Municipal Community Safety Councils

In 2009, Municipal Community Safety Councils, local security mechanisms, were created to improve community safety and stability. The MCSC include representatives of all ethnic and religious communities residing in the municipality and a broad cross-section of community stakeholders who play a role in the community’s long-term prosperity. They should meet at least six times per year. To date, MCSCs have been established in 34 municipalities. The MCSCs take a comprehensive approach in determining what entails community safety and who is responsible for creating a safe environment. Safety and security of communities are the responsibility not only of Kosovo Police, but also of government officials and civil society and the MCSCs provide a unique forum to bring these stakeholders together.

Key documents regulating the establishment and mandate of the MCSCs are the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) Administrative Instruction No. 27/2012 and the Ministry of Local Government Administration Administrative (MLGA) Instruction No. 03/2012 for municipal community safety councils.

* According to Article 4 of the Administrative Instruction No. 27/2012 MIA and Administrative Instruction No. 03/2012 MLGA for municipal community safety councils, each community residing in the municipality should have an MCSC representative, regardless of the size or sense of ethnic belonging of the population. This, however, is difficult to achieve in practice for communities with very small populations. Therefore this assessment also includes a more lenient approach—also assessing compliance for community representation against the census results for communities with more than 50 members residing in the municipality.
The OSCE Mission in Kosovo supports the improvement of institutions mandated to address communities’ security concerns. To assist in this effort, the OSCE regularly monitors the performance of municipal communities’ protection mechanisms. These information sheets aim to provide the relevant institutions with indicators that can assist in identifying gaps and improvement in compliance.

The MCSC mandate expired after local elections in October 2017.