

THE CITIZENS' PERCEPTIONS ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE POLICE TO THE FEELING OF SAFETY

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Subjects of the analysis are the survey results about the feeling of safety in the Republic of Macedonia, obtained through the surveys conducted in from 2008-2015. The accent is on the contribution of the police for the feeling of safety among the citizens. The survey results show that the assessment of the contribution of the police for the feeling of safety differs each year. One of the research questions refers to the causes for these oscillations. Subjects of further analysis are the questions related to the general notion of the respondents' safety. This set of questions relate to the social relationships, especially to the general notion of the security environment and the possibility for individual progress within the community. We are interested about the attitudes related to (1) the living in the environment, (2) the functioning of the state bodies, (3) the ability for self-protection, (4) the way of living and the attitude to the norms, rules and standards, (5) practicing a coexistence in the country, (6) the employment and economic stability, (7) the attitude toward the legal system, (8) the revenue realization, (9) other indicators that are subjects of the analysis.

Key words: safety, police, prevention, community policing, cooperation police-citizens

Introduction

The feeling of safety is usually associated to the term threat, or 'insecurity'. By default this concept is negatively determined. Actually it is all about threat - i.e. a term that refers to a number of conditions and contents. The term 'insecurity' is also closely related to the concept of human security. This concept was introduced by the 1994 UN Human Development Report, which stated that 'the idea of human security, though simple, is likely to revolutionize society in the 21st century.' It also set a view that the term security was

defined too narrowly, and was concentrated on the threats to the states and national sovereignty; it concluded that there is a need to redefine security in order to include both the individual and the community.

In this context one can legitimately raise the following question: what makes the humans feel insecure (threatened) (Bellamy, A. J. and McDonald quoted by Winslow 2006, 16)? As an answer to that question the UN agency gives a list of sources of threats (insecurity):

1. The economic insecurity: dangers of unemployment, insecurity at the working place, bad conditions at work, inequality in terms of income, inflation, poorly developed social safety net and homelessness.
2. Food insecurity: problems relating to the physical and economic access to food.
3. Health insecurity: threats to health and life due to infectious and parasitic diseases, HIV and other viruses, diseases caused by air pollution or water, and inadequate access to the health services.
4. Environmental insecurity: degradation of local and global ecosystems, water scarcity, floods and other natural disasters, irrational deforestation and pollution of water, air and land.
5. Personal insecurity, threats of physical violence by the state and criminal organizations, or within the family, the workplace, as well as threats from industrial and traffic accidents.
6. Community insecurity: threats of ethnic tensions and violent clashes.
7. Political insecurity: threats of state repression and those who violate the human rights.

The human security concept is a rather vague one. Here we do not refer to the differences between the general and the specific threats to human security. The explanations move from the impact of such an approach to the policies and the behavior of the international community to certain issues, to giving means to the subjects included in prevention from challenges and threats. For example, after 9/11 terrorism has gained far greater significance at the expense of other pressing issues such as poverty, malnutrition and global warming and other pressing problems. Life in the big cities is endangered by a range of specific risks and security threats. Any organized society implements different strategies for crime and violence prevention, but also observes regularly delinquency trends and levels of feeling of insecurity, especially in the public spaces. Some researchers (Hristić – Danilović 2010) have concluded that in the big cities 'there is objective insecurity that

refers to the rational relationship between the feeling of fear among the citizens and the level of other exposure to any kind of violence in public space; on the other hand, there is subjective insecurity that refers to ungrounded fear from violence that do not correspond to the real state of affairs.

The phenomenon of the feeling of insecurity is cornerstone of any survey in which more emphasis is placed on the degree of violence and the feeling of vulnerability. James Wilson and George Kelling (1982) analyzed the accumulation of the "social" disorder (alcohol, gangs, violence on the streets, selling drugs etc.) and the "spatial" disorder (vandalism, abandoned buildings, trash, etc.) in some city neighborhoods in the US. According to them, these phenomena contributed to the increased sense of insecurity and produced shifts towards the mechanisms of informal control. Any similar situation affects, for instance, real estate market because life becomes uncertain and leads to desertification of the quarters engulfed by disorder and violence. The feeling of insecurity and fear have affected the media and expressed their interest and private security companies. Such is the case with the increased incidents among the high school students in Skopje in 2008-2010, which resulted in rapid engagement of private security companies and establishment of patrol officers (in the schools, some neighborhoods) by the state.

Numerous research projects come to the conclusion that there is a complex and dependent relationship between violence, fear, personal feeling of unsafety and the change of attitude among the subjects affected. From a point of view of the individual or the community, there is a fear for personal security and security of the family; under such circumstances personal mobility gets reduced, and there is no wish to leave the space which is believed to be safe (usually the house/apartment, the closest people, the neighborhood, the street, the part of the city).

One of the issues that get high interest in the academic circles relates to the definition of the terms security and security science/security studies. The term security is used under different terms in different language systems¹. In the further discussion, in a form of hypothesis some of the debates about this term will be reviewed not in order to find 'final solutions', but rather to get impression about the complexity of the phenomenon and the methodological problems and dilemmas. According to Radoslav Gacinovic (2007, pp. 3-

¹ English - security, Slovenian - varnost, French - sécurité, German - sicherheit, Spanish - seguridad, Russian - безопасность, Turkish - güvenlik, Ukrainian - безпека, Swedish - säkerhet, Bulgarian - сигурност, Albanian - siguri, sigurim, Serbian - безбедност, Croatian - sigurnost.

4), from an etymological point of view, the term originates from the Latin *securitas/atis* which means lack of danger, certainty, self-confidence, courage, and protection). The designated terminological expression served as a foundation in the study of complex theoretical problem of security (Mojanoski 2010, pp. 3-4). English language differentiates security and safety. The term security is commonly used to denote "national security". The term safety, in turn, means ability to act, to avoid undesirable situations or security implications. Security is a condition in which there are some legal entities involved, i.e. condition of relative presence or absence of danger and/or use of remedies by entities entitled by the state (Miletic 1997). Walter Lippmann argues that the nation is secure to the extent that it is not in danger of sacrificing its core values. Arnold Wolfers believes that only "in an objective sense the security is measured by the absence of threats to acquired values and subjective sense the absence of fear, therefore, that these values can be threatened (attacked)."

The security is a phenomenon, a process, a structure, a status and a subject studied by philosophy and science. It is also a matter of concern to other forms of knowledge, such as religious, common sense and artistic knowledge. It deals with finding answers about the nature of the destruction, the risks and terms of creating the conditions and environment in which the human life is created and enhanced. Its interests are the values: a) whether, how, what and why are they endangered; b) how to improve, enhance or eliminate their threat and by whom, with what measures and against whom to take these? (Spaseski 2010)

Method and instruments

The quest for answers about the starting assumptions is based on the findings of numerous surveys conducted at the Faculty of Security. Special emphasis is on the surveys (2008-2015) entitled 'The opinions of the citizens of Republic of Macedonia about the work of the police' realized in the period from December 2013 to January 2014. The research (field) activities were conducted every year in the period between 8-20 January. The number of respondents by year differed in the following way: in 2008 there were 1163 respondents, in 2009 there were 1318, in 2010 there were 1440, in 2011 there were 1240, in 2012 there were 1138, in 2014 there were 1167 and in 2015 there were 1016 respondents. Representativeness of the respondents by gender, ethnicity, and territorial distribution has been secured. The sample is multi-staged (Mojanoski 2013). It was done by selection from the population in municipalities by regions in which the survey will be conducted. Then it

was visited every fifth home, or every twentieth apartment in the buildings. In the selected family was interviewed the adult citizen who had the closest birthday to the date of the visit.

For the needs of the surveys the researchers made: a) Base for conversation: 'The opinions of the citizens from the Republic of Macedonia about the work of the police' and a questionnaire, analytic table for data processing, Codex of codes and a Manual about the use of the base for conversation and securing an interlocutor.

The aim of the base for conversation was questioning the citizens' attitudes. It is constructed for the needs of this survey in a form of socio-demographic questionnaire, designed and structured in a form of questionnaire including the demographic characteristics of the respondents and a certain number of battery questions through which the respondents should determine their feeling about if the police contributes, if they have had a contact with it and how they mark the contact with the policeman (Mojanoski 2012). The method of data collection is structured interview. Actually all the respondents are asked same questions formulated according to the need of the given situation. The structured interview attempts to create as much more objective conditions as possible: all the candidates are asked by the same criteria and they are all given equal time for presenting.

The form of the questions in basic refers to their explicit attitude about the feeling of safety.

Results and discussion

The safety arises from the needs of the individual. It is an interest for keeping the personal and the collective goods, but also a warning about the possible damages of the adopted social values.

The subject of the further analysis are some of the data from the survey of the 'Citizens' opinion about the work of the police'. The results shown in Table 1 indicate that in the past eight years the positive answers are dominant. Namely, they vary from something more than a half in 2009, when 52,32% of the respondents gave a positive answer. Such tendency increases to more than three quarters or 76,26% in 2014.

Table No 1 Do you feel safe in the environment where you live/work?

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1 I don't feel safe	24,91	32,09	16,28	16,75	19,31	16,87	23,74	21,46
2 I feel safe	59,14	52,32	67,97	67,48	64,30	66,61	76,26	62,01
3 I cannot assess	15,95	15,59	15,75	15,77	16,40	16,52	0,00	16,54
Total	100,0	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

What is the dynamic of the answers by years like? Or, is it possible to be set specific tendencies and what are they result of?

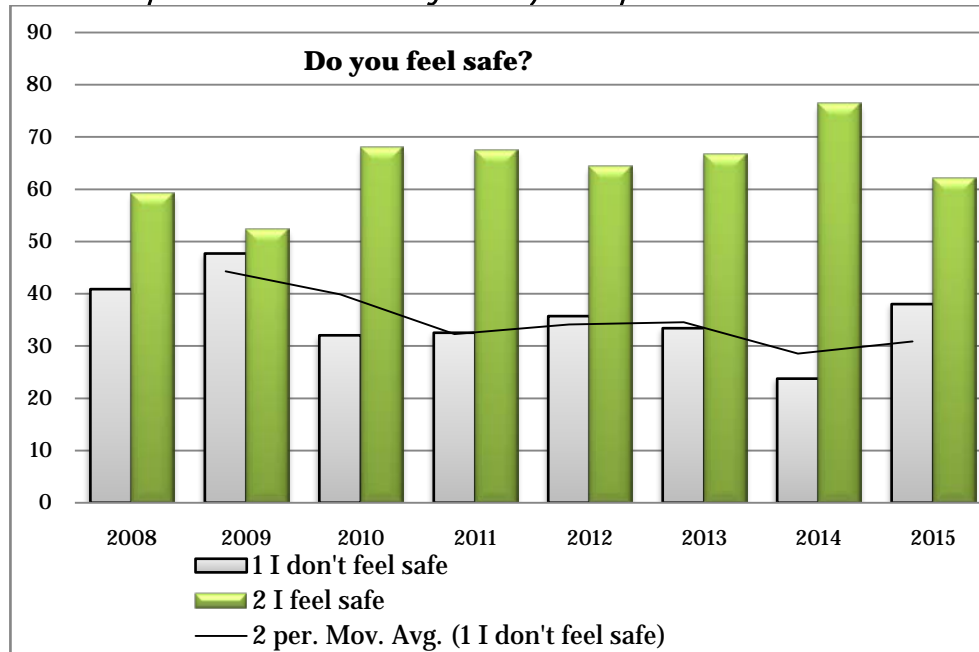
Table No 2 Do you feel safe in the environment where you live/work?-rates

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1 I don't feel safe	-	32,28	-33,17	11,69	-5,56	-14,48	-26,72	39,35
2 I feel safe	-	0,29	29,22	9,22	-18,02	-5,28	18,04	-29,21

If we look at the dynamic of the feeling of threat we can conclude that in 2009 it is higher for 32,28% compared to the previous year 2008, but also that is lower for 33,197% compared to 2009. In 2015 that feeling was higher for 39,35% compared to 2014.

The feeling of safety is higher for less than one percent in 2009 compared to 2008, in 2010 for 29,22% compared to 2009, but it is lower in 2012,2013 and in 2015 for - 18,28% in 2012, -5,28% in 2013 and for -29,21% in 2015 compared to the previous year.

Chart No 1 Respondents about the feeling of safety in the period from 2008 to 2015-



From the table and the graphic display it can be concluded that there is a relative constant tendency of presence of the feeling of insecurity among the respondents, or among the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia. In 2008 15,95 % of the respondents have answered that they cannot decide if they feel safe, in 2009 that number is 15,59%, in 2010 15,75%, in 2011 15,77%, in 2012 16,40%, in 2013 16,52% and in 2015 that number is 16,54%. We can conclude that 15% of all the respondents cannot answer if they feel safe or unsafe.

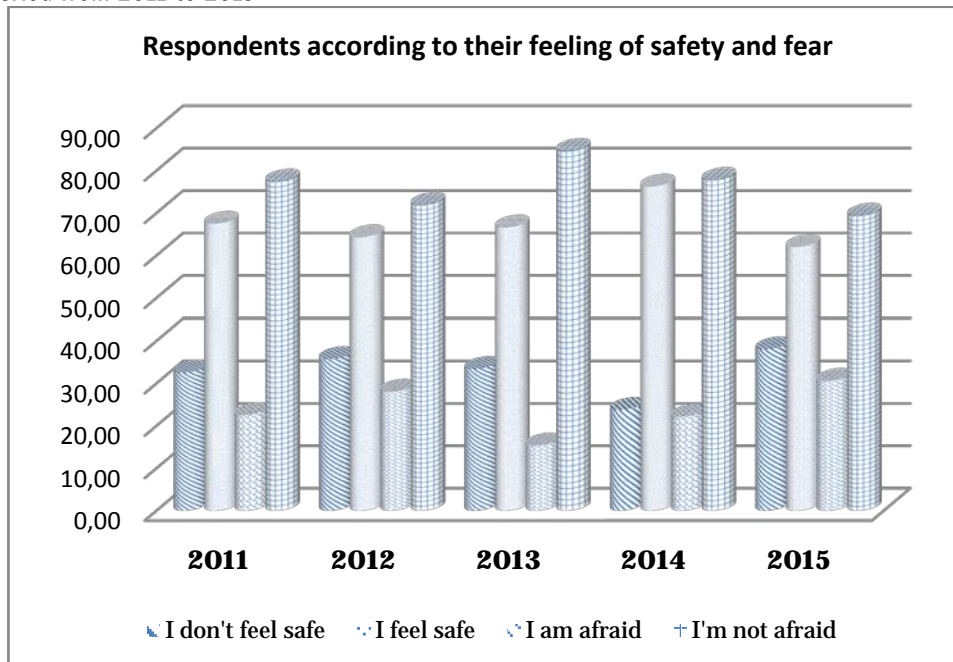
Such tendencies can be a consequence of multiple assumptions. For example, halls fear is one that affects the sense of vulnerability (insecurity). In the same survey, from 2011 onwards the question: Are you afraid? The answers are given in the following Table:

Table No 3 Are you afraid?

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1 Yes	22,56	28,07	15,36	22,19	30,61
2 No	77,44	71,93	84,64	77,81	69,39
Total	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

The data refer that those who are afraid are more than a fifth in 2011, and one third in 2015. The exception from this tendency is 2013 when on that question positively answered only 15,36%.

Chart No 2 Respondents according to their feeling of safety and their feeling of fear in the period from 2011 to 2015



It can be seen that in 2011, 32.52% of respondents responded that they feel unsafe, of which 22.56% confirmed that are afraid. In 2012 this ratio shows that 35,71% are threatened, and 28.07% timid. More specifically was the situation in 2013 where the percentage of those who fear was 15.36%, and those who feel unsafe (endangered) 33.39%. In the next two years in 2014 and 2015 the proportion of those who fear and those who feel

is getting closer. The closest this proportion was in 2014 when 23.74% of respondents said they feel unsafe, and 22.19% confirmed that fear. Similar were the responses in 2015, when 38.00 of respondents say that they do not feel safe, or 30.61% are afraid.

Is there an intensity of the relation between the variables unsafe and scared and between the variables safe and I'm not scared. The best indicator for answering that question is χ^2 test of independent samples. The value of $\chi^2 = 3,247$ $p=0,513$ and the coefficient of contingency $C=0,107$. The result show that the two variables are independent i.e. that it can't be said for sure that there is a connection between the feeling of threat and the feeling of fear. If the same procedure check whether there is a link between the intensity on paragraph feel safe and not afraid, or whether the sense of security is correlated with a sense of courage (not afraid), testing is performed with χ^2 test and determined the level o 0.05% and a degree of freedom (df) 4 $\chi^2 = 0,9301$ $p = 0,92$. The coefficient of contingency of $C = 0,036$, or link between the two variables is 3.6%. And this test indicates that the two variables are independent and cannot determine the intensity of the connection between them. That sense of security and a sense of courage are a result of other variables.

The answers on the question: "Do you feel safe in the environment where you live and work, does the police contributes that feeling?" are presented in the following table:

Table No 4 If you feel safe in the environment where you live and work, whether the police contributes that feeling?

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1 Yes	48,54	48,69	42,58	42,56	43,66	44,57	57,41	35,64
2 No	22,39	25,94	25,98	26,14	25,52	28,05	40,53	30,06
3 I cannot assess	29,07	25,37	31,44	31,30	30,82	27,37	2,06	34,30
Total	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

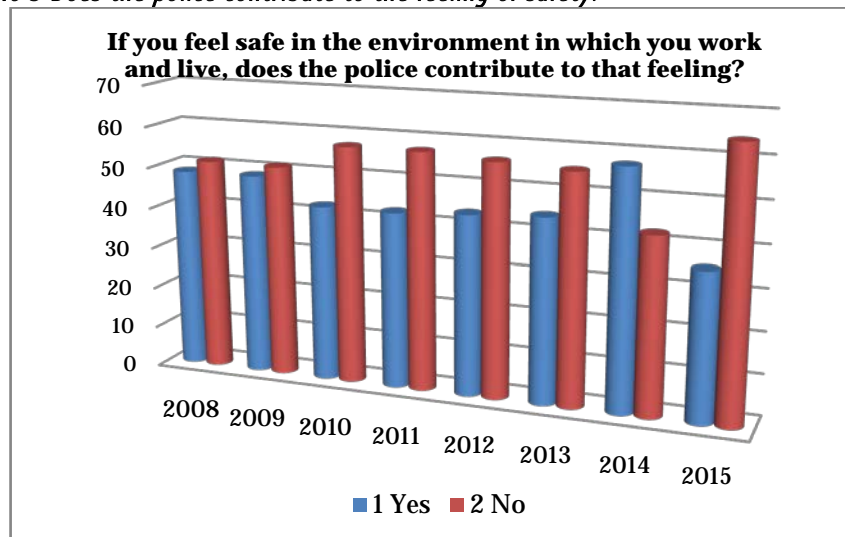
From this data it can be concluded that more than one third or two quarters except in the answers from 2015, of the respondents had a positive attitude.

Table No 4 Have you ever had contact with the police?

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1 Yes	76,22	58,27	61,73	64,76	61,91	64,32	69,58	61,54
2 No	23,78	41,73	38,27	35,24	38,09	35,68	30,42	38,46
Total	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00	100,00

The distribution indicates that half and most of the respondents had contact with police in the years of survey. This attitude should be taken with caution, because the notion of contact is insufficiently specified time frame, does not apply to any problem or solution. Also we need to have on mind that the survey was conducted by surveyors from the Faculty of Security, which is directed to the formation of personnel for the police and that part of the answer may have desirable response. This type of backup should always be kept in mind when you perform generalizations based on field surveys, the public that in the structure and level of knowledge is different, but when it comes to institutions such as the police, which the society has a specific role and has the powers and resources that are perceived differently among the citizens.

Graph No 3 Does the police contribute to the feeling of safety?



Does the police's attitude about the contribution of the feeling of safety is in correlation with the claim if you had contact to the police. The answer to that question we seek through the χ^2 test.

X²square test of independence of two variables

X₀: The variable in columns and the variable in rows are independent

X₁: The variable in columns and the variable in rows are dependent

Variables: (By columns):

Yes – the police contributes and

Contact with the police-yes

Results from the test

Chi-squared statistics: $0,15 + 0,5 + 0 + 0,06 + 0 + 0 + 0,11 + 0,35 + 0 + 0,04 + 0 + 0 = 1,2109$

Number-degree of freedom v: 5

Coefficient of contingency C: 0,043

p-value p-value = 0,944

Conclusion: **X₀ at level of 0,05 is not rejected. We conclude that the variables are INDEPENDENT.**

From the review we can conclude that despite the expressed positive views on the contribution of the police for the sense of security among the respondents is not a result or a resultant of the fact if they previously had contact with the police. The sense of security is based on the view that the organization and its presence on the ground, or cause actions taken or affecting the sense of security among the citizens of the Republic of Macedonia in the surveyed period 2008 - 2015 year. One of the issues causing concern is the measuring of safety, especially that of the individual. Probably, one of the answers is through a set of economic indicators, which more or less express his social standing and the ability to create and participate in the ways of creation of conditions. The second group of indicators refers to the general harmonization of social and material conditions expressed as a state and in that context, the general image or the impressions that the individual has on the status and its position.

The analysis of the survey results focuses on citizens' perception of security, monitored by the responses to the question about their attitude to the sense of security. In fact, the survey "Citizens safety and security threats to the Republic of Macedonia", conducted in early 2014, the question of whether respondents feel safe in 890 cases or 76.3% responded positively, and only 23.7% have a negative attitude. In that sense, the additional set of questions that is set to determine what performance is monitored for safety through rock five views, which one way or another express the distance between them deserves an attention. Namely, in the scale the respondent is offered to assess security related to him as an individual, the area (region) in which he lives and, of course, the state and its environment. The results are given in the following table:

Table No 5 The respondents' attitudes about the perspective of the feeling of safety

21. Please, assess in what measure you feel	Very unsafe	Mostly unsafe	I don't know	Mostly safe	Totally safe
	1	2	3	4	5
1) You, when it comes to your physical	4,37	13,88	7,28	54,67	19,79
2) In your house/apartment	2,49	9,43	4,20	48,07	35,82
3) In the area/the place where you live	4,63	10,97	8,48	53,64	22,28
4) In your country	8,65	23,22	16,02	43,02	9,08
5) In the regional surrounding of the Republic of Macedonia	7,20	24,34	22,54	37,70	8,23

From the offered set of questions it can be concluded that the sense of security is measured on the Likert's scale with five degrees. It can be determined that the respondents on 2.49% of the questions have said that they feel very safe in their own flat or house, and the highest frequency or 8.65% of them have responded that the environment around our country is not safe, then 7.20% of the respondents said that it is a safe environment of our country, and about 4% are those who believe that they do not feel very safe in the region in which they live, or they did not feel very safe only when it comes to the physical security.

If we group the responses, so the responses answered with highly and generally unsafe, and the answers do not know, I have no opinion as answers to their position that

they do not feel safe, then the distribution of responses is as follows: 54.07% did not feel safe in regional environment of the Republic of Macedonia 25.54% when questioned their physical safety, 24.08% of the area (region) in which respondent lives and 6,11% of the respondents assessed that the most unsafe are in their own house or apartment where they live.

We should have in mind that this distribution is affected by the answers given by the respondents such as "I do not know, I have no opinion." In fact, 22.54% of them had no opinion whether the regional environment of the Republic of Macedonia affects their attitude to security. The second group of responses of this type do not know or have no position with 16.02% refers to the question of the state in which he resides, with 8.48% of the area or place where he lives, with 7.28% of the situation threat to physical safety and ultimately indecisive attitude of 4.20% of the respondents have the security of their own apartment or house where they live.

Can we accept this claim as it is given and is the explanation enough? Probably, not. Therefore, in addition a subject of the further analysis is the battery issues related to the general notion of security of respondents. This set of questions is in a function of indicating some of the issues related to social relationships, especially the general notions about what the security environment is and the opportunity to advance to the individual in the community. Such performances can only indicate certain conditions, they did not reply to the actual conditions. We are interested in the views related to (1) the life in the environment, (2) the functioning of state bodies, (3) the ability of self-protection, (4) the manner of living and attitude to the norms, rules and standards, (5) the exercise of coexistence in the country, (6) the employment and economic stability, (7) attitude towards the legal system, (8) the realization of revenue and (9) other indicators that are not listed in the previous set of questions. The question: If you feel safe, what contributes most to that feeling? - The answers are given in the following table:

Table No 6 If you feel safe what contributes the most to feel that way? Crosstab

		10. If you feel safe what contributes the most to feel that way?									Total	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
Age (3 groups)	To 30 years	f	153	30	64	116	7	12	6	3	1	392
		%	40,4	26,3	45,7	36,8	46,7	36,4	27,3	16,7	33,3	37,7
	From 31 to 50	f	156	51	52	143	6	18	11	10	1	448
		%	41,2	44,7	37,1	45,4	40,0	54,5	50,0	55,6	33,3	43,1
	Over 51	f	70	33	24	56	2	3	5	5	1	199
		%	18,5	28,9	17,1	17,8	13,3	9,1	22,7	27,8	33,3	19,2
Total		f	379	114	140	315	15	33	22	18	3	1039
		%	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

Legend: 1. I live in a good environment; 2. state authorities do their job well; 3. because I am able /to protect myself; 4. because I live normally and respect law and order; 5. because we have excellent co-existence in the country; 6. I work and am economically stable / a; 7. respect the Constitution and laws; 8. regularly receiving salary (salary); 9. something else

From the data we can determine that young people up to 30 years in a significant percentage of 46.7% claim that the coexistence in the country is the one that contributes their sense of security, then the conviction that they can self-protect is 45.7%, 40.4 % feel safe because they live in a good environment and 38.8% because they show a degree of adaptation to the norms and order and almost the same percentage 38.6% of the respondents have a sense of security because they have economic stability.

Conclusion

As in the other sciences, the possibility for scientific research about the security is conditioned by the subject's characteristics, by the theoretical fund and the language of the security sciences. The possibility for surveying is conditioned by the total methodology of the security sciences, of the staff, of the general attitude toward the surveys, the means of surveys etc. Anyway, the surveys, especially the methods, primarily depend on the other constituents of the security sciences. The methodological theory insists on unity of the subject and the survey method. The epistemological characteristics of the subject define the method. That means that the method of the asphaliology (the security science) is

specific in terms of the method of the other sciences as the security appearances are specific as a subject of survey in terms of the reality that the other sciences survey. It is indisputable that the securities features appear to have same implications.

The results of the surveys point to a conclusion that the feeling of safety among the respondents in a certain measure is based on the police's contribution. The feeling of insecurity usually is connected to the fear of violence and to the changes in the behavior of the subjects. Also, the survey results point to the claim that 46,7 % of the people under the age of 30 say that the coexistence in the country is the main factor that makes them feel safe, then 45,7% say that that is the assurance that they can self-protect, 40,4% feel safe because they live in good surrounding and 38.8% because they show an adaptation to the norms and the order and 38.6% of the respondents feel safe because they are economically stable.

The asphaliology derives its scientific knowledge from the crowd acts, the actions, the processes, the relationships and from the development and the safeguarding of the security. The security is a subject of numerous studies and scientific disciplines that deal with different approaches to the study of security and are related to: a) values; b) threats of values; c) the methods and means to detect threats to the values; d) the measures, methods and tools used for preventing and suppressing threats; e) the right to security; f) the security policy; a) the person - delinquent; h) the security organizations and institutions; i) security relations. The survey results and the debate on them is just an attempt for developing a debate on security and the security situation. They neither can nor do they offer a universal answer.

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