



Roundtable discussion

The Challenges and Opportunities of the Local Public Safety Councils (LPSC)

Date: 25 November 2021, Time 10.00- 12.00

Format: Hybrid

The Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) with the financial support of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) and in partnership with the Coordination Center Against Violent Extremism (CVE) are implementing the program: "Sustainable community-based reintegration of Albanian nationals returning from Syria". The program is implemented in the municipalities of *Tirana, Kavaja, Cerrik, Librazhd, Pogradec, Mat, Shkodër, and Kukës*.

The Albanian government through CVE and its various partners is addressing the issue of reintegration as a crucial priority by investing in the preparation and capacity building of various public actors. IDM is one of the actors involved in this process and considers interventions at the community level as an important part of the responsibility of institutions at the local level. One of the perspectives of this approach is through the Local Public Safety Councils (LPSC), which are becoming a key multi-agency instrument. The majority of participating municipalities in this event might have their own experiences with the functioning of the LPSC, while a few others like Shkoder and Tirana Municipalities are on the process of taking such an initiative.

The experience to date in different municipalities of the country has shown that the regulatory basis of the establishment and functioning of the Local Public Safety Councils is different. This difference has to do with the objectives and organizational structure, consultation and decision-making processes, the level of civic involvement, the role of various institutions in this process. Such differences, combined with a dynamic process of consultation and accountability impact on the sustainability and effectiveness of the work of Local Public Safety Councils.

Meanwhile, over the last 2-3 years, IDM has initiated a more comprehensive model of crime prevention at the local level which relies on the interaction among the municipality, police and prosecution based on a cyclical model of cooperation and public accountability. In this context, IDM has drafted a draft regulation for the functioning of the LPSC¹ which takes into account the experience and ongoing challenges regarding public safety.

A multi-agency local approach would be an effective mechanism in dealing not only with traditional threats related to law enforcement, property and individual integrity, the fight against drugs, domestic violence or even further challenges of economic, social and developmental character. But, it would also be the most suitable mechanism for social cohesion, integration, coping with migratory flows and reintegration into society of asylum seekers and refugees fleeing from armed conflict.

¹ For the municipality of Tirana, IDM in cooperation with representatives from the municipality of Tirana can draft a regulation for the context of Tirana.

To discuss the experience so far in the framework of the functioning of the LPSC and the draft regulation on the LPSC, IDM invites senior representatives of municipalities, state police, prosecutors, and various institutions at the local level to share experiences and perspectives on this issue.

In this context, the Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM) will hold a roundtable discussion on the challenges and opportunities of the Local Public Safety Councils (LPSC). Participating municipalities will share their experiences on the functioning of the LPSC and IDM will present a draft regulation on the functioning of the LPSCs. This model is piloted in several municipalities, and senior representatives from the Municipality of Elbasan will bring their experience.

The event will take place on **Thursday, November 25 2021, from 10:00 to 12:00**, at the premises of Tirana International Hotel and online via the Zoom platform. You are kindly requested to express your interest for participation at: abruci@idmalbania.org, **before November 18, 2021**.

Agenda:

Time	Themes
10:00 - 10:20	Opening remarks - <i>Mr. Sotirag Hroni, Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM)</i> - <i>Ms. Lejdi Dervishi, Center Against Violent Extremism (CVE)</i> - <i>Mr. Saimir Plaku, Agency For Support of Local Self-Government</i> - <i>Senior Representative of the Prosecution</i> - <i>Senior Representative of the State Police</i>
10:20 - 10:45	Sharing experience from local institutions (municipality, police, prosecution) <i>Senior representatives of local institutions</i>
10:45 - 11:00	Presentation of a draft regulation on the functioning of the LPSCs <i>Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM)</i>
11:00 - 11:10	Comment on the draft regulation and the experience of the municipality of Elbasan in drafting the LPSC action plan <i>Mr. Ervin Muço, Municipality of Elbasan</i>
11:10 - 11:45	Questions and discussions
11.45 - 12:00	Closing remarks <i>Center Against Violent Extremism (CVE)</i> <i>Institute for Democracy and Mediation (IDM)</i>