

**HIGHER SCHOOL OF INSURANCE AND FINANCE - SOFIA**



**DOCTORAL DISSERTATION**

**ABSTRACT**

**FINANCIAL AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF THE FIGHT  
AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE WORLD AND THE  
BALKAN COUNTRIES BULGARIA, ALBANIA AND  
NORTHERN MACEDONIA**

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## I GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

### INTRODUCTION

In building a concept of criminal-legal protection against organized crime, one starts from its basic characteristics: criminal profitability, violence and intimidation, corruption, sophistication, organization, synchronization, coordination, internationality, technical equipment, multi-specialization. The last characteristic of this criminality is the close connection with terrorism, money laundering, corruption, illicit trade, production and distribution of drugs, computer crime, espionage (of all fields) and scientific and technical development.

The fight against organized crime can be conducted by building a well-rounded institutional and efficient system to fight against organized crime. It means building an overall system of state organization in the fight against organized crime, with subsystems closely related to each other and with a single and joint performance for the purpose of more effective protection and suppression of all modern emergent forms of organized crime.

Due to the multidimensionality and internationality of this crime, the national system and its subsystems must fit into the international system. Accordingly, the national system should be harmonized and connected to the international criminal-legal protection.

## **METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH IN RESEARCH**

### **1. SOCIAL JUSTIFICATION FOR STUDYING THE TOPIC**

Organized crime is a special form of professional crime, which developed in developed countries in the 20th century, and which is increasingly present in transition countries that did not have or did not feel it with such intensity as in recent years (the end of the nineties), and now its presence is noticed in all spheres of social life and represents a dangerous and real threat to the further development of democratic relations.

The emerging forms and forms of organized crime (a special form of professional crime) are not the same in all countries, but they adapt to the existing social relations and external conditions that allow easier realization of specific criminal activities. This type of organized crime undermines every state, it installs itself in the system, compromising the necessary civil servants who facilitate their criminal activity. Therefore, organized crime and corruption take on huge dimensions and seriously threaten the economic development and legal order of the country.

### **2. SUBJECT OF RESEARCH**

The subject of the doctoral dissertation is the legal and financial aspects of organized crime in the world and the Balkan countries of Bulgaria, Albania and Macedonia and the establishment of an efficient national institutional system for the protection of organized crime.

As a special subject of research, which serves as a basis for the construction of an institutional system for the fight against organized crime, the concept, forms, conditions and reasons that lead to the appearance of organized crime in the Balkan countries of Bulgaria, Albania and North Macedonia are investigated.

As a basis for building an institutional system to fight against organized crime, the knowledge obtained by applying comparative methods of analysis of several national systems to fight against organized crime is used.

An additional subject of research in this paper is the development of efficient means and methods for the work of entities that work to suppress organized crime.

The obtained results of this research represent the basis for preparation and giving guidelines for the correct and legal behavior of the subjects within the framework of the institutional protection of the Balkan countries Bulgaria, Albania and North Macedonia as the final subject of the research of this paper.

### **3. PURPOSE AND TASKS OF THE RESEARCH**

The main goal of the doctoral dissertation is to propose an efficient national system of protection against all forms of organized crime. in the Balkan countries Bulgaria,

Albania and North Macedonia. The system set up in this way means establishing a precise methodology for the work of the national system and its subsystems for the suppression of organized crime.

The additional research goal of this paper is the determination of guidelines for the legal behavior of the subjects in charge of fighting against organized crime. in the Balkan countries Bulgaria, Albania and North Macedonia. The guidelines are given as instructions for the actions of the police, intelligence services, customs, financial police, institutions for the prevention of money laundering, prosecutors and judges for easier handling of organized crime.

In order to achieve the scientific-research and scientific-practical goal of the work, the following tasks were set:

- To study the characteristics and trends of organized crime in the world and in the Balkan countries, Bulgaria, Albania and North Macedonia,
- To study the existing financial and legal aspects for carrying out activities of organized crime,
- To determine the effects of organized crime.
- To study and analyze the possible problems and risks of taking measures against organized crime,
- To study and analyze the financial and legal measures for the prevention of organized crime,
- To design conceptual models for improving the system of financial and legal measures measures to fight against organized crime.

***The main scientific novelty*** for the dissertation is the proposal of a model of the Improvement of the system for taking financial and legal measures to fight against organized crime.

***Practical value and applicability*** - Scientific and applied novelty consists in empirical results and general conclusions, as a result of experimental research, as well as theory and knowledge developed to contribute to the fight against organized crime.

***Realization and approval of the results*** - All research and results of this dissertation have been realized by researching the fight against organized crime that is carried out in some of the developed countries in the world and in the Republic of Bulgaria, Albania and North Macedonia

***The main architecture*** for this dissertation is described in Chapter Two and its implementation discussed in Chapter Three.

***Publications*** - The main results of the dissertation are presented in 3 publications published as independent works of the author.

## 4. HYPOTHESIS

### **Basic (general) hypothesis:**

The paper starts from the assumption that "without a clearly defined legal and financial aspects as an institutional legal national framework, there is no successful fight against organized crime."

### *First special hypothesis:*

What are the main problems related to the legal and financial aspects of organized crime, especially in the Balkan countries Bulgaria, Albania and Northern Macedonia.

### *Second special hypothesis:*

Ensuring adequate legislation for governments and banking and other financial institutions to combat organized crime.

### *Third special hypothesis:*

A stable system for combating organized crime enables countries, their governments and institutions to plan and direct the activities of their structural elements in terms of their expansion and strengthening in order to reach the highest possible level that enables them to successfully counter of organized crime.

### **Auxiliary hypothesis:**

- There are legal gaps for proper institutional fight against organized crime.

## 5. RESEARCH METHODS

For the purpose of successful processing and elaboration of the topic of the doctoral dissertation that requires a multidimensional approach, a number of research methods are used, which are:

- *historical* - by applying this method, the beginnings of institutional protection from organized crime are historically determined;
- *Content analysis* - using this method, the provisions of the Law on Police, the Law on Courts, the Law on Public Prosecution, the Customs Law, the Law on Customs Administration, the Law on Internal Affairs, the Law on Financial Police, which regulate institutional protection are analyzed. from organized crime;
- *comparative method (comparative)* - with the application of this comparative perception of the experiences, methodology and differences of institutional protection from organized crime in several countries;
- *statistical method* - by applying this method the efficiency of the national system for protection against organized crime is processed in different

periods of the development of the Balkan countries Bulgaria, Albania and Northern Macedonia;

- ***synthesis*** - using this method the data obtained using the previous methods are combined.

## **II. SCOPE AND STRUCTURE OF THE DISSERTATION**

The dissertation has been developed in the volume of 160 pages, and the content is structured according to the set goal of the research and specific tasks and is in accordance with the subject of the research.

Structurally, the work consists of an introduction, main text in three chapters; conclusion; used literature (88 sources in total), of which:

- 3 Macedonian authors and government documents,
- 6 Bulgarian,
- 1 Serbian,
- 81 in - English and language,
- reference to major contributions;
- statement of authenticity and originality.

## **III BRIEF JUSTIFICATION OF THE DOCTORAL DISSERTATION**

### **CHAPTER ONE: ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION AND FINANCIAL CHALLENGES OF ORGANIZED CRIME**

#### **1.1. DEFINING AND BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF ORGANIZED CRIME**

Organized crime is long-term criminal activity systematically conducted and structured in order to illegally generate profit. The activities and techniques used in organized crime are diverse, often involving violence, theft, fraud, and trafficking in illegal objects and substances. Organized crime differs from general crime in the following ways:<sup>1</sup>

- the activities have a planned and systematic character,
- the involvement of numerous criminals working together,
- different types of criminal activity and methods,
- operations are carried out at the national, regional and international level,

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<sup>1</sup> Law Dictionary: (2021), What is Organized Crime? Definition of Organized Crime (Black's Law Dictionary), (посетено на 26.09.2021), [thelawdictionary.org/organized-crime/](http://thelawdictionary.org/organized-crime/),



- a large turnover of money is realized (in some cases even billions of dollars),
- aspires to financial and political influence,
- leaders can be identified.

Organized crime is a threat to the peace and security of people, violates human rights and disrupts the economic, social, cultural, political and civil development of society everywhere in the world. Organized crime has different, global and macroeconomic proportions, which means that the sources of the trade in illegal goods are secured from one continent or another and sold to a third one. Transnational organized crime infiltrates the institutions of government, fosters corruption, involves businesses and policies, encourages and encourages those who operate outside the law. The transnational character of organized crime means that the criminal network operates across the borders of individual countries, as well as across language and cultural differences. Organized crime does not stagnate, but adapts to new criminal phenomena and as the relationship between criminal networks becomes more flexible, more sophisticated and more widespread around the world.<sup>2</sup>

From a traditional point of view, it is noted that organized crime occurs in two basic forms:<sup>3</sup>

- trade in illegal goods and services, weapons, drugs, prostitution, pornography, money laundering, gambling;
- extortion - blackmail - business racketeering, infiltrating legal businesses, political and environmental crime.

The reasons that lead to the emergence and development of organized crime can be:<sup>4</sup>

- of a legal nature,
- to have a psychological character or
- organized crime is motivated by business.

## **1.2. REASONS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIZED CRIME**

### **1.2.1. Legal reasons for the development of organized crime**

Organized crime is a topic that not only determines the order of work of the judiciary (national and international). Organized crime becomes a prime target for those who, in one way or another, want to use it for their own political gain. Various "specialists" appear in public security in general and in the fight against organized crime who prescribe various solutions to combat the sense of insecurity and fear that invades the population and makes it hide from the great force of violence practiced by criminal organizations:<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Organized Crime: Unated Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, (2021),: <https://www.unodc.org> › intro

<sup>3</sup> Organized Crime: Encyclopedia of Crime and Justice | 2018 | SACCO, VINCENT F., [www.encyclopedia.com](http://www.encyclopedia.com) › Law › Crime and Law Enforcement

<sup>4</sup> Sociology Essays - Causes of Organized Crime, (2015), <https://www.ukessays.com> ›

<sup>5</sup> Criminal organizations and Judiciary Power - SciELO, (2021), <https://www.scielo.br> ›



❖ Given the goals that inspire their activities, one can perceive the existence of two types of criminal organizations.

❖ Ideological and corporate criminal organizations are often interrelated with the increasingly "globalized" approach to organized crime, because even when ideological criminal organizations want to conquer territories, divide them or win political power, they need to raise funds to finance their projects. Corporate criminal organizations operate like normal companies, with the aim of maximizing profits. The difference is that, while legitimate enterprises achieve this goal through legitimate activities, criminal organizations seek their profits through illicit criminal means.

❖ Organized crime has a formalized organizational structure whose primary goal is to obtain money through illegal activities. Criminal organizations maintain their position through the use of actual violence, corrupt public officials, or extortion.

### **1.2.2. Psychological aspects for the development of organized crime**

In today's high-tech and global society, organized crime successfully adapts, effectively and illegally owns and manages significant financial and material resources, corrupting many government and municipal officials. An important motivation for participation in organized criminal groups is dependence on an influential person in the group associated with a sense of duty, fear of retaliation, desire to gain criminal authority, friendly relations, striving to support a certain member of the group, spending time together, having fun together, increased sensitivity to risk and adrenaline experiences. Some of the members of organized criminal groups are motivated by seeking self-affirmation, gaining autonomy, proving that they are not worse than others, an emphasized desire for revenge, previous promises, specific obligations of the individual from other influential participants in the group. Individual psychological and behavioral characteristics typical of traditional crime have more intense and hypertrophied manifestations of perpetrators of organized crime.<sup>6</sup>

### **1.2.3. Business reasons for the development of organized crime**

Organized crime groups structure their illegal activities around customer demands, for example, for illicit drugs, firearms or stolen property. Groups find ways to supply those goods and services while navigating the risks posed by law enforcement as well as legal and illegal competitors (eg, other illicit products and groups). Their ultimate goal is to make a profit from these activities.<sup>7</sup>

## **1.3. FINANCIAL EFFECTS OF ORGANIZED CRIME**

Transnational organized crime groups earn up to \$2.2 trillion a year. Counterfeiting is the most profitable crime with an estimated value of between \$923

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<sup>6</sup> Madzharov, E. A., (2021)., An attempt to summarize the psychological portrait of perpetrators of organized crime, Academy of the Ministry of the Interior, Sofia, Republic of Bulgaria, <https://stumejournals.com › confsec › 158.full.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Organized Crime Module 7 Key Issues: Enterprise or Business, (2021)<https://www.unodc.org › ente>.

billion and \$1.13 trillion. Between two-thirds and three-quarters of these counterfeit goods originate in China. Counterfeit products can pose a real threat to developing countries. Up to 30% of available pharmaceuticals in developing countries may be counterfeit. Profits from counterfeiting far exceeded the money generated by the second and third most valuable crimes: drug trafficking and human trafficking. These more traditional crimes are estimated at \$426 billion to \$652 billion and \$150.2 billion.<sup>8</sup>

### **1.3.1. Largest criminal organizations in the world by revenue**

The income from organized crime is very difficult to estimate, as criminals often spend considerable time trying to hide what they are doing. A huge drug smuggling ring as well as car thieves can be classified as organized crime groups, and the cohesiveness of organized crime organizations around the world is very different. Some groups, such as the Japanese Yakuza, are highly organized and hierarchical, and generate high total revenues.

### **1.3.2. The most profitable criminal activities of organized crime in the world**

Organized crime is big business, worth an estimated \$2.1 trillion a year, which is equivalent to 3.5% of the world's gross domestic product or equivalent to about 7% of global merchandise exports. Trafficking in illegal drugs is one of the most profitable forms of illicit activity, accounting for about half of all transnational organized crime revenue. However, a lot of money is also made from less high-profile enterprises, such as the smuggling of natural resources such as timber, oil and gold and other precious metals.<sup>9</sup>

## **1.4. THE GLOBALIZATION PROCESS AND ORGANIZED CRIME**

### **1.4.1. Globalization and organized crime**

The most important form of international crime today is organized crime, i.e. crime committed by groups of people equipped with a stable, generally hierarchical organization who commit illegal acts, usually by violent means, in order to enrich themselves without regard to international borders. Important groups of international organized crime are the mafias (Sicilian, American and Russian), the Japanese yakuza, the Colombian drug cartels Medellin and Cali, the Chinese triads. However, the criminal group is not a unitary organization of strictly ordered groups. Rather, it is a

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<sup>8</sup> NGO: Transnational Organized Crime Groups Make US\$ 2.2., (2021 <https://www.occrp.org> > daily.

<sup>9</sup> Barnato, K., Schlotterbeck, B., (2013), Organized crime: World's most lucrative criminal activities, <https://www.cnn.com> > Orga.

network of homogeneous groups linked to each other by various forms of solidarity, complicity, and a false hierarchical order.<sup>10</sup>

### **1.4.2. Organized crime benefits from globalization**

Organized crime is considered a changing and flexible phenomenon. Many of the benefits of globalization, such as easier and faster communication, the movement of finance and international travel, have also created opportunities for transnational organized crime groups to flourish, diversify and expand their activities. Traditional territory-based criminal groups are evolving or being partially replaced by smaller and more flexible networks with branches across several jurisdictions. Victims, suspects, organized crime groups and proceeds of crime can be located in many countries. Moreover, organized crime affects all countries, whether countries of supply, transit or demand. As such, modern organized crime represents a global challenge that must be met with a concerted, global response.<sup>11</sup>

## **1.5. ASSESSMENT OF THE THREAT FROM ORGANIZED CRIME**

### **1.5.1. Threats from organized crime in the world**

The world's population grows every year, and with it the volume of exchange between people. The vast majority of these exchanges are legitimate and useful, but a significant number are not. International criminal markets crisscross the planet, transporting drugs, weapons, trafficking in people, toxic waste, stolen natural resources or parts of protected animals. Hundreds of billions of dollars in dirty money flow around the world every year, distorting local economies, corrupting institutions and fueling conflict. International organized crime is a central issue in international relations, an important factor in the global economy, and an immediate reality for people around the world. Aside from its direct effects - drug addiction, sexual exploitation, environmental damage and a host of other ills - organized crime has the capacity to undermine the rule of law and good governance, without which there can be no sustainable development.<sup>12</sup>

International organized crime is a significant and growing threat to national and international security, with dire implications for public safety, public health, democratic institutions, and economic stability around the world. Not only are criminal networks expanding, but they are also diversifying their activities, resulting in the

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<sup>10</sup> Attina, F., (2021), Globalization and crime - The emerging role of international institutions, Department of Political Studies - University of Catania, <http://aei.pitt.edu> › jmw07.

<sup>11</sup> UNODC and Organized Crime, (2021), (пристапено на 24.10.2021), <https://www.unodc.org> › intro

<sup>12</sup> Transnational organized crime threat assessments - UNODC, <https://www.unodc.org> › unodc.

emergence of threats that used to be diverse, but today have explosive and destabilizing effects.<sup>13</sup>

### **1.5.2. Threats from organized crime in the European Union**

Numerous organized crime groups are active in the EU, often with cross-border reach and multi-ethnic composition. There is a clear tendency for rigid and hierarchical structures to be replaced by loose networks of small and volatile groups. These can better adapt to the modern world with its rapid changes. Some groups, having established a strong position in their countries of origin, continue to engage in illegal activities across the EU. They use their reputation and sophistication in certain types of crime to form profitable alliances with other groups. Italian, Russian and Albanian organizations are just a few of the "leaders" in transnational crime in the EU. It is difficult to imagine a criminal activity that would not be considered by organized crime, with profit and risk being the main criteria for their possible involvement. Apart from "traditional" crime, including drug trafficking, such groups are increasingly engaging in legal business activities, which allow them to launder illegal profits while benefiting from attractive legal markets. In any case, the collusion of corrupt officials and dishonest businessmen is key to the success of such criminal organizations.<sup>14</sup>

### **1.5.3. Threats from organized crime in the Balkans**

Organized crime in the Balkans is also equal to the main obstacle to the European integration of the region. The constant influence of organized crime on state structures, the cooperation between different criminal organizations and especially their cooperation with some extremist groups has an extremely negative impact on political stability. Historically, the Balkans served as a bridge between Europe and Asia. In this way, the Balkan Peninsula was also used by various criminal groups as a transit country for trade and smuggling of various goods in Europe. Although these activities have been going on for centuries, the phenomenon of organized crime in the Balkans only became so alarming in the last decades of the twentieth century.<sup>15</sup>

### **Extract from the first chapter**

The key characteristics of organized crime such as the widespread use of corruption, the infiltration and exploitation of legal business structures for all types of criminal activities and the existence of a parallel underground financial system allow criminals to relocate and invest their multi-million euro profits. Organized crime encompasses a diverse range of

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<sup>13</sup> Transnational Organized Crime: A Growing Threat to National and International Security, : <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov> ›

<sup>14</sup> Organised crime in the European Union - Movimento Europeo, (2015) <https://www.movimentoeuropeo.it> › images › Org.

<sup>15</sup> Organized Crime In The Balkans - European Scientific Journal, (2016), <https://eujournal.org> › esj › article › viewFile.

criminal phenomena ranging from illegal drug trafficking to crimes such as migrant smuggling and human trafficking, economic and financial crime, and many others. Criminals earn and launder billions of euros annually. Professional money launderers have established a parallel underground financial system and use all means to infiltrate and undermine European economies and societies. The use of violence by criminals involved in serious and organized crime in the EU has increased in terms of frequency of use and its seriousness. The threat of violent incidents is increased by the frequent use of firearms or explosives in public places.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR FIGHTING ORGANIZED CRIME**

### **2.1. INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME**

Globalization facilitates international trade and the exchange of goods, it also increases the difficulty of regulating other activities such as the trade in illegal goods and enforcing laws intended to prevent them. Financial deregulation benefits criminal actors by allowing them to launder money through placement, layering, and ultimately integration into a legitimate financial system.<sup>16</sup>

The effect of globalization on social phenomena has led this process to be considered a huge social change in societies. Today, many socio-economic issues, such as peace, crime, immigration, production, employment, technological development, environmental threats, income distribution, prosperity, social cohesion and identity, are described as phenomena affected by globalization. International law, commercial law, international trade law, criminal law and other branches of law are also affected by globalization.<sup>17</sup>

Given the fact that organized crime is a scourge of today's international society, organized crime is increasingly becoming subject to international regulations. Especially after the cold war, states are increasingly aware of the dimensions of organized crime as a side effect of globalization. For the successful conduct of the fight against organized crime, international legal instruments are being created in the world today, which mean establishing standards for the fight against organized crime. The standards contained in international instruments and in general in the international legal framework are used as basic indicators by which the process of harmonization of the legislations of individual countries should be guided as a basis for institutionalizing the fight against organized crime. The international community today has a clear global approach to effectively combating transnational organized crime in the area of prevention and taking effective measures against transnational organized crime and strengthening cross-border cooperation for the purpose of prosecuting and suppressing organized crime.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Globalization and Organized Crime: Challenges for International Cooperation, (2016), <https://www.bakerinstitute.org> > files.

<sup>17</sup> The effect of globalization on the national criminal law systems, (2018), <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu> > cgi > viewcontent.

<sup>18</sup> United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Organized Crime Convention), <https://www.unodc.org> > organised-crime > UNIT.

### **2.1.1. Prevention in the fight against organized crime**

Prevention in the fight against organized crime is aimed at reducing existing or future opportunities for organized crime groups to participate in legal markets with proceeds of crime, through appropriate legislation. Prevention in the fight against organized crime is placed high on the agenda of national and international bodies:<sup>19</sup>

- Prevention is no less important than repression in any integrated approach to organized crime, to the extent that it aims to reduce the circumstances in which organized crime can operate.
- A specific aspect of organized crime prevention is aimed at reducing existing or future opportunities for organized crime groups to participate in legal markets with proceeds of crime, through appropriate legal, administrative or other measures. Measures can be taken internally and externally.
- Internally, governments can respond to organized crime by strengthening the integrity of their public officials. For example, the prevention of corruption in public procurement is considered one of the essential topics to be addressed.
- Externally, states may seek to exclude organized crime groups from participating in certain legal activities or from doing business with the government. To this end, special legal instruments can be developed that allow organized criminals to be excluded from contracting with the government (eg public procurement) or from obtaining official permits or licenses (eg building permits, selling financial services). The effectiveness of such a system depends on information and the exchange of information: only if the requested information is available and can be used, exclusion or disqualification is possible.

### **2.1.2. Fighting organized crime through the United Nations**

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime is a means of effective law enforcement and international cooperation to combat organized crime. The convention:

- Defines and standardizes terminology,
- It requires states to criminalize specific conduct,
- Determines specific control measures (money laundering, corruption, etc.),
- Confiscation of criminal proceeds,
- Cooperation (extradition, legal aid, joint investigations, special investigative techniques, law enforcement cooperation, etc.),
- Training, research, information measures
- Prevention.

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<sup>19</sup> Preventive legal measures against organised crime - Organised crime – Best Practice Survey n°9, (2013), <https://www.coe.int › organisedcrime, PDF>



In the fight against organized crime, the United Nations Convention against Corruption is the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument. The Convention's far-reaching approach and the mandatory nature of many of its provisions make it a unique tool for developing a comprehensive response to a global problem. The Convention covers five main areas:<sup>20</sup>

- preventive measures,
- criminalization and law enforcement,
- international cooperation,
- restitution of property and
- technical assistance and exchange of information.

The Convention covers many different forms of corruption, such as bribery, influence peddling, abuse of office and various acts of corruption in the private sector. A highlight of the Convention is the inclusion of a specific chapter on property restitution, aimed at returning property to its rightful owners, including the countries from which they were illegally taken.

The United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is one of the three main international drug control treaties currently in force. It aims to provide additional legal mechanisms for the implementation of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. The Convention includes measures:<sup>21</sup>

- against drug trafficking, including
- provisions against money laundering and diversion of precursor chemicals,
- provides for international cooperation through, for example, extradition of drug traffickers, controlled deliveries and transfer of proceedings.

### **2.1.3. Fight against organized crime within the European Union**

Serious and organized crime is an increasingly dynamic and complex phenomenon that requires a robust response. While traditional areas of crime, such as international drug trafficking, remain a major cause for concern, the effects of globalization in society and business facilitate the emergence of significant new variations in criminal activity:<sup>22</sup>

- Almost 40% of the criminal networks active in the EU are involved in the trade of illegal drugs.
- Around 60% of criminal networks active in the EU use violence as part of their criminal businesses.
- The use of corruption and the abuse of legal business structures are key features of serious and organized crime in Europe.

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<sup>20</sup> United Nations Convention against Corruption - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Division for Treaty Affairs, (2021), <https://www.unodc.org> › CAC

<sup>21</sup> United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, (2021), <https://www.emcdda.europa.eu> ›

<sup>22</sup> Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA), (2021), <https://www.europol.europa.eu> › socta-report,



- Two-thirds of criminals use corruption on a regular basis.
- More than 80% of criminal networks use legal business structures.

In the 28 member states of the European Union, about five thousand organized crime groups are under investigation. Seven out of ten of them operate in more than one country, and they are divided into the illegal market, including drugs and counterfeiting, which transcriminated estimates at almost 110 billion euros, about 1% of the EU's GDP. It highlights the importance of the Russian and Turkish mafias, the rise of Albanian clan bosses in the marijuana trade and other areas, the danger of smaller known groups internationally, and Vietnamese clans active mainly in Eastern Europe. Many of these organizations threaten the legal economy by laundering their profits and ultimately affect the economic and social life of countries, just like the Italian mafia, although usually on a smaller scale.<sup>23</sup>

The European Union is an organization that pays great attention to the fight against organized crime. To realize this goal, the European Union founded Europol in 2009, which represents the European police as an organization that should strengthen cooperation between member states in the fight against organized crime. Organized crime often has an international dimension that requires an international response. Europol supports Member States in preventing and investigating a wide range of crimes, from economic crime to terrorism, cybercrime to child sexual exploitation and drug trafficking to the facilitation of illegal immigration. The main tasks of Europol are:<sup>24</sup>

- collecting, processing, analyzing and exchanging information,
- notification to member states of the establishment of any relationship of importance to them that relates to criminal acts,
- assistance to member states in conducting investigations and providing intelligence and financial assistance,
- to require member states to initiate and conduct and coordinate investigations in cases related to terrorism and organized crime and, if necessary, to establish joint investigative teams.

#### **2.1.4. Bilateral cooperation in the fight against organized crime**

Bilateral cooperation refers to the connections or relations between two states / countries. Bilateral cooperation refers to the cooperation activities directly maintained by one country in another country and vice versa. Bilateral cooperation includes the exchange of information, experience and best practices. Bilateral cooperation between countries in the fight against organized crime refers to undertaking joint activities to identify and determine common priorities in this sphere, ensuring effective ongoing police work in cooperation between the police and other authorities working on issues of organized crime, identifying persons, of criminal groups involved in transnational organized crime and, accordingly, the practical organization and setting up of joint operational teams that will have the obligation on

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<sup>23</sup> Mafia and Organized Crime in Europe - Il Fatto Quotidiano, (2018), <https://www.ilfattoquotidiano.it/longform/map>,

<sup>24</sup> Council Decision of 6 April 2009 Establishing European Police Office (Europol, Official Journal of the European Union L (121) 2009-05-15,

a daily-operational level to cooperate and exchange information, with the ultimate goal of waging an active fight against organized crime. There are various forms of bilateral cooperation in the fight against organized crime, such as:<sup>25</sup>

- cooperation between the police,
- exchange of information,
- cooperation in the field of legal procedures and the like.

## **2.2. INSTRUMENTS FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST ORGANIZED CRIME**

### **2.2.1. Capacities to fight organized crime**

International organized crime has expanded dramatically in size and scope in the 21st century and now poses a threat to security, politics, commerce and communities. Effective resistance is not just a matter for law enforcement. Experience in countries with a history of fighting organized crime shows that reactive law enforcement, which begins after a crime has been committed, is not enough. Capacity building should support a proactive approach to law enforcement that relies on multiple types of evidence to build a case against criminal groups.<sup>26</sup>

### **2.2.2. Forms of fight against organized crime**

Organized crime groups continue to develop and evolve, as demonstrated by their rapid adaptation to the coronavirus pandemic, for example through the rise of counterfeit medical products and online crime. Organized crime groups active in Europe are involved in a variety of criminal activities, with drug trafficking, organized property crime, fraud, migrant smuggling and human trafficking predominating. In 2019, the criminal proceeds of the main criminal markets amounted to 1% of the EU GDP, i.e. 139 billion euros. With the measures we are proposing today, we will move from occasional police cooperation to permanent police partnerships and follow them up to catch criminals in financial investigations. They are used as tools to fight against organized crime:<sup>27</sup>

- police cooperation,
- lasting police partnerships
- conducting financial investigations.

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<sup>25</sup> Cooperation in the fight against organized crime must exceed regional borders, Newsletter 3/2010 - our South East Europe, [www.rcc.int/.../cooperation-in-the-fight-ag](http://www.rcc.int/.../cooperation-in-the-fight-ag).

<sup>26</sup> Dininio, P., (2019), Fighting Organized Crime: What Works in Law Enforcement and Beyond, Views 1 Comment Challenging the Status Quo, Integrating (Anti-) Corruption, <https://sites.tufts.edu/ihf/fighting-organized-crime-wha>.

<sup>27</sup> Fight against organised crime: New 5-year strategy for boosting cooperation across the EU and for better use of digital tools for investigations, (2021), <https://ec.europa.eu/detail>

### 2.2.3. The role of governments in the fight against organized crime

The role of State Governments in the fight against organized crime is to provide leadership, coordination and adequate funding and resources. How can national, regional or local authorities play this role: <sup>28</sup>

- Recommendations include establishing a permanent central authority, a crime prevention plan with clear priorities and goals, coordination and partnerships between government agencies and civil society, public education and media outreach, program sustainability and accountability, training and capacity building for government and others bodies.
- Governments should include prevention as an ongoing part of their crime control structures and programmes, ensuring that there are clear responsibilities and objectives within government for the organization of crime prevention.

### 2.2.4. Planning the fight against organized crime

The fight against organized crime is a systematic process that is planned at the national and local level: <sup>29</sup>

- Planning to combat organized crime promotes a process that includes: a systematic analysis of criminal problems, their causes, risk factors and consequences, a plan based on the most appropriate approach and adapting interventions to the specific problem and context, an implementation plan to provide appropriate interventions that are efficient, effective and sustainable, mobilizing entities that are able to deal with the causes, monitoring and evaluation, support for evaluation.
- National plans to fight organized crime should be based on consultations with sectors and stakeholders from civil society. This process will help identify different types of crime, levels of insecurity and public concern, and associated social and economic problems.

### Extract from the second chapter

Every country is affected by the problems of serious and organized crime. The destructive effects of organized crime can adversely affect the daily lives of citizens, hinder economic growth and hamper the efforts of governments to limit the consequences of crime. In order to prevent and fight against organized crime, activities should be carried out both within domestic borders and within and between regions. Transnational organized crime requires a coordinated transnational response. As organized crime networks span the globe, countering them must also cross borders to ensure that organized crime networks do not simply shift their activities to countries or regions where weak cooperation means weak

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<sup>28</sup> Handbook on the Crime Prevention Guidelines: Making them work, (2020), ([https://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal\\_justice](https://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice)),

<sup>29</sup> Handbook on the Crime Prevention Guidelines: Making them work, (2020), [https://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal\\_justice](https://www.unodc.org/pdf/criminal_justice),

criminal justice response. International cooperation against organized crime should be used as a tool to strengthen sovereignty and security. Mutual legal assistance, extradition, transfer of convicted prisoners and confiscation of property are practical means of combating organized crime..

## **CHAPTER THREE: ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE BALKAN COUNTRIES BULGARIA, ALBANIA AND NORTH MACEDONIA**

### **3.1. ORGANIZED CRIME IN THE BALKANS**

The Balkans is a geopolitical region in Southeast Europe that includes an area of 550,000 km<sup>2</sup>, home to around 55 million people with different identities, who are sometimes in a hostile ethnic, cultural and political position. Historically, the Balkans served as a bridge between Europe and Asia. The Balkan Peninsula was also used by various criminal groups as a transit country for trade and smuggling of various goods into Europe. Despite these activities taking place for centuries, the phenomenon of organized crime in the Balkans became so alarming in the last decades of the twentieth century. Organized crime in the Balkans is developing by establishing networking and cooperation between regional groups belonging to organized crime. These groups, becoming more and more criminally sophisticated throughout the Balkans, are characterized by their ability to work together and adapt to all new social circumstances well enough to achieve their criminal goals. In reality, these criminal groups have always cooperated with each other in the areas of drug smuggling, human trafficking, stolen vehicle smuggling, cigarette smuggling, arms smuggling, fuel smuggling and money laundering.<sup>30</sup>

Balkan criminal groups represent attractive partners for drug cartels in Latin America for four main reasons: <sup>31</sup>

- First, they are adaptive and work well with local groups.
- Second, the Balkans are an important crossroads for drug trafficking, serving as a bridge between Eastern and Western Europe.
- Third, Balkan criminal groups maintain a strong presence in most European port cities used as transshipment points from Latin America to Europe, including those in Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, Italy and Spain.
- Fourth, because of this presence, they can transfer illicit products end-to-end without the need for additional intermediaries, reducing the complexity of operations and the likelihood of missteps.

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<sup>30</sup> Krasniqi, K., (2016), *Organized Crime In The Balkans*, University of Peje, Kosovo, *European Scientific Journal* July 2016 edition vol.12, No.19 ISSN: 1857 – 7881 (Print) e - ISSN 1857- 7431, <https://eujsjournal.org/esj/article/viewFile>,

<sup>31</sup> The burgeoning Balkan-Latin American crime nexus threatening the Balkans' future, (2020) расположено на: <https://www.aei.org/the-bur>

## **3.2. LEGAL FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF ORGANIZED CRIME IN BULGARIA**

### **3.2.1. The nature of organized crime in Bulgaria**

The spread of organized crime as an extremely dangerous social phenomenon marked the transition in almost all post-communist countries. Bulgaria was among the hardest hit by the crime wave that accompanied the transformation of the totalitarian state in the early 1990s. In fact, the term "transformation" hardly gives an adequate idea of the sudden transition from total state control over the individual to the kind of freedom that combined a semi-criminal economy, legal and institutional chaos, and insecurity for citizens. As a result of the nihilism and incompetence, as well as the corruption of the new political elites, chaotic measures were taken under the guise of "liberal reform" which actually led to the practical collapse of the state and the expansion of organized crime.<sup>32</sup>

### **3.2.2. Institutions of fight against organized crime in Bulgaria**

The Bulgarian political elite puts the fight against organized crime at the top of the agenda. Overall, there is political will to tackle all major forms of organized crime, although the response to the fight against crime and corruption is weak. Corruption is widespread, and public trust in institutions is low. In particular, crime and its influence threaten the democratic process. There is an anti-corruption body, but it is neither effective nor independent. Transparency has improved significantly, and institutions now publish annual reports and statistics on their activities, but shortcomings remain. The main issues are public responsibility, control over the prosecutor's office and difficult access to public information.<sup>33</sup>

### **3.2.3. Normative framework for combating organized crime in Bulgaria**

The normative framework for the fight against organized crime in Bulgaria consists of:<sup>34</sup>

**Criminal Code** - The main function of the Criminal Code is protection from criminal acts against the person and rights of citizens and the overall legal order established in the country, determining which of the acts are criminal acts and what punishments are imposed.

**Criminal Procedure Law** - The Criminal Procedure Law determines the order in which criminal proceedings are conducted in order to detect crimes, expose the perpetrators, and enforce the law fairly.

**Law on the Ministry of Internal Affairs** - The law regulates the principles, tasks, structure and management of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, whose activity is aimed at protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens, national security and public order.

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<sup>32</sup> Organized Crime in Bulgaria: Markets and Trends - Policy , (2007), ( <http://pdc.ceu.hu> › archive.

<sup>33</sup> България се нареди на 10 място в Европа по организирана престъпност, (2021), <https://www.investor.bg> › byl.

<sup>34</sup> Стратегия за превенция на престъпността 2012 - 2020 г. <https://www.mvr.bg> ›

Law on Combating Trafficking in Human Beings - The Law regulates the prevention and protection of victims of human trafficking by regulating the measures for prevention and opposition to these crimes.

National strategy for preventing and combating corruption (2021 - 2027) - The strategy reaffirms the principles of the anti-corruption policy incorporated in the National strategy for preventing corruption in the Republic of Bulgaria (2015 - 2020)).

### **3.2.4. Financial aspects of organized crime in Bulgaria**

In the last few years, organized crime in Bulgaria has shifted its focus away from classic patterns of operation, as more of the financial damage has come as a result of white-collar criminal activities and the ever-widening use of innovative technologies. Although the general decrease in total revenues from organized crime continues to pose a significant threat to the Bulgarian economy, a large part of the criminal networks in Bulgaria control legal businesses, which has facilitated the laundering of criminal money and posed new challenges in the fight against organized crime. Fraud of EU funds in Bulgaria is comparable to the biggest markets for organized crime, such as human trafficking, drug trafficking and illegal fuel trade.<sup>35</sup>

## **3.3. LEGAL FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF ORGANIZED CRIME IN ALBANIA**

### **3.3.1. The nature of organized crime in Albania**

The reasons for creating, running and joining criminal structures can be different for each person. Fast and abundant income, better social status or political power are the most common reasons that can attract members of armed gangs, organizations or structured criminal groups to illegal activities. Possession of money, luxury and weapons are also strong attractions for many young people who are prone to adventure and desire for power. Criminal activities carried out by citizens based in Albania, but also by other ethnic Albanian citizens coming from Albanian-speaking territories, have some specific characteristics for that category, distinguishing it from other criminal groups operating in the same sector.<sup>36</sup>

### **3.3.2. Institutions for the fight against organized crime in Albania**

According to the Law on the Organization and Functioning of the Institutions for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime, the rules for the organization and functioning of the Special Prosecutor's Office and the Independent Investigation Unit as constitutional bodies are defined in Albania in accordance with Article 148, paragraph 4, of the Constitution:<sup>37</sup>

- The Special Prosecutor's Office,

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<sup>35</sup> Bulgarian Organised Crime Threat Assessment 2020 - Event, <https://csd.bg/events/bulgarian-organised-crime-thre>.

<sup>36</sup> Rama, I., (2021), Overview of the Characteristics of the Albanian Organized Crime - Development Trends Over the Years, [//www.richtmann.org](http://www.richtmann.org), стр. 113

<sup>37</sup> Institutions Combating Corruption and Organized Crime, (2021), <https://euralius.eu/Laws>, Amended by law no 47/2021, dated 23.3.2021



- The National Bureau of Investigation,
- Court for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime,
- Special Prosecutor's Office,
- The National Bureau of Investigation,
- Public Prosecution,
- State Police.

### **3.3.3. Normative framework for combating organized crime in Albania**

Organized crime has emerged as one of the most important challenges for Albania since the beginning of the country's political and economic transition in the early 1990s. Taking into account the seriousness of the problem, the effective fight against organized crime has been determined as a key priority for Albania before the opening of accession negotiations with the European Union. Although organized crime emerged in the 1990s, Albania was largely unprepared to face these challenges during that period and was only able to adopt its first Intersectoral Strategy to Combat Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking and Terrorism in 2008, which was renewed in 2013. International reports and statistics from national institutions reveal the significant spread of Albanian organized crime outside of it. Albanian organized crime networks are now able to carry out large-scale transcontinental operations, ranging from supplying drugs and controlling drug markets in Europe to conducting successful money laundering operations using Albania as a platform. Albanian authorities have made efforts to combat the UK by improving legal, institutional and strategic infrastructure and capacities, but visible results are still lacking.<sup>38</sup>

### **3.3.4. Financial aspects of organized crime in Albania**

Albanian organized crime has managed to infiltrate illegal markets around the world, as "very dangerous" because of the strong ties it has created with local mafia organizations. The increased volume and efficiency of drug trafficking carried out by Albanian criminal networks across the Adriatic to the Italian coast results in huge profits being laundered in both illegal and legal business activities in Albania. Organized crime has serious implications for the stability of Albanian institutions and those of the surrounding region. In Albania, poverty remains widespread. Average annual income per capita of 1,230 USD places Albania among the poorest countries in transition. At the same time, crime and corruption still pose serious challenges for Albania. Together with inadequate law enforcement and the slow pace of reform, they threaten the country's ability to sustain economic growth and alleviate poverty.<sup>39</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Белградски центар за безбедносна политика (БЦБП), (2021), Неостварување на заложбите: како владите од западниот Балкан се борат против организираниот криминал <http://radar.bezbednost.org> › uploads › 2021/04,

<sup>39</sup> Money Laundering: The Case of Albania - IFSH, (2018), <https://ifsh.de> › english › Fink\_Baumeister\_Muco,



### 3.4. LEGAL FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF ORGANIZED CRIME IN NORTH MACEDONIA

#### 3.4.1. Characteristics of organized crime in North Macedonia

Organized crime in the Republic of Macedonia manifests itself through the actions of organized criminal groups at the national and international level in one or more criminal areas for the purpose of achieving financial and material benefit. In organized crime, organized criminal groups use all financial resources at their disposal, apply expertise to conceal criminal activities and in certain situations use legal businesses to achieve criminal goals and make a profit. Organized crime adapts to the environment in which it operates, those involved apply countermeasures for protection and innovation in their methods and moderate influence in the public sector through corrupt activities. The main criminal areas in which criminal actors operate are illegal drug trafficking, migrant smuggling, computer crime, property crime, goods smuggling and tax evasion.<sup>40</sup>

#### 3.4.2. Institutions for the fight against organized crime in North Macedonia

Key institutions in the fight against organized crime are:<sup>41</sup>

- The Department for Serious and Organized Crime in conjunction with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Public Prosecutor's Office for prosecuting organized crime and corruption, in conjunction with the Public Prosecutor's Office.
- Considering that organized crime is largely related to financial crime, the Financial Police within the Ministry of Finance is another important participant, which monitors suspicious financial transactions through legal financial channels.
- The Customs Administration, the Financial Investigations Unit within the Ministry of Finance and the Public Revenue Administration also have responsibilities for dealing with financial crime and money laundering.
- Finally, the Asset Management Agency is an important institution to deal with revenue and crime.

In the Republic of Macedonia, as constituent elements of the system for the fight against organized crime, i.e. services that have competences for the fight against organized crime, there are:

- ✓ the public prosecution
- ✓ the court,
- ✓ the police,
- ✓ the financial police,

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<sup>40</sup> Република Македонија, Министерство за внатрешни работи, Проценка на закани од сериозен и организиран криминал, (2015), <https://polis.osce.org> > file > download,

<sup>41</sup> Белградски центар за безбедносна политика (БЦБП), (2021), Неостварување на заложбите: како владите од западниот балкан се борат против организираниот криминал, <http://radar.bezbednost.org> > uploads > 2021/04, стр. 67 - 70

- ✓ The Financial Intelligence Authority,
- ✓ The Public Revenue Authority,
- ✓ The Customs Administration and
- ✓ The Intelligence Agency.

### **3.4.3. Normative framework for the fight against organized crime in North Macedonia**

The regulatory framework was generally assessed as sufficient to enable the fight against organized crime and is largely aligned with EU legislation. North Macedonia has ratified the relevant international conventions in this area, which provides a basis for fighting organized crime in accordance with international standards and engaging in international cooperation.<sup>42</sup>

### **3.4.4. Financial aspects of organized crime in North Macedonia**

In the Republic of Macedonia, as in other countries in the world, there is organized crime that leaves harmful consequences. It contributes to the criminalization of certain activities and to the fact that they can be perceived everywhere, for example in the economy, in politics, in public administration, among citizens. Throughout the entire period of the Macedonian transition, starting from independence, until today, the problem of organized crime is constantly brought up in connection with the threat to national security or the direct undermining of the foundations of statehood and the state. Organized crime in Macedonia has some special characteristics and functions, it sets higher goals than the generally known classic criminal acts. Organized crime in the Republic of Macedonia is closely related to business (criminal privatization, public procurement, illegal financing of political parties, smuggling of permitted and unauthorized goods, non-payment of huge sums for customs duties, taxes and excise duties), and to a much lesser extent (at least in relation to of the countries of the region) with blackmail, extortion and murder.

## **Extracts from the third chapter**

The Balkans is a transit region for illegal activities of organized crime, most of the hotspots of organized crime are places where one can simply enter or exit – in other words, ports, airports, border crossings or wider border regions. Furthermore, there are hotspots along major highways that are transit routes (north-south and east-west), as well as where major roads intersect. In some cases, hotspots are located in remote areas: along poorly monitored borders, or – in the case of some drug labs – in isolated rural areas. Organized crime groups from the Western Balkans are now key players in various areas of smuggling in Western Europe, Latin America and South Africa. The Western Balkans is a crossroads for the trade of many illicit goods and a geographic hub for smuggling migrants trying to enter Western

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<sup>42</sup> Белградски центар за безбедносна политика (БЦБП), (2021), Неостварување на заложбите: како владите од западниот балкан се борат против организираниот криминал, (посетено на 01.10.2021, достапно на [http://radar.bezbednost.org › uploads › 2021/04, стр. 70 -76](http://radar.bezbednost.org/uploads/2021/04, стр. 70 -76)

Europe. While these facts are well known, information about the size of markets and potential profits is less obvious.

## **CONCLUSION**

Organized crime is one of the main threats to human security. It is a threat to state security, but it also hinders the social, economic, political and cultural development of a country, and attacks public, financial and security institutions. For the effective fight to suppress it, a national and global strategy and action is necessary. It implies the maximum engagement of the subjects for the fight against organized crime at the level of not every country as well as the international community, simultaneously and concretely.

Today, the international community has a clear global approach to effectively combating transnational organized crime in the area of prevention and taking effective measures against transnational organized crime and strengthening cross-border cooperation for the purpose of prosecuting and suppressing organized crime. The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime represents a cornerstone in the reorganization of national efforts to create institutional foundations for the effective suppression of organized crime.

Today, organized crime comes from every part of the world. Organized crime, for the organizations that deal with this type of activity, is a very profitable activity, because the criminal activities generate income, the value of which is estimated to be hundreds of billions of dollars.

Organizations that carry out activities in the field of organized crime are flexible, innovative and resilient. They operate as networks of organizations that are profit-oriented, constantly seeking new opportunities and operating across states and beyond state borders. Organized crime networks are sensitive to the tactics implemented by competent institutions, have a high level of knowledge and experience from business practices and demonstrate a high level of resilience to traditional interventions and reactions of authorities and institutions to organized crime.

In order to be able to successfully respond to the challenges of organized crime, it is necessary to have a complete idea of how organized crime operates, which are the areas and means it uses and which tactical means to apply in intelligence and conducting investigative procedures. It is also necessary to provide strong legal and legislative support and to create conditions for full implementation of laws, to determine target priorities in the fight against organized crime and to include more legal competences for the fight against organized crime. Mixed multi-agency or institutional teams should also be built and action frameworks and strategies determined.

## **IV USE OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND PRACTICAL RESULTS**

Returns:

1. Proposed model for improving the possibilities for providing an efficient system of effective financial and legal measures and for a more effective fight against organized crime.
2. A new conceptual model of a system of measures and activities for a successful fight against organized crime is proposed.
3. Proposed set of preventive financial measures against organized crime.
4. Proposed set of repressive financial measures against organized crime.
5. Developed measures for early detection and identification of the causes of organized crime and taking financial measures to prevent organized crime,
6. Proposed and designed financial measures to prevent organized crime through Hi-tech communication systems.
7. The methods and aspects of optimization and functioning of the systems to fight against organized crime are researched and empirically proven,
8. Research has been carried out to improve the coordination and cooperation between the competent state authorities in the collection of intelligence information for the fight against organized crime.

For constant monitoring of organized crime, the data published as information should be studied:

- The United Nations,
- International financial and legal institutions,
- International organizations to fight crime and money laundering.

## **LIST OF PUBLICATIONS RELATED TO THE DISSERTATION**

1. Legal and financial aspects of the fight against organized crime.
2. Analysis of the situation and financial challenges of organized crime in the context of globalization.
3. Legal frameworks for fight against organized crime.

## **LIST OF SELECTED LITERATURE**

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## **DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY AND TRUST**

((according to Art. 27, paragraph 2 of the ZP of ZRASRB))

By **JulindaShehaj, MSc**, self-study PhD student at the Finance Department of Higher School of Insurance and Finance (BCYΦ) - Sofia.

I declare that the dissertation presented by me on the topic, **Financial and legal aspects of the fight against organized crime in the world and the Balkan countries Bulgaria, Albania and North Macedonia**, for awarding the educational and scientific diploma "Doctor" is an original paper and contains results obtained from my research, with the support and help of my supervisor.

I declare that the results obtained, described and / or published by other scientists are properly cited in the bibliography, subject to copyright requirements.

I am informed that in case of finding plagiarism in the submitted dissertation, the defense committee has the right to reject it.

I declare that the dissertation has not been presented at other universities, institutes and other higher education institutions for obtaining an educational and scientific diploma.

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**Declarant:**

**Julinda Shehaj, MSc**