

8TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON LOCAL SAFETY AND SECURITY



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POLICE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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A line of police officers in dark blue uniforms and caps, standing at attention in profile. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

Introduction

- **Definitions:**
- *The police* are a government agency responsible for maintaining public order and safety, enforcing the law, and preventing, detecting, and investigating crimes.
- *Local government* is the administration of a specific geographic area (such as a city, town, or district) by elected or appointed officials.
- *Police and local government* often work closely together to maintain public safety, enforce laws, and address community needs.

Local government role

- *Sets the budget for the police force.*
- *Creates policies that guide law enforcement (e.g., rules for how police should interact with the community).*
- *Oversees the overall functioning of the police department, often through city councils or local boards.*
- *May be involved in setting priorities for police activities (e.g., crime reduction or traffic enforcement).*



Government
of Montenegro

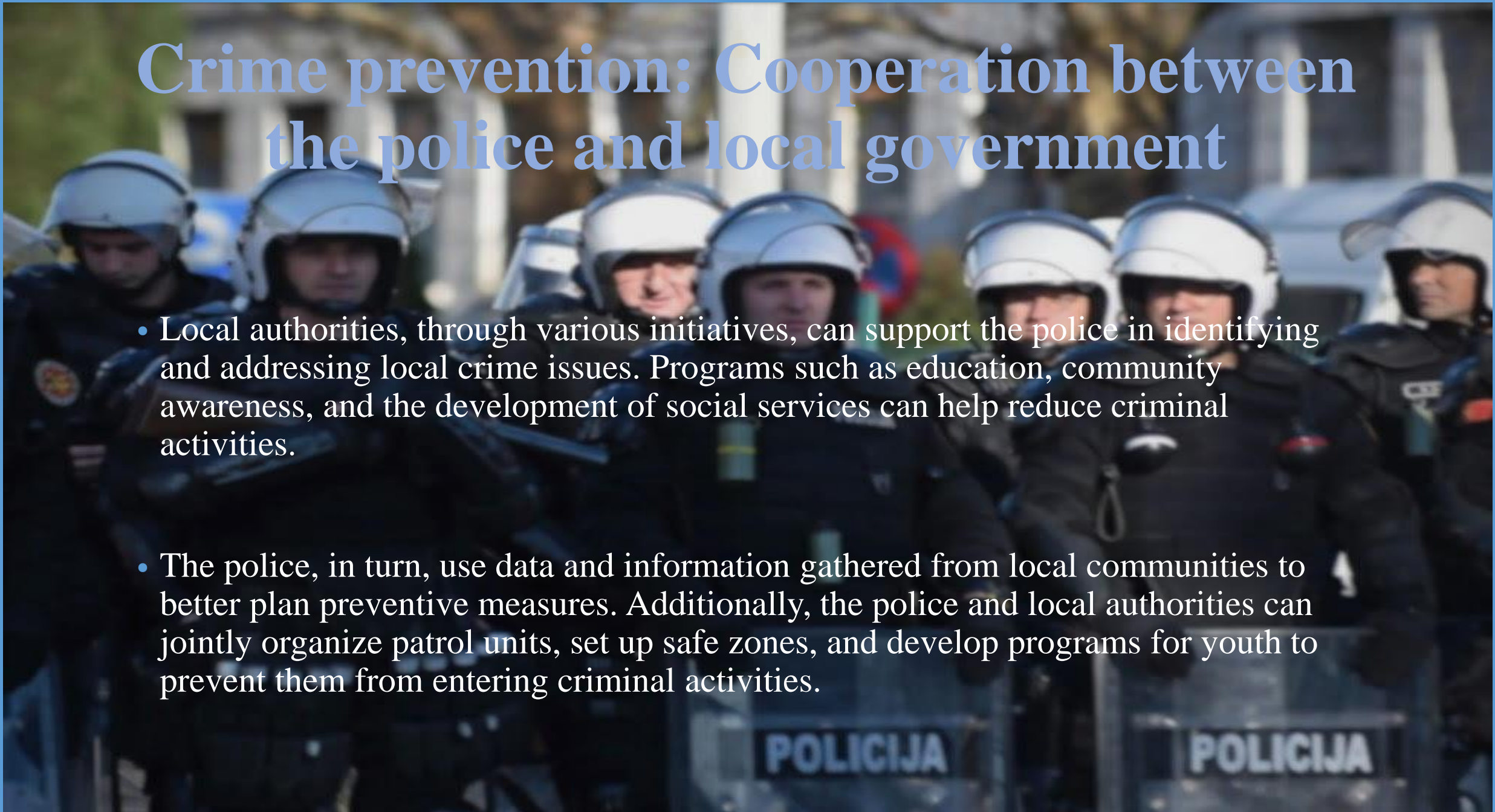
Police role



- *Enforces laws and ordinances created by the local government.*
- *Responds to emergencies and incidents in the community.*
- *Works with the local government to ensure the safety of citizens, including engaging in crime prevention efforts, community outreach, and providing public safety services.*
- *Police also have a role in building trust and positive relationships within the communities they serve.*

Crime prevention: Cooperation between the police and local government

- Local authorities, through various initiatives, can support the police in identifying and addressing local crime issues. Programs such as education, community awareness, and the development of social services can help reduce criminal activities.
- The police, in turn, use data and information gathered from local communities to better plan preventive measures. Additionally, the police and local authorities can jointly organize patrol units, set up safe zones, and develop programs for youth to prevent them from entering criminal activities.



Legal Framework



The legal foundation for police–municipality cooperation in Montenegro is built on several key laws:

1. **Law on Internal Affairs** – defines the responsibilities and authority of police forces.
2. **Law on Police** – outlines operational structures, powers, and obligations of police units, including their cooperation with other public bodies.
3. **Law on Local Self-Government** – grants municipalities certain competencies in security matters, particularly in creating safe urban environments, supporting prevention programs, and collaborating with the police.

Additionally, the National Strategy for Community Safety and Crime Prevention supports structured collaboration between national and local levels of governance.

Maintaining security through Anti-drug projects

- **Anti-drug projects** are organized efforts or programs aimed at preventing drug use, reducing drug-related crimes, and helping individuals recover from addiction. That means Prevention and Education Programs (youth education, community campaigns and specialized programs for parents) and Coordination Between the Police and Local Government in Implementing Laws (joint actions against drug distribution and enforcement and sanctions).
- Key goals of anti-drug projects:
- **Prevent drug use** – through education and awareness campaigns, especially targeting youth.
- **Reduce drug supply** – by supporting police operations to stop drug trafficking and distribution.
- **Support recovery** – by offering rehabilitation, counseling, and treatment services for those struggling with addiction.
- **Engage the community** – by involving families, schools, and local groups in creating safe, drug-free environments.



**STOP
DRUG**

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF
DRUG ABUSE
AND
ILLICIT TRAFFICKING
26 JUNE

Police and local government in Montenegro

COOPERATION MECHANISMS: Cooperation between the police and local government in Montenegro is essential for maintaining public safety and addressing local security concerns effectively. These two sectors collaborate primarily through **Local Security Councils**, which include representatives of the police, municipal authorities, educational institutions, NGOs, and community leaders. Municipalities often support the police with logistical resources, infrastructure (e.g., office space, surveillance systems), and funding for community-oriented projects. Regular coordination meetings ensure alignment of actions and responsiveness to local needs.

CRIME PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY SAFETY: Montenegro's crime prevention strategies emphasize proactive and community-based approaches. Police departments, in collaboration with municipalities, organize: **educational workshops** in schools to prevent youth delinquency, **neighborhood patrols** to increase visibility and reduce petty crime and **public awareness campaigns**.



Specialized police units:

Montenegro's police system includes a number of **specialized units** that address specific areas of crime and public security. These units often operate at the national level but coordinate with local governments when interventions are needed in municipalities. Key units include:

- **Criminal Police Directorate** – *responsible for investigating serious crimes*
- **Special Anti-Terrorism Unit (SAJ)** – *handles counter-terrorism operations, hostage situations, and high-risk interventions*
- **Drug Enforcement Units** – *monitor and suppress drug trafficking, often working in coordination with international agencies.*
- **Border Police** – *manage surveillance and control of Montenegro's borders, especially in cooperation with local municipalities near border areas.*
- **Traffic Police Units** – *frequently work with local governments to regulate road safety, improve infrastructure, and reduce accidents.*

These specialized units work in synergy with local authorities to ensure swift and effective response in emergencies, criminal investigations, and public disturbances.

Regulation of Public Gatherings

- **Notification of the Event**: In Montenegro, organizers of public gatherings are required to notify the relevant authorities about the event, including details such as the time, location, and expected duration. This allows the police and other relevant institutions to take measures to ensure public safety and comply with the law.
- **Restrictions**: Although the right to freedom of assembly is protected, the law allows for certain restrictions under specific circumstances. For example, a gathering may be prohibited if there is a serious threat of violence, disruption of public order, or violation of other human rights.



Summary

- The collaboration between **police and local government** in Montenegro represents a crucial element of modern public safety governance. Although the police function under centralized state control, municipalities contribute significantly through support in prevention strategies, local safety councils, and community outreach. **This cooperation enhances responsiveness to local needs, strengthens trust between institutions and citizens, and promotes more effective crime prevention.** To conclude, continued development of legal frameworks, institutional coordination, and investment in community-based policing will be vital for ensuring long-term public security and aligning with European standards of democratic governance.

Literature

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Thank you
For Your Attention