

STRATEGIES FOR PREVENTION OF ECONOMIC-FINANCIAL CRIMINALITY IN SPECIFIC POLICE ACTIVITIES

PHDS. DAN-CĂLIN BEȘLIU

*”ALEXANDRU IOAN CUZA” POLICE ACADEMY – DOCTORAL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC ORDER
AND NATIONAL SECURITY*

dancalinbesliu@gmail.com

Abstract

From a social perspective, the confidence and security of national and international economic operators is based only on the belief that there is a complex of rules of the game, guaranteed and controlled by public institutions, which in this way directs the attitudes and behaviours in the desired sense, and in the same time resolves conflicts of interest and sanctions dishonest behaviour.

However, the normal development of a modern economy is permanently threatened by the quantity and quality of the illicit and criminal acts and acts committed.

Keywords: *economic theory, banking system, physical protection of goods, government credits*

1. Introduction

The National Anti-Crime Strategy has been transposed into practice at the Ministry of Internal Affairs as well as at the level of the General Police Inspectorate through the elaboration of working concepts, programs, action plans and other specific activities for the prevention and reducing the criminal state, continuing the process of reform and modernization of the components involved in combating business crime, improving the legal framework and deepening cooperation relations with the Member States and associated with the European Union.

The following have been issued and adopted:

- the national doctrine of public order;
- the program of measures to combat corruption and economic-financial crime;
- the plan of measures to combat acts of smuggling and tax evasion;
- conception of the organization of summer-season activities and agricultural campaigns;
- public relations strategy;
- external relations strategy
- combating organized crime, etc.

Measures have been taken to improve economic legislation and the organizational framework to fight against economic and financial crime, training, legal and specialist training of cadres, by acquiring the provisions of the new economic legislation, identifying and knowing the methods used by criminals in the commission of offenses and the adoption of specific means of action for their operative detection, the improvement of the cooperation system with other institutions of the state invested in preventing and combating economic and financial crimes.

In the context of measures to improve the organizational and functional framework, the Ministry of Internal Affairs has structures to fight crime, such as the General Directorate for Combating Organized Crime within the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police, an anti-corruption body.

In this respect, the concept of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, organizing and carrying out the activities to fulfill the specialized tasks, mainly aims at reducing the criminal state, meeting the

requirements of the fields of cooperation and the overall compliance with the European standards for combating organized crime and economic crime [1].

In this respect, the objectives and tasks of the strategy to fight against economic and financial crime are mainly [2]:

- stopping the criminal activities manifested by the illegal transfer of capital from the public sector to the private sector, caused by large-scale theft, embezzlement and fraudulent acts, fictive removal of assets and their capitalization, the sale at undervalued prices of some assets, renting rooms at ridiculous prices, purchasing raw materials and materials at very high prices through LLCs and so on;

- the limitation of the underground economy extension, understood as the perimeter in which black capital is created and strengthened, particularly through organized smuggling, tax evasion, labor exploitation, drug trafficking and substances subject to authorization;

- counteracting the economic and financial criminality in the financial and banking structures, in order to detect large-scale frauds, prevent the illegal export of capital, ensure repatriation of the capital resulted from the export of indigenous products, etc. ;

- In this context, it should be understood that today, the banking system is the compulsory segment of the major economic and financial crime, as a guarantee of success in dirty business initiated and led by mafia-type groups of a bringing together professionals in the field.

- supervising the management and utilization of government credits allocated to address the nation's strategic needs (agriculture, food, petrochemistry, iron and steel, etc.). At present, public money is the main source that maintains mafia groups. Public money generates dirty capital as long as no one is willing to control how it is managed;

- the protection of the cultural and national heritage by strengthening Romania's position within the European Convention on crimes concerning cultural goods, participating in the elaboration of the relevant national legal framework, as well as organizing and carrying out the actions and the measures in order to fulfill the attributions deriving from it; intensifying cooperation with similar institutions in the Member States or associated with the European Union for the prevention and suppression of acts of transgression and illicit trafficking in goods and values of national patrimonies, etc.

2. Adopting a global strategy to fight organized crime

Of particular importance in this area of the establishment of directives and strategy for fighting crime is the document elaborated by the Ministry of the Interior regarding the Strategy for participation in the preparation of Romania's accession to the European Union:

- preventing and combating drug crime;
- prevention of crime offenses;
- preventing and combating the theft and illicit trafficking of radioactive and nuclear products, offenses and contraventions that may affect the environment;
- preventing and combating trafficking in stolen vehicles;
- combating crime related to clandestine immigration and trafficking in human beings;
- preventing and combating terrorism;
- preventing and combating crime in business, etc.

However, these objectives of the strategy for fighting organized and economic-financial criminality can not be achieved without the adoption of a global strategy that includes economic, social, technical-organizational and legislative measures regarding all economic and social indicators [3].

As criminal legislation in force does not fully meet the needs of the Romanian society in transition, to act effectively to prevent and fight crime, we consider that it is necessary to develop new legislative norms defining and criminalizing activities in the sphere of organized crime, to allow for the effective lifting of the immunity of official personalities who are in the structures of organized crime or have committed particularly serious crimes, to confer the status of special immunity and protection of witnesses, to allow the use of technical means of supervision, etc.

The modernization and harmonization of legislation in the field of sanctioning economic and financial criminality must allow for the rapid detection and curtailment of the specific crimes in this field of activity through appropriate procedures [4].

At the same time, organizational measures must be adopted regarding:

- numerical consolidation of the structures of the bodies responsible for preventing and combating economic and financial crime and organized crime;
- the allocation of the special funds needed to increase the capacity of these structures by equipping them in a proper manner with technical means allowing the penetration and control of organized crime groups as well as the corresponding increase in the remuneration of the staff working in this field, in order to counteract the tendencies of corruption by the offenders.

At the same time, the establishment of special compartments for the fight against economic and financial crime and organized crime within the General Prosecutor's Office and those attached to the County Courts, the National Anticorruption Directorate, as well as a Criminological Research Institute to develop criminological and basic guidelines in the fight against crime and substantiation of criminal strategies will be an effective tool to fight crime and reduce economic and financial crime.

3. Police measures to be applied to achieve effective prevention

The need to develop a new concept of crime prevention is dictated by the objective requirements of the stage that we are currently going through, but especially the future requirements of social development.

Existing statistical data and assessments reveal the particular interest to be given to the causes and measures undertaken or envisaged for their implementation. Thus, there are two categories of strategies to be followed by the police in order to achieve effective prevention.

▪ *Indirect strategies.* Indirect strategies aim, on the one hand, to identify, structure and implement the possibilities of society to improve the overall quality of life and, on the other hand, to limit the field of action of crime.

Initiate constructive activities for the leisure of adolescents and young people in specific crime prevention programs. In this respect, behavioral modeling programs have been initiated and are under way to teach the teenager not to become an offender or victim of crime [5].

Implementation of joint programs involving local authorities aimed at rehabilitating offenders by organizing vocational training courses and their employment.

▪ *Direct strategies.* Direct strategies combine, in particular, the category of preventive measures with a pronounced practical and applicative character, restricting the possibilities of committing criminal offenses [6].

Certain features are found in both strategies, such as those relating to leisure activities in a constructive way.

Direct crime prevention strategies are materialized in various technical measures. These measures to reduce the potential for committing offenses consist of [7]:

- collaboration of the police with local activities in the development of an adequate street lighting system in areas prone to committing anti-social deeds;

- initiating the concept of "safety space" by experimentally building "safe" neighborhoods;
- informing the population about their possibilities for achieving physical protection and goods;
- street and zonal preventive patrolling that can be done on foot or by car, with or without contacting the public for mutual information or cooperation and support. Through the presence of the police element in the territory, community crime prevention structures can be created with the support and guidance of the police;
- the use of civic associations and non-governmental organizations in the prevention of crime;
- providing the police with anti-infrequent counseling services to raise citizens' awareness and attract them to police-specific activities on crime prevention.

Direct strategies have as a defining element the integration of police activities, and indirect ones involve the inclusion of non-police structures (non-governmental organizations, other organizations with attributions in this field). In order to implement the direct strategies, the following programs were initiated:

- a. Achieving the strategy "Initiating safety space through experimental realization of safety neighborhoods".

The implementation modalities include [8]:

- initiating and running programs in the neighborhoods and communes, aiming to engage the local community in ensuring the safety and protection of property. A good example of this is the program developed in Sibiu, entitled "V. Aron neighborhood - safe neighborhood". This program aims to engage the community in the prevention of crime, as well as the realization of a civic safety climate in the V. Aron district of Sibiu. Several institutions, including: Sibiu County Police, Sibiu City Hall, Citizenship Advisory Committees, non-governmental organizations, were involved in achieving this goal.
 - collaborating and using non-police factors, especially by increasing community involvement, helps educate citizens about why crime prevention is a task, including themselves as individuals and the community, so that society becomes a source and, at the same time, a means of preventing crime.
- b. Informing the population about their possibilities for achieving physical protection and goods.

Among the ways of realization we mention:

- exhibitions with systems and means of protection of goods;
 - editing leaflets to circumscribe this topic;
 - making warning boards in places where crime is committed;
 - using the media to alert the citizen about the danger of not insuring the goods. In this regard, a permanent exhibition of alarm systems was carried out, in which all companies selling and installing such systems exhibit their products. All exhibits are functional so that the citizen has the option to choose the optimal option for them and for their goods.
 - the realization of television programs with a preventive theme, with invited specialists in the field, contributes to influencing the citizen to secure his goods.
- c. Use of associations of tenants and non-governmental organizations in the prevention of crime.

The implementation modalities include:

- setting up "Citizenship Advisory Committees", which is a way of achieving the partnership between the police and the community. The role of these committees is to provide citizens with recommendations on criminal risk management, awareness of

crime and public services issues available to help citizens, but also to inform police about the community's expectations of police work. These committees work closely with police officers in the area of responsibility.

- - By setting up sectoral offices in crime-sensitive neighborhoods, crime prevention is more effectively done. Reference is made in this context to the Community Police Office in Mediaș. Making audiences by the police commander in this place helps to bring the police citizen closer, but also to increase community trust in the police.
- d. Providing the police with anti-crime counseling services to raise citizens' awareness and engage in police-specific activities on crime prevention.

The implementation modalities aim at [9]:

- making this advice with the help of the media, which is a communication channel between the police and the community. Through interactive TV shows, in collaboration with actors responsible for prevention and citizens, the community is informed about the problems related to economic crime, as well as the engagement of citizens in specific crime prevention activities.
 - free legal counseling provided by the legal counsel of the police is still a way of attracting the community to prevent crime.
 - the presence of the police element in the educational units and the exposure of anti-criminal topics;
 - distributing warning leaflets when field sector workers are moving and participating in on-site research;
 - the use of citizen consultative committees.
- e. Beginning and running behavioral modeling programs among students.

The implementation modalities aim at:

- identifying informal leaders in educational establishments;
- identifying students' concerns about crime;
- establishing the training theme;
- evaluating legal knowledge on the basis of a questionnaire.

4. Conclusions

The economic theory highlights the fundamental role that security and confidence have for the growth and smooth functioning of the market economy, which is perceived as a set of rules and procedures necessary to enable efficient production and exchange of resources in a modern society and democratic.

From a social perspective, the confidence and security of national and international economic operators is based only on the belief that there is a complex rules of the game, guaranteed and controlled by public institutions, which in this way directs the attitudes and behaviors in the desired sense, and in the same time resolves conflicts of interest and sanctions dishonest behavior.

However, the normal development of a modern economy is permanently threatened by the quantity and quality of the illicit and criminal acts and acts committed, and the public institutions are those responsible for ensuring the order of competition in the goods and services market, ensuring the transparency of capital and labor, ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of justice for the defense of rights and conflict resolution.

References

- [1] **MOLDOVEANU, Nicolae** – *Criminalitatea economico-financiară*, Global Print Publishing House, Bucharest, 1999, p. 17
- [2] Evaluation of the activity of the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police for 2016
- [3] **OPREA, Alina** – *Dreptul afacerilor. Sinteze pentru studenții economiști*, Risoprint Publishing House, Bucharest, 2011, pp. 33-34
- [4] **VOICU, Costică; SANDU, Florin; BOROI, Alexandru; MOLNAR, Ioan** – *Drept penal al afacerilor*, Rosetti Publishing House, Bucharest, 2002, p. 9
- [5] Information Bulletin of the Ministry of Home Affairs, no. 5/2016, MAI Publishing House, Bucharest, 2016, p. 35
- [6] *Ibidem*, pp. 36-37
- [7] The Institute for Crime Research and Prevention, Research and Prognosis Service
- [8] Evaluation of the activity of the General Inspectorate of the Romanian Police for 2016
- [9] **AMZA, Tudor** – *Criminologie. Tratat de teorie și politică criminologică*, Lumina Lex Publishing House, Bucharest, 2002, p. 421