

Residents' Feelings of Safety and the Role of the Police: A Pilot Study in Kočevje and Bela Krajina

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Feelings of safety contribute significantly to the quality of life of residents in local communities. In this study, we focus on the comparison of safety and the perception of the role of the police and other institutions of formal social control in local communities between Roma and other residents in South-Eastern Slovenia. Multivariate analyses were conducted on a random sample of 228 residents (46 Roma and 182 other residents) from Kočevje and Bela Krajina, which were used to determine similarities and differences in the perceptions of safety, the effectiveness of the police and other stakeholders in ensuring security in local communities between Roma and other inhabitants. The results of regression analyses showed that feelings of safety among Roma and other residents are influenced by their perceptions of the effectiveness of the police and the role of institutions of formal social control. At the same time, the results of the multivariate analysis of variance showed statistically significant differences between the groups, as Roma perceived the effectiveness of the police and the importance of institutions of formal social control in the local communities for providing safety and security more positively, while the rest of the population attributed greater importance to social prevention.

Keywords: feelings of safety, police efficiency, Roma, Kočevje, Bela Krajina, Slovenia

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