

## **Partnership in providing security in a local community - wishes, ideals and obstacles**

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The paper presents the European Charter on Urban Environments and a study on possibilities of using this charter in planning preventive and security activities in the municipalities of Celje, Žalec, Polzela, Prebold, Velenje, Trebnje, Nova Gorica, Ajdovščina, Tolmin, Bovec, Kobarid, Vipava, Most na Soči, Ljubljana, Šentjernej, Škocjan and Novo mesto. Research findings indicate that contemporary prevention of crime on a local level is only at the beginning in Slovenia, due to a centralized system and undefined role of municipalities in providing public security and crime prevention.

Foreign experiences should be taken into consideration in planning crime prevention, because they demonstrate that crime prevention and efforts to ensure people's security in local communities can be easily distorted into a "people friendly" refined control, implying a widening of the net of formal social control which bears no relation to true preventive activity but rather serves a growing "policisation" of a local community. This can be prevented by including representatives of institutions and all parts of the community in bodies that decide on priorities regarding security and crime problems, assume responsibility for these priorities and define the role of security councils in municipalities. These councils are in most cases ad hoc bodies advising mayors.

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