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SECURITY GUARD REGISTER AND NEW SECURITY SERVICES ACT: SECURITY CHECKS AT MAJOR EVENTS SUCH AS TAYLOR SWIFT AND THE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS TO PREVENT SECURITY RISKS

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores the evolving security landscape at major events, focusing on the security guard register and the recently introduced Security Services Act. It examines the increasing significance of security measures in the context of large-scale gatherings, such as concerts and sports events, amidst global risks like terrorism and cyber-attacks. The paper provides a detailed analysis of recent security incidents, including events at the 2024 Taylor Swift concert in Vienna and the European Championships, demonstrating the practical application and challenges of current security measures. It assesses the advantages and disadvantages of the guard register and highlights key changes introduced by the Security Services Act, emphasizing their implications for both public authorities and private security services. Furthermore, the study considers future developments, such as the integration of advanced technologies like artificial intelligence and big data analytics, in shaping security strategies for major events.

Keywords: Public administration, Security Services Act, major event security, terrorism, cyber-attacks, public-private cooperation, Taylor Swift concert, European Championships, artificial intelligence, big data analytics, crisis management, risk assessment.

INTRODUCTION

This paper deals with the topic of the security guard register and the new Security Services Act. Security checks at major events such as Taylor Swift and the European Championships to prevent security risks.

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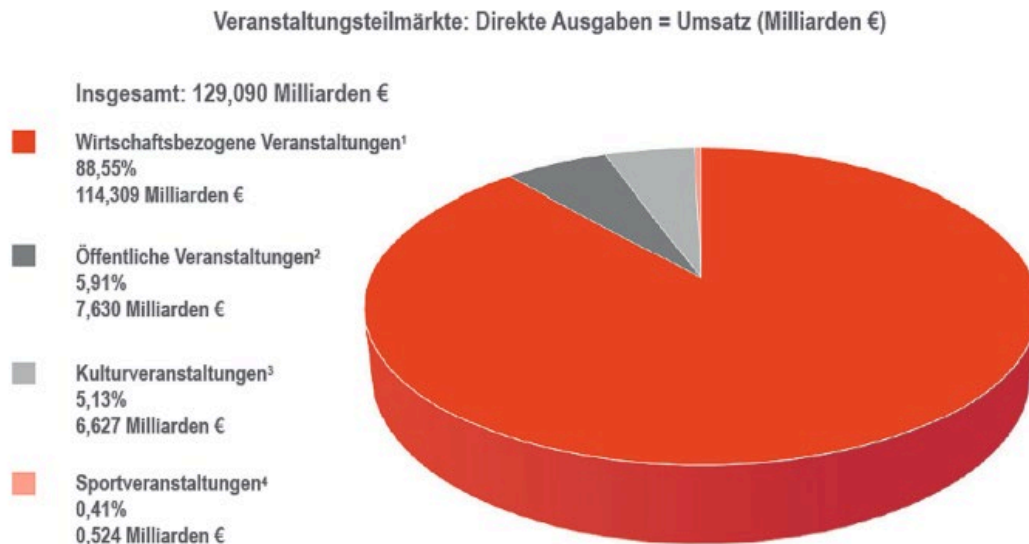
his paper analyses the effectiveness of new legal frameworks and security measures at major events.

Relevance of major events in a social and economic context

Large-scale events bring together people from different social, cultural and economic backgrounds. They promote a sense of community and facilitate cultural exchange. Such events also strengthen tourism, revitalise local businesses and create jobs, which boosts the regional economy overall.

The huge rush for concert tickets for the band Oasis has apparently given the British economy a boost, according to the major bank Barclays. According to their figures, spending on consumer goods increased significantly in September. The entertainment sector in particular saw an

increase of 14.4 per cent - the highest figure since July 2023, when tickets for the UK leg of US musician Taylor Swift's tour went on sale (Deutschlandfunk, 2024).



1: Events Industry Council; 2019; 2: Deutscher Schauspielverband; 2018; 3: ohne öffentliche Kulturträger; BDVK 2018 + Monitoringbericht KfK; 2019; 4: nur Umsätze durch Besucher; Statista; 2019;

Figure 1: Event submarkets (Schabbing, 2022)

As can be seen in Figure 1, events generate billions of euros in revenue.

Overview of the increasing importance of security measures

The importance of security measures at major events is increasing. Global threats such as terrorism, violence and cyber attacks pose challenges for event organisers and authorities. Preventive security concepts can ensure security. Developments such as real-time monitoring and digital access systems are important for identifying and minimising risks at an early stage (Altenbrunn, 2019).

Aim and structure of the work

In the introduction, the relevance of major events in a social and economic context, an overview of the increasing importance of security measures and the structure of the work are described. The following chapters describe the current security situation at major events, explain the advantages and disadvantages of the security guard register, present the new Security Services Act, analyse the cooperation between public administration and private security services, provide future developments and an outlook, and conclude with a summary of findings.

In terms of the sequence of arguments, this paper is structured as a descriptive literature review.

Current security situation at major events

This chapter explains the current security situation at major events.

Security risks at major events

Security risks at major events range from physical threats to digital dangers. The risks include terrorism, violence and panic caused by crowds of people, for example. Natural disasters or technical faults also pose a threat. The digitalisation of event concepts also increases the risk of

cyber attacks, for example on digital admission tickets or surveillance systems (Buchmann et al., 2017).

As can be seen in Figure 2, social polarisation will play a significant role in the coming years. This is also noticeable at major events.



Figure 2: The 10 biggest risks (DPN, 2024)

Examples of recent security incidents

Currently, security checks are limited to critical infrastructure or specific suspicious circumstances. In future, however, there should also be possible security checks for people who have a special responsibility, such as security personnel at major events (New, 2024).

Security incident at Taylor Swift concert in Vienna

US pop star Taylor Swift was due to give a concert in Vienna on 8 July 2024. Despite extensive preparations and security measures, there were several incidents.

A 19-year-old Islamist who was arrested wanted to cause a bloodbath at the concert. He had wanted to use explosives and stabbing weapons in the vicinity of the stadium. The decisive tip-off about the plans had come from international secret services. A second arrestee was part of the cleaning and security service at the Taylor Swift concert (Kurier, 2024).

There were long waiting times at the entrance to the concert and inadequate security precautions at the security checkpoint.

There were also technical problems with the access control systems, which led to delays in access.

Security challenges at the European Championship 2024 in Germany

The fact that this is not an isolated case is shown by the example of the last European Championship 2024 in Germany. Here, too, an Islamist allegedly wanted to infiltrate the country as a security guard. However, he came to the attention of the authorities beforehand (T-Online, 2024)

The 2024 European Championships in Germany presented the authorities with a major challenge in terms of security precautions.

Organisers rely on an increased presence of security forces in and around stadiums, at train stations, airports and in fan zones. This is a combination of physical security and technological solutions. Organisers use information from international security authorities to identify and manage potential threats.

Hackers try to access sensitive data or disrupt networks in order to influence ticket sales.

Challenges for authorities and private security services

The organisation of major events poses enormous challenges for public authorities and private security services. Various stakeholders require a clear communication structure in order to react quickly in an emergency. Security threats range from terrorism and violence to natural disasters. The anonymity and diversity of participants is another obstacle to security precautions. Security services must implement security measures on the one hand and maintain the freedom of visitors on the other (Kromberg, 2023).

Advantages and disadvantages of the guard register

This chapter looks at the advantages and disadvantages of the guard register.

Definition and purpose of the guard register

Definition: Centralised system for recording and monitoring security forces

The security guard register is a digital directory for recording and monitoring security services and their employees. It was introduced to increase quality and transparency in the field of security services and to ensure security at major events. This makes it possible to ensure that only qualified and verified persons are working in this field. As qualifications, training and criminal records are recorded, authorities and clients can monitor compliance with legal requirements and standards (Lang, 2024).

Figure 3 shows a technical overview of the guard register.

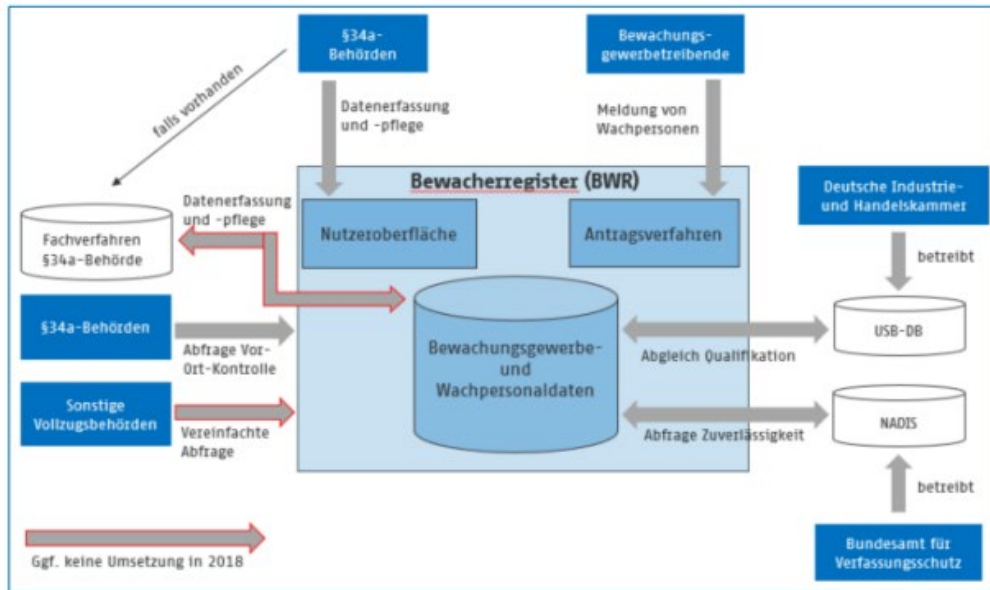


Figure 3: Technical overview of the guard register from 1 January 2019 (BDSW, 2018)

Advantages of the guard register

The security guard register has advantages for the security industry, event organisers and the public. These include, for example, increased transparency and traceability in the security sector. As security services and their employees are recorded, authorities can monitor compliance with legal requirements and quality standards. Security staff can be checked more easily and quickly, which is particularly important at major events in order to minimise potential risks. Security companies are required to regularly train and check their employees (Lang 2, 2024).

The following advantages of the guard register can be summarised:

- Improving transparency and control
- Simplified security checks
- Better cooperation between authorities and security service providers

Disadvantages and points of criticism

Despite its advantages, the guard register also has several disadvantages and points of criticism. For example, the issue of data protection, as the collection and storage of sensitive personal data of security staff raises privacy concerns. Centralised storage is a potential target for data misuse or cyber attacks. In addition, bureaucratisation could lead to an increased administrative burden for security companies, which poses challenges for smaller companies in particular. Entry in the register also excludes less experienced or less qualified employees. In practice, all of this can lead to an overload of the system and insufficient flexibility, which could limit the effectiveness of the security register.

The following disadvantages and points of criticism of the guard register can be mentioned:

- Data protection concerns and bureaucratic hurdles
- Implementation difficulties at country level
- Costs and additional burden for security companies

The new Security Services Act

This chapter deals with the new Security Services Act, including the main changes to the law and examples of its application at major events, as well as its impact on event planning and security concepts.

Background and introduction

Reasons for the reform and adoption of the new law

The new Security Services Act was introduced to fulfil the requirements of the security industry, such as increased security needs, an increase in major events, social unrest and terrorism. Clear standards are set for the training and qualification of security personnel. Through transparency and accountability, the law helps to strengthen public confidence in security services. The legislator wants to ensure that only qualified and reliable personnel are employed.

Significant changes to the law

There are innovations in the Security Services Act to increase quality and safety in the security industry. For example, stricter requirements for the training and qualification of personnel. Security concepts must be updated and adapted to the threat situation. Cooperation between authorities and security services will be improved through defined communication channels and cooperation obligations.

The main changes to the law include

- Requirements for security companies
- Increased security checks for security personnel
- New certification and training standards

Examples for use at major events

One example of the application of the Security Services Act is the European Football Championship 2024 in Germany, where the new requirements for the qualification of security personnel were implemented immediately. Staff are prepared for the specific risks and challenges during the tournament through training and regular courses. Security concepts must include a clear strategy for access control and emergency measures. The requirements of the law were also relevant at the Taylor Swift concert in Vienna. Integrating the law into the planning and realisation of major events not only promotes the safety of visitors, but also confidence in the professionalism of the security services.

Summary of examples for use at major events:

- Case study: Security measures at the Taylor Swift concert
- Security checks for Euro 2024: organisation and challenges

Effects on event planning and security concepts

The Security Services Act has an impact on events and the development of security concepts. Organisers must work together with security services in the planning phase. Security concepts are becoming more sophisticated. Concepts must be adapted to the respective event and its specific risks. Organisers must optimise their planning processes in such a way that the legal requirements are met (Schütte et al., 2023).

Summary of the effects on event planning and security concepts:

- Cooperation between public administrations and private security companies
- Legal requirements and their practical implementation

Cooperation between public administration and private security services

This chapter describes the cooperation between public administration and private security services.

Coordination and communication between authorities and security companies

Cooperation between authorities and security companies enables security measures to be planned efficiently and risks to be identified. Security companies coordinate operational plans and emergency strategies with the authorities. This increases the level of trust between the parties involved and allows them to react quickly in the event of an emergency. Realistic scenarios can be played out through joint training and exercises (Heiden, 2022).

To summarise, the following should be emphasised:

- Responsibilities of the police, public order offices and private security services
- Best practice examples: Optimisation through digital systems and real-time monitoring

Challenges in practice

There are different interests and approaches between the public administration and private security services. Public authorities are concerned with compliance with the law and maintaining security. Private security services concentrate on economic goals. Communication difficulties arise due to unclear responsibilities or a lack of information systems. Improved cooperation and the exchange of best practices enable effective security management (Schwarz, 2023).

The final considerations are:

- Coordination problems for large and decentralised events
- Funding and resource allocation

Future prospects

Improvements through new technologies and big data are possible in order to be able to react faster and more effectively to security problems.

Monitoring and analysing extremist content: According to (Riesmayer et. al, 2020), algorithms and digital analysis tools make it possible to identify and monitor extremist content and propaganda on social media and the internet. This allows security authorities and online platforms to react quickly to the spread of extremist messages and take measures to remove or restrict such content.

Early detection and risk analysis: According to (Von Berg et. al, 2023), patterns and signs of radicalisation and extremist activity can be detected at an early stage with the help of big data analysis and machine learning. This allows potentially at-risk individuals to be identified and targeted preventative measures to be introduced before violent acts occur. This preventive analysis can be carried out on social media and other digital platforms.

Network analysis: By analysing network structures and connections, digital tools can identify and map extremist groups and networks, according to (Illan, 2023). This enables law enforcement agencies to identify potentially vulnerable individuals and take preventative measures before violent acts occur.

Open source intelligence (OSINT): According to (Goertz et. al, 2023), OSINT tools collect and analyse publicly available information from various sources such as social media, online forums and news articles. By aggregating and analysing this information, digital tools can identify trends and developments in the field of extremism and detect warning signals at an early stage.

Image and video analysis: According to (Rinke, 2020), advanced tools for image and video analysis can be used to recognise and classify extremist content in images and videos. By recognising symbols, logos and other visual elements, these tools can identify extremist propaganda, even if it is disguised or manipulated.

Cooperation between the administration and security services also offers opportunities for future developments. Effective coordination and communication between the parties involved is challenging. The increased integration of modern technologies and data analyses can improve the exchange of information. Joint exercises and simulations are encouraged. Clear guidelines and standards are necessary, which must be adhered to by both the administration and private security companies (Olschok, 2023).

Future developments and outlook

This chapter presents future developments in the security industry, new risks and opportunities for public administration and the long-term consequences of the legal changes.

Technological innovations in the security industry

Drone surveillance, facial recognition and artificial intelligence

Technological innovations have made a significant contribution to improving security standards. These include AI to analyse security data, facial recognition systems and the use of drones to detect threats more quickly. Modern communication systems and mobile apps are being used to enable more efficient coordination. Big data for analysing visitor flows and behaviour patterns helps to develop preventative security strategies. These innovations promote a proactive security culture based on preventative measures rather than reactive responses.

New risks and opportunities for public administration

Adaptation to the growing security requirements

The security landscape is dynamic and complex due to new threats such as cyber attacks, terrorism and social unrest. The administration focuses on prevention and crisis management to minimise risks. Surveillance systems enable proactive identification of threats. Cooperation with private security services and other stakeholders creates a safety net (Henrich, 2024).

Long-term consequences of the legal changes

Sustainability of security concepts for major events

The new Security Services Act is expected to have long-term consequences for the security industry and public administration. The quality and professionalism of security staff will increase as a result of the required training. A positive change in the image of the security industry is possible. However, bureaucratisation and the administrative burden on security companies will increase, which could lead to consolidation in the industry. This could also have an impact on the pricing of security services. Co-operation between public authorities and private security services

will lead to a deeper integration of security strategies into public policy. Overall, both opportunities and risks can be seen.

As can be seen in Figure 4, inclusion, which also includes safety, is important at major events.



Figure 4: Inclusion at events (Converve, 2024)

CONCLUSION

The current security situation is dynamic and characterised by various threats. Legal innovations such as the security guard register or the new Security Guard Services Act attempt to counteract this and ensure security at major events (Stoppelkamp, 2023).

Recent security incidents at major events show that despite planning, there are always risks. Both the Taylor Swift concert in Vienna and security preparations for the European Championship 2024 show that security concepts must be continuously improved and adapted to current threats. The combination of physical measures and digital surveillance is particularly crucial.

Important lessons from these examples are

- **Improved access controls:** Better coordination and stricter access controls can prevent overcrowding and panic.
- **Evacuation plans:** Emergency plans must be clearly communicated and regularly reviewed
- **Technological security:** Digital entry systems and the cyber security of events must be updated.

Major events such as the European Championship 2024 or concerts by international stars remain a magnet for the masses.

The following recommendations for action can be made for future major events in Germany:

1. Health and safety concepts

- Risk assessment: Carrying out a risk assessment for health risks or safety issues
- Hygiene concepts: development of clear hygiene measures
- Emergency plans: Creation of emergency plans for various scenarios

2. Digital solutions

- Online registration: Simple and secure registration for visitors
- Live streaming: For people who cannot be on site
- Apps for participants: information on programme items and interactive maps

3. Stakeholder management

- Community involvement: Consideration of local communities and stakeholders
- Cooperation with authorities: Close co-operation with local and regional authorities

4. Feedback mechanisms

- Participant feedback: System for recording feedback from participants
- Follow-up: Exchange of experiences

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