: <<https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/4651-17#Text>>.

<sup>7</sup> GUZELA, M. Foreign experience in the organization of forensic activities in the process of criminal prosecution. *Bulletin of the National University "Lviv Polytechnic". Series: Legal Sciences*, 2017, vol. 906, pp. 129-135.

Ukraine's accession to the European Union (EU), that is, the European integration direction that Ukraine has chosen, is accompanied by the adoption and implementation of a number of reforms in various spheres of legal and public life<sup>8</sup>. The reform of Ukraine's law enforcement system is essential for its EU membership, as it leads to the protection of human rights and the proper functioning of society. In 2015, the reform of the internal affairs bodies of Ukraine created a new system of the MIA of Ukraine, unifying law enforcement and other organizations. This also impacted the National Police and the ESMIA.

The Expert Service reform removed remnants of Soviet traditions when the head of the investigative unit could lead and manage the expert and forensic unit. Several actions were taken during the creation of the MIA Expert Service, including establishing relations with the NP of Ukraine, improving public control mechanisms, and focusing on forensic research<sup>9</sup>. In connection with the reforms that were carried out in 2015 and which are mentioned above, an independent body was created – the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, whose powers mainly consisted of forensic support of criminal proceedings<sup>10</sup>.

The main purpose of this study is to clarify the interaction of the activities of the NP of Ukraine and the ESMIA of Ukraine during the inspection of the scene of an illegal criminal act. The main objectives of this study are the definition the concepts "National Police of Ukraine" and "Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine"; establishing a list of the main regulatory legal acts regulating the activities of these bodies, as well as clarifying their features; finding the place and role of units of the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine during the inspection of the crime scene; research features of the interaction and joint participation of the NP of Ukraine and the Expert Service of Ukraine during the inspection of the scene of the committed criminal offence; identification and clarification of the main issues that arise

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<sup>8</sup> KRAVCHUK, O. Current issues of interaction of the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine with law enforcement agencies. *National Legal Journal: Theory and Practice*, 2016, pp. 166-169.

<sup>9</sup> VERESENKO, Yu. The concept of the mechanism of administrative and legal regulation of the functioning of the Expert Service of The Mia of Ukraine. *Our Law*, 2021, vol. 2. pp. 86-92.

<sup>10</sup> PERLIN, S. 2017. Legal and organizational features of the investigator's interaction with the units of the Expert Investigation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. *Bulletin of LDUVS named after E.O. Didorenko*, 2017, vol.1 n.77, pp. 265-275.

during the interaction of these bodies and divisions, as well as the development of recommendations for their improvement.

### **Materials and Methods**

Using methods of synthesis and theoretical analysis, a study of scientific works in the field of interaction between the NP and the ESMIA of Ukraine was conducted during the inspection of the crime scene, as well as the impact of the features of such interaction and the current state.

The dialectical method forms the basis of the article, since it is used to learn all the processes of research activity on this topic of the article. Using the formal legal method of research, an analysis of the legal nature of objects that are seized for examination was carried out; using the systematic method, the range of issues under study was determined and proposals for their solution were developed. Sociological and statistical methods are used to study the opinions of scientists on problematic issues that arise during the interaction of specialists of the NP of Ukraine and the ESMIA of Ukraine.

The hermeneutical method is used to reveal the essence of the concept of the "National Police of Ukraine", "Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine" and "inspection of the crime scene". The analysis allowed the division of the object of research into components for the purpose of their independent study and also helped to connect individual legal phenomena that were the subject of analysis, into a logically structured legal reality.

The axiomatic method can be used to study the interaction and joint participation of the NP of Ukraine and the ESMIA of Ukraine during crime scene inspections. This method involves accepting certain statements without evidence and using them to obtain additional knowledge through logical rules.

Using the system-structural method the concept of "inspection of the scene" is revealed, and the procedure of improving the interaction between these bodies and services is considered. The method of formalisation reflects the meaningful knowledge in the known sign-symbolic meaning. The method of systematic analysis, theoretical generalisation, induction and deduction is used to generalise the impact of this interaction on the effectiveness of the investigation of criminal acts.

## Results

In forensic science, interaction is understood as an independent institution in which the coordinated activities of various branches of several or one organisational system are carried out in order to achieve the goal to which it is aimed using the least amount of money and time. The Great explanatory dictionary of the modern Ukrainian language defines interaction as a connection between objects in action and coordinated action between someone and something<sup>11</sup>.

Forms of interaction between the NP and the ESMIA of Ukraine can be divided into three groups. Interaction of such bodies and services is carried out in two main forms: joint development and implementation of tasks and measures for effective investigation of committed illegal acts and coordination of planned measures. The second group of interaction is expressed in the development of various organisational forms of interaction, including the exchange of information available on the case, joint planning of the investigation of the crime committed, establishing contact between the heads of relevant departments and their authorised persons, and others. The third group is characterised by organisational forms of interaction between the relevant bodies and services and their classification depending on the tasks that need to be solved<sup>12</sup>.

The Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine refers to an investigative action aimed at the direct observation and study of objects related to the circumstances of the committed criminal act, which is carried out with the aim of identifying and recording them<sup>13</sup>.

The Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine is a system of state-specialised institutions that carry out forensic expertise and whose activities are coordinated by the MIA of Ukraine. Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine of November 3, 2015 No. 1343, the Regulation on the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine was approved, this service is directly subordinate to the MIA of Ukraine and consists of the state research

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<sup>11</sup> BUSEL, V. *Large explanatory dictionary of the modern Ukrainian Language*. Kyiv: Perun, 2005

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.* 3.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.* 1.



expert and forensic centre of the MIA of Ukraine and territorial subdivisions – scientific-research expert-criminalistics centres<sup>14</sup>.

The NP of Ukraine is one of the central executive authorities, whose activities are aimed at protecting and ensuring the rights, freedoms and interests of individuals and citizens, as well as countering the commission of criminal illegal acts and maintaining public safety and public order. Among the NP bodies involved in the investigation of criminal and illegal acts committed, it is necessary to highlight the Main Investigation Department of the National Police of Ukraine and the investigative departments of the main departments and departments of the MIA of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, regions, cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol. Also, applies to them investigative departments of city, district and linear departments of the main directorates and directorates of the MIA in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, regions, the cities of Kyiv and Sevastopol.

The main tasks that the interaction of the ESMIA and the NP bodies is aimed at solving are: restoring the violated rights and interests of persons affected by the committed criminal act; bringing to criminal responsibility persons who committed a crime; identifying, investigating, preventing, as well as countering the commission of an illegal act; compensation for the damage that was caused by the committed criminal act<sup>15</sup>. The activities and interaction of the NP bodies and the ESMIA of Ukraine should comply with the provisions and be based on them, namely the Constitution of Ukraine<sup>16</sup> and the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine<sup>17</sup>, as well as other normative legal acts regulating the implementation of such activities.

After the reforms, such an investigative action as a crime scene inspection should be carried out with the involvement of a specialist and should also involve a forensic technician inspector from the newly created subdivision of the NP of Ukraine. By the "Instruction on the procedure for involving employees of

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<sup>14</sup> Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine No. 1343 "On approval of the regulations on the expert service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine". 2015, November. Available from: <<https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z1390-15#Text>>.

<sup>15</sup> ABLAMSKY, S., YUKHNO, O., LUKYANENKO, Y. *Interaction of the investigator with other bodies and departments in the detection and investigation of criminal offenses*. Kharkiv: Library of the Investigator and Detective: Problems of Criminal, 2017.

<sup>16</sup> Constitution of Ukraine. 1996. Available from: <<https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/254%D0%BA/96-%D0%B2%D1%80#Text>>.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid 1.



the pre-trial investigation bodies of the police and the ESMIA of Ukraine as specialists to participate in the inspection of a crime scene"<sup>18</sup> was developed, the purpose of which was to carry out an effective inspection of the scene of an illegal act with the involvement of specialists from the relevant two state bodies in conducting such an investigative action. Forensic technicians, forensic inspectors, as well as specialists of the ESMIA as part of a special mobile laboratory may be involved in inspecting of the scene of an illegal act<sup>19</sup>.

Involvement of a specialised mobile laboratory of the ESMIA may be involved in inspecting of the scene of the committed crime at the reasoned request of the head of the pre-trial investigation body or a person authorised to perform the functions of such a head. It becomes necessary to involve these specialists in the event of objective circumstances related to the commission of the following criminal offences:

- murder or inflicting intentional grievous bodily harm in which a firearm was used;
- causing a traffic accident with two or more fatalities;
- or five or more people were hospitalised in medical institutions;
- rape of a minor or a juvenile, resulting in particularly serious consequences;
- committing a robbery during which firearms were used;
- explosion, threat of explosion, or detection of improvised explosive devices;
- fire in which two or more people were hospitalised or died<sup>20</sup>.

However, some requirements that are put forward for the involvement of specialised mobile laboratories of the Expert Service do not justify their purpose, since for example such a requirement as registration of a written request of the head of the pre-trial investigation body or a person authorised to perform their duties<sup>6</sup> leads to the loss of strategically important time, which in turn leads to damage, change or loss of traces of the committed illegal act, which may result in an ineffective investigation of the committed crime.

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<sup>18</sup> Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine No. 1339 "On the Instruction on the procedure for involving employees of the pre-trial investigation bodies of the police and the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine as specialists to participate in the inspection of the scene". 2015. Available from: <<https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z1392-15#Text>>.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

Also, based on the above crimes, to which the use of specialised mobile laboratories is applied, it can be argued that they are overwhelmingly involved in the investigation of serious crimes committed, and therefore it turns out that other specialists of the ESMIA are limited in participating in the inspection of the scene of a criminal offence, which leads to an increase in the number of relevant mobile laboratories in the territorial divisions of the Expert Service, the lack of which currently significantly reduces the efficiency and effectiveness of participation and response to the commission of these crimes and therefore the point about involving only specialised mobile laboratories in the investigation of crimes is somewhat inappropriate and inefficient.

The aforementioned features limit the operation of such a principle of interaction as efficiency, it reduces the willingness to act in light of the current situation, during which it becomes necessary to immediately apply forensic tools and techniques, as well as the implementation of offensive and continuous investigation of a criminal offence committed. The involvement of all available specialists of the ESMIA of Ukraine in the investigation of illegal acts and inspection of the crime scene, as well as the application of all the modern equipment available in their arsenal, which is used to identify traces and other material evidence in the case, with their participation, leads to the implementation of a qualitative inspection of the crime scene<sup>21</sup>.

The current realities in Ukraine in connection with the involvement of experts of the Expert Service to involve the inspection of the crime scene, give grounds to claim that these realities create preconditions that violate the principle of independence of forensic activity. The law of Ukraine "On forensic examination" establishes guarantees of independence of a forensic expert in the implementation of their activities, one of which establishes independence from the bodies that carry out the pre-trial investigation or operational search activities<sup>22</sup>.

Describing the principle of independence in the exercise of powers by a specialist (expert) in the Expert Service, it is worth noting the security components, which in their totality and interdependence help to achieve the

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<sup>21</sup> Ibid.5.

<sup>22</sup>Law of Ukraine No. 4038-XII "On forensic examination". 1994, February. Available from:<<https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/4038-12#Text>>.

effective practical realisation of this principle. Among such components, the following should be distinguished: non-interference in the activities of the competent expert in the exercise of their powers, in particular, conducting a forensic examination; the functioning of expert institutions independently of institutions that carry out the pre-trial investigation and operational search activities, as well as independently of the judicial authorities.

Regarding the characteristics of a "forensic expert" it should be noted that they should not be considered only as an official of the ESMIA and, their procedural status, as an external expression exclusively in the process of conducting a particular forensic expert study, since specialists who are certified as "forensic experts" outside the scope of conducting relevant research on committed criminal offences, perform a number of other functions and powers provided by their job descriptions.

Regarding the interaction of an investigator whose activity is aimed at investigating committed criminal offences, it should be noted that the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine states that an investigator who investigates committed criminal offences is responsible for the timeliness and legality of the commission of procedural actions, and also notes that state and local government bodies, as well as institutions, enterprises, officials and other organisations and persons, must comply with the legal decisions and requirements of the investigator<sup>23</sup>. In accordance with this provision, persons and specialists must, to some extent, submit to the investigators assigned to them, who are authorised to investigate the crime committed.

One of the features of interaction between the investigator and expert institutions of the MIA is the regulation of their activities and the rights and obligations that they are assigned as subjects of criminal proceedings. It should also be noted that the level of normative regulation of interaction during the investigation of committed illegal acts, and in particular the conduct of such an investigative action as the inspection of the scene of the committed crime, is insufficiently developed and incomplete, which as a result leads to difficulties in the implementation of the practical activities.

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<sup>23</sup> Ibid.1.

The quality of expert research is also influenced by a number of other factors that relate to the interaction of the NP and the ESMIA to conduct an inspection of the crime scene<sup>24</sup>, including low level of preparation of objects that are sent for examination. The low level of preparation of the subjects of the expertise is primarily due to the activities of the authorised persons aimed at identifying and seizing as well as recording and packing the relevant objects that are found at the scene of the crime committed.

An analysis of dactyloscopy studies shows that 55% of fingerprints submitted for examination are considered unsuitable for identification<sup>25</sup>. Also, among other mistakes of specialists during the seizure of objects of crime, it is necessary to highlight:

- handprints of a person involved in the crime are often removed along with bulky items;
- seized items are not packed properly;
- experts receive for study such objects on which, due to the specific features of the material, no traces can be left.

Among the issues due to which the proper functioning and interaction of the NP and the ESMIA are not carried out are:

- violation of the principle of independence of an expert in the performance of their duties;
- cases of double subordination of the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine;
- low level of motivation in the selection of personnel who will continue to carry out activities related to the inspection of the scene of the crime committed.

Overcoming all the above obstacles in the functioning of interaction between the NP of Ukraine and the ESMIA of Ukraine consists in solving the following tasks<sup>26,27</sup>: making changes to the regulation on the ESMIA of Ukraine,

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<sup>24</sup> KOVALSKA, M. Organization of interaction of the investigator with the bodies and subdivisions involved in the sphere of investigation of banditry. *Legal Scientific Electronic Journal*, 2020, 2, 377-381.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> LOPATA, O. *International cooperation of the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine*, 2017. Available from: <[http://elar.naiu.kiev.ua/jspui/bitstream/123456789/1945/3/Dis\\_%D0%9B%D0%BE%D0%BF%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B0.pdf](http://elar.naiu.kiev.ua/jspui/bitstream/123456789/1945/3/Dis_%D0%9B%D0%BE%D0%BF%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B0.pdf)>

<sup>27</sup> *Forensic examination: Problems of the present and prospects of development: A collective monograph*. 2020. Lviv: Lviv Research Institute of Forensic Science.

Instructions on the procedure for involving employees of the pre-trial investigation bodies of the police and the ESMIA of Ukraine as specialists to participate in the inspection of the crime scene, as well as other regulatory legal acts that regulate their activities; increase the level of selection of future specialists, whose activities will be aimed at inspecting of the scene of a crime; introducing training involving employees of relevant bodies and services to improve their skills; provide employees of relevant bodies and divisions modern forensic technology.

## **Discussion**

The Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Police play an essential role in this process, as they have the expertise and technology to collect and analyse evidence accurately. Ukraine scientists such as M. Guzela<sup>28</sup>, while studying the international experience of organizing expertise in the investigation of a crime, also described of the expert. In their research, they noted that in many European countries a forensic expert is equated with a police officer, but despite the cited powers, such forensic experts are subject to some restrictions. As an example, one of the restrictions can be cited: if a forensic expert took a direct part in the investigation team in the investigation of a criminal offence, it is considered that the forensic work performed by such an expert in the investigation of a crime and criminal proceedings to obtain reliable evidence may be one-sided and affect the objectivity of the research.

In this regard, Germany even adopted a special law, the provisions of which stipulate that if a police officer participated in the investigation of a crime as a specialist, and later was involved as a forensic expert, then as a result, one can file a motion of no confidence. Such a law and its provisions also apply to experts of the federal agency, if they participated in the process of investigating a criminal act<sup>29</sup>. The introduction of Germany's experience into the national legal system of Ukraine would make it possible to distinguish between the functions and powers of the NP and the ESMIA. Also, when considering and implementing such experience in Ukraine, it is important to take into account the realities of the present in the inspection of a crime scene.

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<sup>28</sup> Ibid. 2.

<sup>29</sup> WALLACE, W. *Policy-making in the European Union*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005.

Employees of the ESMIA perform the tasks and powers specified in the relevant regulatory legal acts aimed at regulating their activities. Based on these regulatory legal acts<sup>30,31</sup>, the performance of tasks that are established in these regulatory legal acts should not depend on the bodies that carry out the pre-trial investigation and operational search activities. However, it should be noted that one of the tasks of the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is to involve its specialists in the pre-trial investigation of illegal acts, then the correct provision is that the functioning of the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs should not be carried out separately from the above-mentioned bodies, but in close cooperation with them.

This can be confirmed by the joint activities of the NP and the ESMIA to effectively perform the tasks set during the inspection of a crime scene, and as a result of a quality search, recording, detection and seizure of tools used to commit the crime and other evidence in the case. As an example of cooperation between the NP and the Expert Service, when examining the scene of a crime, the decision to involve a specialised mobile laboratory is made by the leadership of the relevant division of the Expert Service together with the leadership of the pre-trial investigation bodies of the NP of Ukraine.

Scientific sources note that the work of pre-trial investigation specialists of the NP of Ukraine, who are authorised to inspect of the crime scene through the use of special knowledge and forensic technology, is at a rather low level. A. O. Lozovy and S. Lozova<sup>32</sup>, in their research, explained this issue by the low level of professional training of relevant forensic inspectors, investigators and other specialists. This, in turn, leads to the seizure of substandard and incorrect objects, which will later be examined during the examination. The seizure of substandard objects leads to the loss of various resources, in the absence of which specialists of the ESMIA cannot provide answers to all issues, the solution of which is necessary for the effective pre-trial investigation.

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<sup>30</sup> *ibid.* 9.

<sup>31</sup> Order of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine No. z0918-17 "On the organization of the activities of the investigative units of the National Police of Ukraine". 2017, July. Available from: <<https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0918-17#Text>>.

<sup>32</sup> LOZOVA, S., LOZOVY, A. Problematic issues of interaction between units of the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and units of the National Police of Ukraine. *Modern directions of development of forensic examination and criminology: abstracts of the report of the scientific-practical conference dedicated to the memory of Honored Professor M. Bokarius*. Kharkiv: KhNUVS, 2016.

Yu.V. Veresenko<sup>33</sup>, during his research, which was aimed at studying the state of interaction between the NP and the ESMIA of Ukraine, noted that modern realities of functioning of territorial forensic units create and provide all opportunities to involve the same specialist for the investigation of a criminal offence in various procedural statuses, among which are the following a forensic expert during the implementation and conduct of a forensic examination and as a competent specialist at the place of the committed illegal act. However, the exclusion of such an investigative action as the inspection of the crime scene and the conduct of an expert investigation by the same specialist is primarily due to the subjective approach in the work of the head of a particular study.

V.V. Kovalyov<sup>34</sup>, describes the interaction of the NP bodies and the ESMIA as the activities of competent and specialised professionals, based on the provisions of normative legal acts, which are coordinated in place, means and time, and which are aimed at solving specific tasks caused by the investigative situation that has developed to investigate, disclose and counteract the commission of criminal illegal acts<sup>35,36,37</sup>.

The police are responsible for securing the crime scene, interviewing witnesses and suspects, and collaborating with the Expert Service team to ensure a thorough investigation. The successful collaboration between the ESMIA and the NP is crucial in ensuring justice and safety for the community.

## Conclusions

The National Police of Ukraine is one of the central executive authorities, whose activities are aimed at protecting and ensuring the rights, freedoms and interests of individuals and citizens, as well as countering the commission of

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<sup>33</sup> Ibid.4.

<sup>34</sup> KOVALYOV, V. *Interaction of the investigator with employees of expert service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. The dissertation of the candidate of sciences*. Kyiv: Kyiv National University of Internal Affairs, 2008.

<sup>35</sup> Scientific and practical publication. Odessa Research Institute of Forensic Science Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. *Bulletin ONDISE*, 2020, vol. 8, n. 136. Available from: <[http://ondise.minjust.gov.ua/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Visnyk\\_ONDISE\\_8\\_2020.pdf](http://ondise.minjust.gov.ua/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Visnyk_ONDISE_8_2020.pdf)>.

<sup>36</sup> ALEKSEYCHUK, V. *Review of the scene: Tactics and psychology. Abstract of the dissertation of the candidate of legal sciences*. Kharkiv: National Law Academy of Ukraine named after Yaroslav the Wise, 2007.

<sup>37</sup> PILYUKOV, Yu. Some issues of forensic support of pre-trial investigation in terms of reforming the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine. *Actual Problems of Jurisprudence*, 2017, vol. 3, pp.175–179.



criminal illegal acts and maintaining public safety and public order. Inspection of the crime scene is an investigative action aimed at direct observation and research of objects related to the circumstances of a criminal act committed for their detection and recording.

The purpose of this article was to analyze the interaction of the National Police of Ukraine and the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in the process of inspection of the crime scene.

In the course of this study, the concepts of "National Police of Ukraine", "Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine" and "inspection of the crime scene" were defined. The Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine is a system of state-specialised institutions that carry out forensic expertise and whose activities are coordinated by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

The reforms that have taken place since 2015 were described in the course of this study. Definition of the main normative legal acts that guide specialists of these bodies and services in the implementation of their activities, including the Constitution of Ukraine, the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine, the law of Ukraine "On forensic expertise" and others. In the course of this study, the author identified departments and specialists who can be involved in inspecting of the scene of an illegal act. Experts in a specialised mobile laboratory may be involved in the investigation. The list of crimes during which they are involved was also established, and the specifics of their involvement and the specifics of their activities were clarified.

In addition, a description of the interaction and joint participation of specialists of the National Police of Ukraine and the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine during the inspection of the scene of the crime was given. The main issues and obstacles to the normal functioning of their activities were clarified, among which can be distinguished: cases of double subordination of the Expert Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, violation of the principle of independence, low level of qualification of employees, imperfection of the regulatory framework for regulating the activities of competent employees and others, and the development of recommendations for overcoming and solving these problems, which were listed by the author in the framework of this study.

The study provides a comprehensive understanding of the legal framework, organizational structure, and activities of these institutions. The article offers valuable recommendations to address these issues and improve the functioning of the Expert Service and National Police. This study contributes significantly to the field of forensic investigation in Ukraine and can be useful for professionals and policymakers.

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