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COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF LEGISLATION ON CITIZEN PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC ORDER PROTECTION AND PUBLIC SAFETY: THE EXPERIENCE OF KAZAKHSTAN, RUSSIA, BELARUS, AND TAJIKISTAN

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Abstract

This study explores the legislative frameworks regulating citizen participation in maintaining public order and safety in Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Tajikistan. Drawing on the Soviet tradition of voluntary people's patrols ("druzhinas"), these countries have developed unique yet interconnected approaches to address modern security challenges, combining state control with local initiative. The research analyzes key laws – Kazakhstan's Law No. 590 (2004), Russia's Federal Law No. 44-FZ (2014), Belarus's Law No. 214-Z (2003), and Tajikistan's Law No. 1969 (2023) – focusing on their core principles, participants' rights and duties, as well as the strengths, weaknesses, similarities, and differences of these systems. Based on legal documents, government reports, and academic literature, it identifies best practices, including Russia's adaptable regional models, Kazakhstan's prevention-focused strategies, Belarus's structured state coordination, and Tajikistan's community councils. These findings offer practical recommendations for mutual learning and enhanced cooperation within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAES) and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

Keywords: citizen participation, public order, public safety, legislation, Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Tajikistan, comparative analysis, Soviet legacy, best practices, EAES, CSTO.



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Introduction

Over the past two decades, Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Tajikistan have made remarkable progress in modernizing their public safety systems, creatively adapting historical practices to meet contemporary demands. These countries, inheritors of the Soviet tradition of voluntary people's patrols – known as "druzhinas" – have developed legislative frameworks that reflect both a shared heritage and distinct national innovations. The Soviet model of citizen participation, formalized by the Council of Ministers' Decree No. 731 on March 2, 1959, was a pioneering effort to engage communities in maintaining order, a practice that historian Yoram Gorlizki describes as a unique blend of state oversight and grassroots mobilization [Gorlizki, 2010]. By the 1960s, over 2.5 million Soviet citizens were involved in druzhinas, assisting the militia with street patrols, petty crime prevention, and even anti-hooliganism campaigns, forming a critical component of the social fabric of the time.

Following the dissolution of the USSR in 1991, these nations faced the complex task of reimagining this system in the face of new realities: rapid urbanization, economic transitions, and shifting security threats. Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Tajikistan each responded with approaches that, while diverse, share a common goal – ensuring the safety and stability of their citizens. Kazakhstan's Law No. 590, enacted on July 9, 2004, and published in *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda* No. 153, emphasizes prevention, a cautious approach shaped by the social and economic turbulence of the 1990s. Russia's Federal Law No. 44-FZ, adopted on April 2, 2014, and published in *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* No. 76, prioritizes flexibility, a necessity for a country with vast territorial and demographic diversity. Belarus's Law No. 214-Z, passed on June 26, 2003, and registered in the National Register of Legal Acts No. 2/964, integrates druzhinas into a state-led framework, ensuring systemic stability through close coordination with the militia. Tajikistan's Law No. 1969, enacted on June 22, 2023, and published in *Akhbori Majlisi Oli* No. 12, leverages traditions of collective responsibility – rooted in pre-Soviet communal practices – to foster innovative forms of participation through public councils.

The evolution of these systems has not been without challenges. In Kazakhstan, early attempts to revive druzhinas in the 1990s were hampered by insufficient



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funding and low citizen motivation, issues addressed only with the 2004 law. For instance, in Almaty during the mid-1990s, informal groups struggled to coordinate with police due to a lack of legal clarity, leading to sporadic effectiveness until Law No. 590 formalized their role as preventive auxiliaries. In Russia, the transitional period saw chaotic, localized initiatives – such as Moscow’s ad hoc patrols in the early 2000s – until the 2014 federal law standardized their roles, introducing mandatory training and unifying their efforts under a national framework. Belarus maintained continuity with the Soviet model, gradually enhancing it with social guarantees in the 2010s, such as insurance and compensation for injuries, which boosted participation to over 15,000 druzhinniks by 2022 [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2022]. Tajikistan, emerging from a civil war (1992–1997), relied on informal community structures – like village councils in Gorno-Badakhshan – to maintain order until Law No. 1969 formalized them in 2023, marking a significant shift toward institutionalization.

Today, these legislative efforts illustrate a dynamic balance between state coordination and civic initiative, offering a rich field for mutual learning and collaboration within regional frameworks like the EAES and CSTO. Kazakhstan’s focus on prevention has proven effective in rural areas, where citizens’ rapid notifications have cut police response times, as seen in Aktobe’s 2022 data showing a 10% drop in rural petty crimes [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. Russia’s flexibility allows druzhinniks to tailor their efforts to local needs – urban patrols in St. Petersburg contrast with rural support in Siberia – resulting in a nationwide force of 80,000 volunteers by 2023 [MVD Russia, 2023]. Belarus’s state-led approach ensures consistency, with joint militia-druzhina patrols during Minsk’s 2022 Independence Day reducing violations by 30% [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2022]. Tajikistan’s council-based model stabilizes remote regions, with Gorno-Badakhshan councils resolving over 50 disputes in 2023, enhancing trust in local governance [MVD Tajikistan, 2023].

This comparative analysis examines these frameworks through multiple lenses: the general principles guiding citizen involvement, the rights and duties of participants, the strengths and weaknesses of each system, and the legislative similarities and differences. Drawing on primary legal texts, official reports from ministries of



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internal affairs, academic studies, and archival materials, the study aims not to critique but to highlight best practices that enhance public security. The Soviet legacy provides a common thread, yet each country's adaptation reflects its unique socio-political context – Kazakhstan's post-independence stabilization, Russia's regional diversity, Belarus's centralized governance, and Tajikistan's post-conflict recovery. Examples such as Russia's 80,000 active druzhinniks and Tajikistan's rural councils stabilizing remote areas underscore the practical impact of these systems, making their experience a valuable resource for regional and international study. This analysis not only celebrates their achievements but also proposes pathways for collaboration, potentially elevating their models as exemplars within the global discourse on civic engagement in public safety.

General Principles of Citizen Participation

The principles of voluntariness, legality, and cooperation with state authorities provide a unifying foundation for citizen participation in public order protection across Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Tajikistan. These principles, inherited from the Soviet tradition of voluntary people's patrols, or "druzhinas," have been adapted to align with contemporary legal and social standards, reflecting each country's unique historical and cultural context. While rooted in a shared past, their evolution demonstrates a commitment to balancing civic initiative with state oversight, ensuring that participation enhances public safety without compromising order or rights.

In Russia, Federal Law No. 44-FZ, published in Rossiyskaya Gazeta No. 76 on April 4, 2014, embodies these principles by integrating druzhina efforts with professional policing while emphasizing respect for human rights. The law's preamble underscores the voluntary nature of participation, granting citizens the right to opt into this role, while Article 9 mandates strict adherence to legal norms, reinforced by compulsory training and coordination with law enforcement. Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokoltsev highlighted their impact in 2023, stating, "The contribution of people's patrols to maintaining law and order is invaluable," with over 80,000 druzhinniks active nationwide – a testament to the principle of voluntariness driving widespread engagement [MVD Russia, 2023]. This



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framework evolved from the chaotic post-Soviet 1990s, when local initiatives lacked uniformity, to a standardized system post-2014, ensuring legality through structured oversight.

Kazakhstan's Law No. 590, published in *Kazakhstanskaya Pravda* No. 153 on July 12, 2004, prioritizes prevention as a core principle, articulated in Article 5, which tasks citizens with "warning against offenses." This focus emerged as a response to the 1990s, when informal vigilantism – such as spontaneous citizen groups in Almaty addressing petty theft – risked escalating tensions, prompting a legislative shift toward cooperation with police rather than independent action. In practice, this means citizens primarily notify authorities, as seen in Kostanay Region, where *druzhinniks'* reports in 2022 reduced rural vandalism by 12% by enabling swift police responses [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. The principle of legality is reinforced by Article 7, requiring participants to act within the law, a cautious approach reflecting Kazakhstan's emphasis on stability during its post-independence transition.

Belarus's Law No. 214-Z, registered in the National Register of Legal Acts No. 2/964 in 2003, highlights humanitarianism and transparency as guiding principles, with Article 3 stating that *druzhina* activities should "strengthen public morality." Cooperation with state bodies is mandatory, reflecting Belarus's centralized governance model, and is supported by a robust framework of state oversight. This principle has been enhanced since the 2010s with social guarantees – such as insurance and injury compensation under Articles 20-21 – boosting participation to over 15,000 *druzhinniks* by 2022 [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2022]. In Minsk, this cooperation shone during the 2022 Independence Day celebrations, where joint patrols with militia reduced public violations by 30%, illustrating how voluntariness paired with state support enhances effectiveness.

Tajikistan's Law No. 1969, published in *Akhbori Majlisi Oli* No. 12 on June 25, 2023, intertwines voluntariness with patriotism, a principle deeply rooted in national traditions of collective responsibility that predate Soviet influence. The 2023 Ministry of Internal Affairs report notes that public councils serve as "a bridge between the state and the people," formalizing previously informal structures that emerged post-civil war (1992–1997) [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. In Gorno-



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Badakhshan, these councils resolved over 50 disputes in 2023, leveraging cultural motivations to stabilize remote areas where state presence is limited. This shift from ad hoc efforts to a legislated system underscores legality, with Article 4 requiring council actions to align with national laws, marking a significant step toward institutionalization.

The evolution of these principles reflects each country's response to its post-Soviet challenges. In Russia, pre-2014 druzhinas operated under fragmented local regulations – such as Moscow's informal patrols in the 2000s – until Federal Law No. 44-FZ introduced mandatory training and unified powers, enhancing consistency. Kazakhstan's early legislation, like a 1993 Supreme Council decree, was vague, with Law No. 590 clarifying roles as police auxiliaries, reducing risks of overreach seen in the 1990s. Belarus preserved Soviet continuity, modernizing it with incentives like insurance in 2015, while Tajikistan's formalization in 2023 built on decades of informal community efforts, such as village patrols in Sughd Region that curbed livestock theft by 10% in the early 2000s [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. These adaptations illustrate a shared commitment to refining a Soviet legacy into a tool for modern governance.

Examples further illuminate these principles in action. Russia's nationwide coordination enabled druzhinniks to support urban policing in St. Petersburg, cutting pickpocketing by 20% in 2023, and rural efforts in Yakutia, reducing alcohol-related incidents by 12% [MVD Russia, 2023]. Kazakhstan's preventive focus in Aktobe shortened rural crime response times by 15 minutes in 2022, enhancing safety [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. Belarus's mandatory training improved druzhina efficacy in Gomel, where 50 mass events in 2022 saw a 25% drop in petty crimes [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2022]. Tajikistan's councils in Rudaki prevented 30 livestock thefts in 2023, fostering trust in local governance [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. Together, these cases show how voluntariness, legality, and cooperation adapt to diverse national needs, offering a foundation for mutual learning.



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Rights and Duties of Citizens

The rights and duties of citizens in Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Tajikistan under their respective legislative frameworks not only define their roles in public order protection but also reflect national priorities in balancing civic engagement with state authority. These provisions, while varying in scope and application, collectively enhance public safety by leveraging citizen participation in ways that complement professional law enforcement. Their practical implementation reveals both the strengths of these systems and areas where adjustments could amplify their impact.

In Russia, Article 17 of Federal Law No. 44-FZ grants *druzhinniks* significant rights: they can demand compliance with public order, secure crime scenes, and use limited physical force (e.g., in self-defense or to protect others), provided actions align with legal limits. Their duties include undergoing training, adhering strictly to laws, and assisting those in distress. In Krasnodar Krai, *druzhinniks* prevented over 50 thefts at agricultural fairs in 2022 by securing perimeters and alerting police, saving farmers significant losses – a clear demonstration of their scene-management rights [MVD Russia, 2023]. In Novosibirsk, campus patrols in 2023 reduced hooliganism by 14%, with their visible presence deterring incidents, fulfilling their duty to maintain order [MVD Russia, 2023]. However, training inconsistencies – sometimes limited to a single seminar in rural Siberia – undermine preparedness, as seen in Omsk, where poorly trained *druzhinniks* struggled to manage a 2022 crowd disturbance, requiring police intervention.

Kazakhstan's Law No. 590 empowers citizens to prevent offenses and notify police, with rights focused on observation and reporting rather than direct intervention, reflecting a preventive ethos. Their duties emphasize legality and cooperation, requiring them to avoid independent action. In Turkestan Region, *druzhinniks* stopped 80 illegal forest cuttings in 2022 by reporting suspicious activities, protecting local ecosystems and earning community praise [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. In Atyrau, joint patrols with police in 2023 cut domestic incident response times by 20 minutes, reducing conflicts by 15%, showcasing their role as rapid informants [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. Yet, their limited powers – lacking



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detention rights – hindered action in Kyzylorda in 2021, where they couldn't stop a group of violators, prompting local calls for expanded authority.

Belarus's Article 17 of Law No. 214-Z allows druzhinniks to detain offenders under strict state guidance, with rights to assist in mass event security and support militia operations. Their duties include regular training, discipline, and detailed reporting, embedding them within a state-led system. In Mogilev, they bolstered industrial security at "Mogilevkhimvolokno" in 2022, cutting equipment thefts by 25% through coordinated patrols [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023]. In Brest, notifications about Pripyat River poaching led to 15 arrests in 2023, leveraging their right to assist law enforcement [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023]. Mandatory training enhances professionalism, but over-reliance on militia instructions delayed action in Grodno in 2021, where hooligans escaped while druzhinniks awaited orders, highlighting a need for greater autonomy.

Tajikistan's Law No. 1969 frames participation as a patriotic duty, granting citizens rights to join public councils, report violations, and assist authorities, particularly in rural areas. Their duties include respecting laws and engaging actively in community life, rooted in cultural norms of collective responsibility. In Rudaki District, councils prevented 30 livestock thefts in 2023 via night watches, boosting trust in local governance [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. In Kulob, council-led prevention talks with youth dropped crime by 8%, harnessing their right to educate and inform [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. However, informal structures limit consistency – councils in mountainous areas like Gorno-Badakhshan often halt in winter due to access issues, reducing their year-round impact.

These rights and duties adapt to local contexts, revealing their practical utility. Russia's broad powers suit its diverse regions – urban St. Petersburg patrols contrast with rural Yakutia's alcohol prevention, cutting incidents by 12% in 2023 [MVD Russia, 2023]. Kazakhstan's preventive role excels in rural Pavlodar, where 90 illegal hunts were stopped in 2023, but falters in urban urgency, as in Uralsk's 2022 inaction [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. Belarus's structured duties shine in Vitebsk, where cargo thefts fell 22% in 2023, yet stifle initiative, as in Borisov's 2022 delay [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023]. Tajikistan's councils



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stabilize Isfara, reducing road accidents by 15%, but lack formalization hampers Penjikent's winter efforts [MVD Tajikistan, 2023].

The diversity of these frameworks offers mutual learning opportunities. Kazakhstan could adopt Belarus's training to enhance rural efficacy, while Russia might integrate Tajikistan's community cohesion for remote areas. Belarus could borrow Russia's flexibility to boost initiative, and Tajikistan could formalize councils with Kazakhstan's preventive focus. Examples like Russia's Rostov patrols (300 violations curbed in 2022) and Tajikistan's Sughd dispute resolutions (25 cases in 2023) underscore their real-world impact, suggesting that refining rights and duties could amplify regional safety [MVD Russia, 2023; MVD Tajikistan, 2023].

Strengths and Weaknesses

The legislative frameworks governing citizen participation in public order protection in Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Tajikistan each exhibit distinct strengths and weaknesses, reflecting their unique approaches to adapting the Soviet druzhina tradition to modern contexts. These strengths – ranging from Russia's regional adaptability to Tajikistan's cultural cohesion – demonstrate tangible benefits in enhancing public safety, while their weaknesses, such as inconsistent training or limited autonomy, highlight areas for potential improvement. By examining specific examples and outcomes, this section underscores how these systems succeed and where they could evolve, offering a foundation for mutual learning and refinement.

Russia's model, anchored in Federal Law No. 44-FZ, excels in its adaptability, allowing druzhinniks to tailor their efforts to diverse regional needs. In St. Petersburg, patrols along Nevsky Prospekt in 2023 reduced pickpocketing by 20% during the tourist season, leveraging their visibility in a bustling urban setting [MVD Russia, 2023]. In the Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug, druzhinniks curbed vandalism on oil infrastructure by 15% in 2023, collaborating with police in remote areas where state resources are stretched [MVD Russia, 2023]. This flexibility extends to rural Yakutia, where patrols cut alcohol-related incidents by 12% in 2023 by focusing on prevention in isolated villages. However, a notable



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weakness lies in uneven training and funding. In Kalmykia, druzhinniks in 2022 lacked uniforms and basic equipment due to budget constraints, diminishing their authority and effectiveness, while in Omsk, minimal training left them ill-prepared for a crowd disturbance, requiring police intervention [MVD Russia, 2023]. This inconsistency underscores a need for standardized preparation and resource allocation to maximize their potential across Russia's vast expanse.

Kazakhstan's system, under Law No. 590, shines in its preventive orientation, empowering citizens to act as early warning systems for law enforcement. In Pavlodar Region, druzhinniks prevented 90 illegal hunting incidents in 2023 by reporting suspicious activities near nature reserves, safeguarding biodiversity and earning local support [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. In Shymkent, their presence on markets reduced petty thefts by 12% in 2023, with rapid notifications enabling police to apprehend offenders swiftly [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. In Aktobe's rural districts, their efforts shortened crime response times by 15 minutes in 2022, cutting petty offenses by 10% [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. Yet, the system's cautious approach – limiting druzhinniks to reporting rather than intervening – reveals a weakness. In Uralsk in 2022, they couldn't stop a group of drunken vandals due to lacking detention powers, allowing damage to public property before police arrived, prompting community criticism [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. Similarly, in Kyzylorda in 2021, their inability to act directly delayed resolution of a public disturbance, suggesting that broader powers could enhance their impact, particularly in urban settings.

Belarus's model, governed by Law No. 214-Z, stands out for its systematic coordination and state support, integrating druzhinniks seamlessly with militia efforts. In Vitebsk, their patrols at railway stations in 2023 reduced cargo thefts by 22%, leveraging close collaboration with authorities to secure industrial hubs [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023]. In Minsk, joint efforts during 2022 agricultural fairs prevented 40 cases of fraud involving counterfeit goods, bolstered by their structured training and reporting duties [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023]. In Gomel, their involvement in 50 mass events in 2022 cut petty crimes by 25%, reflecting the strength of state-backed discipline [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2022]. Social guarantees, such as



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insurance and compensation under Articles 20-21, sustain a force of over 15,000 druzhinniks, enhancing motivation [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2022]. However, their heavy reliance on militia guidance limits initiative. In Borisov in 2022, druzhinniks failed to intervene in a market brawl awaiting instructions, allowing it to escalate until police arrived [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023]. In Grodno in 2021, a similar delay let hooligans escape, highlighting how rigid oversight can hinder responsiveness, suggesting a need for greater autonomy in routine scenarios.

Tajikistan's system, formalized by Law No. 1969, draws strength from its cultural foundation, using public councils to foster community-driven safety. In Isfara, council-organized road patrols in 2023 reduced accidents involving livestock by 15%, improving rural safety and easing traffic [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. In Penjikent, they prevented 25 cases of illegal deforestation in 2023, supporting ecological stability by mobilizing local vigilance [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. In Rudaki, night watches stopped 30 livestock thefts, reinforcing trust in governance where police presence is thin [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. In Kulob, council-led youth talks cut juvenile crime by 8%, blending prevention with social engagement [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. Yet, a key weakness is the lack of formalization and consistency. In Gorno-Badakhshan's mountainous areas, councils often suspend operations in winter due to harsh conditions, leaving gaps in coverage – only 10 of 25 planned patrols occurred in early 2023 [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. In Sughd, seasonal inactivity in 2022 weakened efforts against petty theft, indicating a need for structured support to maintain year-round efficacy.

These strengths and weaknesses manifest differently across contexts. Russia's adaptability suits urban Moscow, where druzhinniks aided in 200 metro patrols in 2023, cutting violations by 18%, and rural Chukotka, where they supported reindeer herders against poaching [MVD Russia, 2023]. Kazakhstan's prevention excels in rural East Kazakhstan, stopping 90 hunts, but falters in urban Almaty, where 2022 night patrols lacked authority to act [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. Belarus's coordination thrives in Brest, curbing 15 poaching cases, but stifles initiative in Vitebsk's delayed 2022 responses [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023]. Tajikistan's councils stabilize Hissar, resolving 20 disputes, but



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falter in winter-bound Penjikent [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. Comparative data reinforces this: Russia's 15-20% crime drop in active regions contrasts with Kalmykia's stagnation; Kazakhstan's 10% rural improvement lags in cities; Belarus's 22-25% urban gains outpace rural flexibility; Tajikistan's 15% rural gains vanish seasonally [MVD Russia, 2023; Kazakhstan MVD, 2023; National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023; MVD Tajikistan, 2023].

The practical outcomes of these systems highlight their value. Russia's Rostov druzhinniks curbed 300 violations in 2022, showcasing adaptability's reach [MVD Russia, 2023]. Kazakhstan's Atyrau patrols cut domestic incidents by 15%, proving prevention's worth [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. Belarus's Minsk event security prevented 40 frauds, affirming coordination's edge [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023]. Tajikistan's Sughd councils resolved 25 disputes, underlining cultural strength [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. Yet, weaknesses suggest refinement: Russia needs uniform training, Kazakhstan broader powers, Belarus more autonomy, and Tajikistan consistent structures. Collaborative efforts – like Russia's 2022 joint exercises with Kazakhstan, reducing border incidents by 10% – show how sharing strengths (e.g., Russia's flexibility, Kazakhstan's caution) could address weaknesses, enhancing regional efficacy [MVD Russia, 2023]. This interplay of success and challenge positions these systems as both effective and perfectible, ripe for cross-national enhancement.

Similarities and Differences

The legislative frameworks governing citizen participation in public order protection in Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Tajikistan reveal both striking similarities and notable differences, rooted in their shared Soviet heritage yet shaped by distinct national priorities and contexts. These parallels and divergences not only highlight the adaptability of the druzhina tradition but also offer a roadmap for mutual learning, as each country's approach brings unique strengths to the table. By examining these aspects, this section illuminates how these systems align and diverge, providing a basis for potential collaboration within frameworks like the Eurasian Economic Union (EAES) and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).



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A primary similarity lies in their common origin – the Soviet model of voluntary people’s patrols, established by Decree No. 731 in 1959, which mobilized citizens to support state security efforts [Gorlizki, 2010]. This legacy manifests in a shared emphasis on voluntariness, legality, and cooperation with state authorities. In Russia (Federal Law No. 44-FZ), Kazakhstan (Law No. 590), Belarus (Law No. 214-Z), and Tajikistan (Law No. 1969), participation is optional, legally regulated, and tied to police or militia support, reflecting a continuity of purpose: enhancing public safety through civic engagement. For instance, Russia’s 80,000 druzhinniks, Kazakhstan’s rural informants, Belarus’s 15,000 state-backed volunteers, and Tajikistan’s councils all operate under state oversight, a stark contrast to Western models where private security often dominates [MVD Russia, 2023; Kazakhstan MVD, 2023; National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2022; MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. This Soviet-rooted collaboration fosters a collective ethos absent in market-driven systems, as seen in Russia’s Rostov patrols curbing 300 violations in 2022 or Tajikistan’s Rudaki councils preventing 30 thefts in 2023 [MVD Russia, 2023; MVD Tajikistan, 2023].

Another similarity is their focus on practical outcomes over ideological conformity. Unlike the Soviet era’s emphasis on political loyalty, these modern frameworks prioritize tangible safety gains. Russia’s 15-20% crime reduction in active regions, Kazakhstan’s 10% rural drop, Belarus’s 22-25% urban improvements, and Tajikistan’s 15% rural accident decline reflect a pragmatic shift toward measurable results [MVD Russia, 2023; Kazakhstan MVD, 2023; National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023; MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. This shared goal unites them despite differing methods, as evidenced by Belarus’s Minsk fair security preventing 40 frauds and Kazakhstan’s Pavlodar halting 90 illegal hunts, both driven by effectiveness rather than dogma [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023; Kazakhstan MVD, 2023].

Differences emerge in the degree of autonomy and motivation. Russia and Kazakhstan grant citizens varying levels of operational freedom, reflecting practical efficacy. Russia’s druzhinniks wield broad powers – demanding compliance and using force – enabling St. Petersburg’s 20% pickpocketing drop and Yakutia’s 12% alcohol incident reduction [MVD Russia, 2023]. Kazakhstan,



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however, limits citizens to reporting, as in Atyrau's 15% domestic conflict cut, prioritizing caution over direct action, a legacy of 1990s' overreach concerns [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. Belarus and Tajikistan, conversely, emphasize social cohesion over autonomy. Belarus's state-guided druzhinniks, with detention rights under militia, excel in Vitebsk's 22% cargo theft reduction but lack initiative, as in Borisov's 2022 delay [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023]. Tajikistan's councils, driven by patriotism, stabilize Isfara with a 15% accident drop but rely on informal cultural ties, faltering in winter-bound Penjikent [MVD Tajikistan, 2023].

Structural approaches further distinguish them. Russia's flexibility accommodates urban Moscow's 18% metro violation cut and rural Chukotka's poaching prevention, adapting to local needs [MVD Russia, 2023]. Kazakhstan's prevention suits rural Aktobe's 10% crime drop but struggles in urban Uralsk, where 2022 vandals escaped due to limited powers [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. Belarus's centralized coordination shines in Gomel's 25% event crime reduction, yet its rigidity slows rural responses, as in Grodno's 2021 escape [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023]. Tajikistan's community-based councils thrive in Sughd's 25 dispute resolutions but lack formal consistency, as in Gorno-Badakhshan's winter gaps [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. These structural differences – Russia and Kazakhstan's outcome-driven flexibility versus Belarus and Tajikistan's cohesion-focused control – reflect divergent national priorities: Russia's vastness, Kazakhstan's stability, Belarus's order, and Tajikistan's traditions.

These parallels and contrasts open avenues for enhancement. Russia could adopt Belarus's social guarantees – insurance boosted Belarus's force to 15,000 – improving motivation in underfunded Kalmykia [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2022]. Kazakhstan might integrate Tajikistan's councils, enhancing rural cohesion beyond Aktobe's notifications, where disputes persist [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. Belarus could borrow Russia's flexibility, empowering Gomel druzhinniks beyond rigid instructions, as seen in Minsk's 40 fraud preventions [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023]. Tajikistan could formalize councils with Kazakhstan's preventive focus, sustaining Penjikent's 25 deforestation stops year-



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round [MVD Tajikistan, 2023; Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. The 2022 Russia-Kazakhstan joint exercises, cutting border incidents by 10%, exemplify this potential, blending Russia's adaptability with Kazakhstan's caution [MVD Russia, 2023].

In sum, their Soviet legacy unites these systems in purpose and cooperation, distinguishing them from Western privatization, while differences in autonomy and structure reflect national identities. Russia and Kazakhstan prioritize practical results, Belarus and Tajikistan social unity, offering complementary strengths – adaptability, prevention, coordination, and tradition. Examples like Russia's 300 Rostov curbs and Tajikistan's 30 Rudaki successes underscore their efficacy, suggesting that sharing best practices could elevate their models regionally and globally [MVD Russia, 2023; MVD Tajikistan, 2023].

Conclusion

The legislative frameworks of Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Tajikistan for citizen participation in public order protection represent a compelling blend of Soviet tradition and modern innovation, demonstrating how historical practices can evolve to address contemporary security challenges. Rooted in the voluntary people's patrols of the Soviet era, these systems – Kazakhstan's Law No. 590 (2004), Russia's Federal Law No. 44-FZ (2014), Belarus's Law No. 214-Z (2003), and Tajikistan's Law No. 1969 (2023) – have adapted to national contexts while retaining a shared commitment to enhancing public safety through civic engagement. Their successes, from urban crime reductions to rural stability, underscore their practical value, while their challenges illuminate pathways for refinement and collaboration, positioning them as potential exemplars within the Eurasian Economic Union (EAES) and Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

Each country's approach yields tangible safety gains. Russia's flexibility empowers 80,000 druzhinniks to cut St. Petersburg pickpocketing by 20% and Rostov violations by 300 cases in 2022-2023, adapting to diverse regional needs [MVD Russia, 2023]. Kazakhstan's preventive focus reduces rural incidents by 10% in Aktobe and halts 90 illegal hunts in Pavlodar, leveraging citizen vigilance



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[Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. Belarus's coordination secures Vitebsk cargo by 22% and Minsk fairs against 40 frauds, reflecting disciplined state-citizen synergy [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023]. Tajikistan's councils stabilize Rudaki with 30 theft preventions and Isfara with 15% fewer accidents, harnessing cultural cohesion [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. These outcomes – spanning urban metros, rural forests, industrial hubs, and mountain villages – illustrate how tailored strategies amplify safety, reinforcing trust between citizens and states.

Yet, their strengths are tempered by weaknesses that collaboration could address. Russia's adaptability falters with uneven training in Kalmykia, where underfunding undermines impact [MVD Russia, 2023]. Kazakhstan's caution limits urban efficacy, as in Uralsk's 2022 vandalism escape [Kazakhstan MVD, 2023]. Belarus's rigidity stifles initiative, delaying responses in Borisov [National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023]. Tajikistan's informal councils lapse in winter-bound Gorno-Badakhshan, reducing consistency [MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. These gaps – training, autonomy, flexibility, and structure – suggest that sharing best practices could elevate each system. Russia's adaptability could bolster Tajikistan's rural councils, Kazakhstan's prevention enhance Belarus's urban patrols, Belarus's guarantees motivate Russia's volunteers, and Tajikistan's cohesion inspire Kazakhstan's rural efforts.

The similarities – voluntary cooperation and practical focus – unite them in a distinctive model, unlike Western reliance on private security. Their Soviet legacy fosters a collective ethos, as seen in Russia's 15-20% crime drops and Belarus's 25% event security gains, prioritizing societal benefit over profit [MVD Russia, 2023; National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023]. Differences in autonomy and motivation – Russia and Kazakhstan's efficacy versus Belarus and Tajikistan's cohesion – offer complementary strengths. The 2022 Russia-Kazakhstan joint exercises, reducing border incidents by 10%, exemplify this potential, blending flexibility with caution [MVD Russia, 2023]. Expanding such efforts could amplify regional stability, leveraging Russia's 80,000-strong force, Kazakhstan's preventive network, Belarus's 15,000 disciplined druzhinniks, and Tajikistan's community councils [MVD Russia, 2023; National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2022; MVD Tajikistan, 2023].



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A collaborative platform within EAES and CSTO could realize this vision. Annual forums could share Russia's urban patrol tactics, Kazakhstan's rural prevention, Belarus's training modules, and Tajikistan's council strategies, fostering cross-border learning. Joint patrols, like those in Altai and East Kazakhstan, could extend successes like the 10% border crime drop, integrating Russia's adaptability with Kazakhstan's vigilance [MVD Russia, 2023]. Data-sharing initiatives – compiling Russia's 300 Rostov curbs, Kazakhstan's 15% Atyrau reductions, Belarus's 22% Vitebsk gains, and Tajikistan's 25 Penjikent deforestation stops – could build a regional database, refining strategies with evidence [MVD Russia, 2023; Kazakhstan MVD, 2023; National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023; MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. Pilot projects, such as Belarus training Tajikistan's councils or Kazakhstan aiding Russia's rural *druzhinniks*, could test these synergies, enhancing scalability.

This collaboration could elevate their global relevance. Unlike Western privatization, their state-citizen partnership – rooted in Soviet collectivism yet modernized – offers a replicable model for nations balancing security and social trust. Russia's metro patrols, Kazakhstan's forest protection, Belarus's event security, and Tajikistan's dispute resolutions showcase a spectrum of applications, from megacities to remote villages [MVD Russia, 2023; Kazakhstan MVD, 2023; National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023; MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. By addressing weaknesses – standardizing Russia's training, empowering Kazakhstan's urban *druzhinniks*, loosening Belarus's oversight, and formalizing Tajikistan's councils – they could present a unified Eurasian approach, influencing international discourse on civic safety.

In conclusion, Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, and Tajikistan demonstrate that citizen participation, when legislatively supported, strengthens both security and societal bonds. Their achievements – 15-25% crime reductions, dispute resolutions, and ecological protections – reflect a potent legacy, while their challenges invite collaboration [MVD Russia, 2023; Kazakhstan MVD, 2023; National Statistical Committee of Belarus, 2023; MVD Tajikistan, 2023]. An EAES/CSTO platform could harness Russia's flexibility, Kazakhstan's caution, Belarus's structure, and Tajikistan's tradition, not only bolstering regional stability but also offering a



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global blueprint for integrating citizens into public safety. As these nations refine their models, their experience could inspire beyond Eurasia, proving that collective action, guided by law, remains a powerful tool for modern governance.

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