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Security and safety in local communities – the introduction of research project

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Goals of this presentation

- 1) An overview of a research project on Security and safety in local communities in Slovenia.
- 2) To present a background of the studies on ensuring local safety and security carried out in the years 2011 and 2017.
- 3) To present results of the students' work in the framework of the course Security and safety in local communities.
- 4) To present security and safety in other countries: Portuguese, Czech Republic and Scotland.

Research project Security and safety in local communities (2015 - 2018)

Financed by the National Research Agency of Slovenia.

Goals of the research project are to analyze:

- ✓ legal issues regarding security and safety in local communities,
- ✓ safety issues in local communities (crime and disorder, victimisation),
- ✓ solutions for security and safety issues in local communities – in the aspect of national/local safety,
- ✓ institution and their capacity in provision of security and safety in local communities,
- ✓ quality of life in local communities and social prevention,
- ✓ good practices in ensuring local security and safety.

Research activities (2015 – 2018)

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|-----------|---|
| 2015 | 1 st national conference on local safety: a literature review |
| 2016 | 2 nd national conference on local safety: drafting questionnaires for a community survey |
| 2016-2017 | a bilateral project (SLO-USA) |
| 2016-2018 | a bilateral project (SLO-RU) |
| 2017 | data collection (a representative study) |
| 2017 | 3 rd national conference on local safety |
| 2018 | final analysis and publications |
| 2018 | 4 th national conference on local safety: research findings |

A study on ensuring safety and security in local communities

Methods:

- data gathering in the year 2011 and 2017 (the same questionnaire),
 - variables were measured on a 5-point Likert scale,
 - surveying residents and police officers in 24 local communities in Slovenia on the area of 8 police directorates (with each directorate – one small, middle and bigger municipality).
 - The sample for each municipality was defined based on demographic data.
- Size of the samples (residents):
 - 2011: $n = 959$
 - 2017: $n = 1.266$

A study on ensuring safety and security in local communities

The questionnaire included the following fields of research:

- the role of municipality in ensuring residents' safety,
- social cohesion in local communities,
- safety and security issues in local communities,
- response to safety and security issues,
- the role of Slovenian army,
- the means of ensuring safety in the future,
- the opinion on Slovenian police.

Students activities

- Research activities in the framework of the course Security and safety in local communities (M.A. study).
- Goal of the research activities – to analyze data of the study on local safety from the year 2011 and 2017.
- Activities:
 - selection of the topics from the questionnaire (based on the results of factor analysis),
 - literature reviews of the selected topics,
 - statistical analyses of data from the study (descriptive statistics, t-test, chi-square, ANOVA),
 - presentation of results and findings.

Topics discussed today...

Slovenian students:

- Ester Doljak, Katrin Podgorski: **Police officers' perspectives on street crime in Slovenia**
- Ana Novak, Eva Završnik: **Police officers' perspectives on social cohesion in the neighbourhood**
- Marko Kaluža: **Police Officers' Perspectives on Migrations as a Security Threat**
- Andrej Bračko: **Police officers' perspectives on environmental crime**
- Anja Kapla: **Police officers' perspectives on alcohol and drug related offences in Slovenia**

Erasmus students:

- Radek Novák: **Security Policy and Crime Prevention in the Czech Republic**
- Megan Smith: **Scottish Security in Localised and Community Settings: Organisation and Regulation**
- Maressa Pavuna: **Portuguese Strategies to Keep the Local Community Safe**

Thank you for your attention!