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## Application of some research methods to determine the level of safety in municipalities

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### Abstract

The issue of safety has always been one of the strongest of perceived human needs. Feeling safe is second in the hierarchy of basic needs, right after physiological needs. Safety is currently one of the most important determinants affecting quality of life. This is why it is important to pay special attention to this issue. To increase the level of safety for citizens, local governments should be able to assess adequately their current safety status. For the purpose of determining that status, local governments should use research methods that would identify weak points in safety status. A municipality should try to eliminate the weaknesses found. Municipalities should also determine strengths in regard to safety and try to maintain or to improve them. Research methods should thus represent a way for solution to the problem. In this paper we try to highlight the benefits of the research methods used in the process of determining the safety level of municipalities. Every method has both advantages and disadvantages; the contribution focuses on the selection of the most appropriate methods for assessment the current state of safety. Research requires more methods which depend on hypotheses. A correct understanding and assessment of the current state of safety with properly selected research methods will be a guiding factor for increasing safety.

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*Keywords:* Safety, Determine, Municipalities, Research methods.

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## 1. Introduction

Act on Municipalities defines the standing of a municipality as an independent territorial self-governed unit of the Slovak Republic, which associates the persons having permanent residence on its territory. Likewise, a municipality is a legal entity which can independently manage its own property and its own revenues under conditions determined by law. Its fundamental role when performing self-administration is care of the overall development and focusing on the needs of its citizens. Limitations and obligations may be placed on it only by law and on the basis of an international treaty. A municipality likewise has the right of association with other municipalities in the interest of achieving common prosperity (Act no. 369/1990 Coll. on Municipalities). One of the most important needs of citizens is public safety. Municipality should create safe environment for their citizens. To create effectively safe environment it must be known actual situation in municipality, but also an opinion of citizens. To achieve this goal should be used method of research questionnaire, which is applicable for municipality, with suitable questions. Results will show level of public safety, options for improvement, and also new ideas for municipality from the view of their citizens.

## 2. Safety of a municipality

A municipality uses its own revenues as well as state subsidies to finance its needs. The law dictates to a municipality which fees and taxes constitute municipal revenues (Štofko, 2011). The financial resources of a municipality represent its shares in the form of cash, equivalent monetary resources and also various forms of deposits in financial institutions. The financial resources of the municipality are a conditional quantity that captures the state of finances as of a certain date. They are the most liquid element of the total assets that it is possible to use at a given moment for the payment of liabilities. With time deposits there is a relative limitation of immediate use (Štofková, 2015). A municipality should utilize monetary resources as effectively as possible and attempt to save in the event of future need. According to how the essence and importance of safety is perceived, we can categorize individual approaches to safety as, for example, a status in relation to a danger, threat or risk, as a subjective feeling, as the capability of an entity to create its own protection and last but not least also as a legal viewpoint (Belan, 2015). The safety of a municipality represents the sum of all activities focused on the protection of the life interests of all subjects of municipal safety, its residents as well as its assets. The overall safety of a municipality may be understood as follows:

- the safety of a municipality outside the period of resolving a crisis situation,
- the prevention and resolution of crisis situations

Both mentioned sets contain many different areas of safety, which in the end result create the conditions for the overall safety of a municipality. These individual areas of safety can be referred to in summary as the safety sector of a municipality.

The subsector of municipal safety outside periods of resolving crisis situations represents the part of the safety sector of a municipality which is made up of security areas that need to be continuously monitored and improved each day. Table 1 shows areas of municipal safety outside of periods of resolving crisis situations:

Table 1. Areas of municipal safety outside of periods of resolving crisis situations

1. Safety of persons and property	2. Safety of the environment	3. A secure business environment
1.1. Physical safety (persons and property)	2.1. General protection of nature	3.1 Economic security
1.2. Occupational safety and health	2.2. Special protection of nature	3.2. Financial security
1.3. Safety of operations	2.3. Protection of cultural landmarks	3.3. Production safety
1.4. Information security		3.4. Design safety
1.5. Computer security		3.5. Protection from flooding and misconduct
1.6. Safety and protection of internal order		

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