

ensure proper oversight of law enforcement actions, improve the legal framework, and promote the development of legal culture among police officers to combine the effective performance of their duties with the unconditional respect for human rights and freedoms.

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ENGLISH AS A WORKING LANGUAGE IN EU LAW ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION: IMPLICATIONS FOR UKRAINE

The integration of Ukraine into European security structures necessitates alignment with the operational standards of EU law enforcement agencies. A fundamental yet often overlooked aspect of this integration is linguistic interoperability. English has emerged as the de facto lingua franca of European police cooperation, institutionalized through formal policies at Europol, Frontex, CEPOL, and Eurojust. Ukraine's adoption of Law No. 9432 “On the Application of the English Language in Ukraine” in June 2024 represents a strategic step toward harmonizing national requirements with EU standards [1].

EU Agencies’ Language Policies. All major EU Justice and Home Affairs agencies have formally established English as their working language. Regulation (EU) 2015/2219 establishing CEPOL mandates training support for law enforcement leadership and language

skills [2]. Europol’s internal documentation explicitly references English as the working language, with recruitment requiring CEFR C1 level proficiency in one EU language and B2 in another, with English typically mandatory [3]. Frontex states unambiguously that English is the agency’s working language, requiring B2 proficiency for Standing Corps positions [4]. Eurojust formalized this through College Decision 2020-08, establishing English as its working language following a European Ombudsman recommendation [5].

CEPOL’s Law Enforcement Education platform (LEEd) has trained over 240,000 officials across EU Member States, with all courses delivered in English [6]. The agency’s Police English Language courses specifically target B1 proficiency, providing a standardized training model applicable to Ukrainian police academies preparing officers for EU cooperation frameworks.

Ukraine’s Legislative Framework. Law No. 9432, adopted on 4 June 2024 by 236 votes and signed by President Zelenskyy on 26 June 2024, establishes English as a language of international communication without diminishing Ukrainian’s constitutional status [7]. The law creates specific obligations for law enforcement personnel: middle and senior officers of the National Police must demonstrate English proficiency; border control officers must communicate with foreigners in English during customs and passport procedures; emergency services must accept calls in English and provide assistance to foreigners [8].

A significant incentive mechanism is the 10% salary bonus for officials demonstrating B2 level English proficiency under the Common European Framework of Reference [9]. This provision, applicable to police officers, prosecutors, and customs officials, mirrors salary differentiation practices in EU agencies where language proficiency affects career advancement. Implementation follows a phased timeline: Category A civil servants must achieve compliance within two years of martial law termination; all other officials within four years [10].

Proficiency Standards Alignment. Ukraine's dual assessment architecture – CEFR for civilian law enforcement and NATO STANAG 6001 for military personnel – enables seamless integration with both EU agency recruitment standards and NATO interoperability requirements [11]. STANAG Level 2 (Functional) corresponds approximately to CEFR B1, while Level 3 (Professional) aligns with

B2+. The B2 threshold specified in Ukraine's salary bonus provision represents the minimum functional level for meaningful participation in cross-border police cooperation, as documented in Eurojust's evaluations of Joint Investigation Teams [12].

Comparative Experience. Baltic states provide instructive precedents for Ukraine's integration trajectory. Estonia's Academy of Security Sciences established a dedicated Language Centre requiring English proficiency for officers participating in CEPOL programs [13]. Poland's International Specialist Police Training Centre features facilities for simultaneous translation in five languages, addressing the country's position as a transit point for cross-border crime [14]. Research on Baltic Sea police cooperation documents that language difficulties can prevent daily information exchange and delay vital intelligence sharing [15].

Ukraine's Law No. 9432 represents the most comprehensive English language legislation adopted by any EU candidate country, creating explicit requirements that align with EU agency standards. The convergence of language policies across Europol, Frontex, CEPOL, and Eurojust around English as the working language provides clear alignment opportunities for Ukrainian law enforcement. The B2 proficiency threshold corresponds to the functional level at which cross-border cooperation becomes operationally effective. Early engagement with CEPOL's English for Law Enforcement courses through existing partnership frameworks could accelerate capability development while demonstrating commitment to the interoperability standards that EU membership will require.

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South Korea is widely recognized for its remarkable progress in public safety, crime prevention, and anti-corruption efforts. Over the past few decades, the country has transformed its law enforcement system into one of the most efficient and transparent systems in the world. From advanced policing technologies to proactive crime