

Police and the (local) community

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The Police Act (Official Gazette RS 1998/44 of 3rd July 1998, Article 21) opens up new possibilities of police co-operation "in local communities in areas concerning the improvement of security". This is an incentive for solving in common very varied issues at grassroots level and requires, in order to develop a partnership with the police, the formalisation of the possible impact and participation of the public.

A primary goal of contemporary policy of crime and deviancy management is therefore a safe community. To attain this goal, the following seems important: privatisation of some of the police tasks; the establishment of the security business; planning local crime prevention, including situational, multi-factor participation; a philanthropic approach to solving social problems, supported by contemporary etiological theories etc. The relevant legal provisions deriving from the Police Act should be adequately instrumentalised by taking into consideration also local particularities and motivations. The problems of the local community in some places are of such an extent that they require special police organisation and activity in conformity with their needs. This, however, gives rise to a process of establishing a parallel or complementary police.

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