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### ORGANIZED CRIME AND SECURITY, WITH EMPHASIS ON THE SOUTHEAST EUROPE REGION

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**Abstract:** In this paper, an attempt is made to portray one of the contemporary forms of non-military and asymmetrical threats, organized crime, with special focus on the causes and the conditions for its development in the Southeast Europe region. It portraits how the organized crime affects the security of the citizens and states, meaning its negative implications on their safety, as well as presentation of the methods and measures for its prevention.

The goal of the security as a phenomenon of civil society in all stages of its development is the endeavor to ensure the values and conditions of vital meaning for the states. In line with this, the success of the implemented activities primarily depends on the ability and capacity of the state to recognize the threats and with that to create preconditions for carrying out effective and efficient measures for own safety, and the safety of its citizens.

Today, although the risk from military threats is lowered, the experts direct their considerations towards the wide range of non-military and the so-called asymmetrical threats that pose a serious attack on the states, their economies and political stability, the social harmony, the environment, as well as an attack on the public health. These non-military threats are almost the same for all countries, regardless of their structure of society or their geostrategic position. One of these threats that stand out for its peril and fierceness is organized crime. In order for undisturbed realization of its goals, organized crime seeks to weaken and to neutralize the state and its institutions to a level at which it will not be able to function and it is doing everything to maintain this situation as long

as possible. The successful prevention of organized crime implies carrying out range of activities by the states that come out from their National Security Strategies. Considering the fact that the Republic of Macedonia still has not prepared a National Strategy for the prevention of organized crime, this paper attempts to give a proposal on what it should contain and who has to coordinate the activities for its implementation.

Keywords: security, non-military threat, organized crime, national strategy.

#### 1. Introduction

The sources of instability in the Southeast Europe region can be recognized in the multiethnic and multireligious mark for this part of Europe, in the larger swing of nationalism, but mostly in the different social, political and economical development of the states and in the geostrategic placement of the region. In this context, the support coming from several European bureaucrats must not be ignored, who on behalf of certain ruling elites from the region hinder the solution of crucial problems, and the process of association of the states in the European Union. In return, they make space for good financial awards and for building of successful political careers.

After the Cold war and the beginning of globalization as world process, the military threats, although still present, stepped down in topicality for the new non-military and asymmetrical threats. The end of the Cold war and the new understanding of the concept of security imposed the necessity of creating new security policy, which represents necessary precondition in establishing stability and security in the Southeast Europe region. The new forms of threats – the non-military ones, the most prevailing are organized crime and terrorism, which distinguish by their severity and fierceness, on national and international level, and require more serious approach in their prevention or at least their reduction to a level on which they would not represent serious security threat.

In modern societies, security is a global challenge and one of the main reasons for human and social activities. Security represents a complex and dynamic segment of the political system of states, which applies to citizens, to the state as well as to the

wider world community, because day-by-day security threats and security risks occur anywhere at any time without exception. It is primarily based on the elements of national power of states expressed through economic power, geostrategic position, rich natural resources and raw materials, technical and technological capacity, the size of internal reserves, dependence on the international market, the national character of the state, the capacity of the current government to implement its decisions, the educational level and the reproductive power of the population, as well as moral values. No society can achieve a high-level security, or absolute freedom, because it is necessary to ensure a balance between security on the one hand and the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens and the interests of the state on the other. Thus, freedom and security should be seen as variable magnitudes, given the different, conflicting and irreconcilable interests of individuals and groups in every society. The research of the security and security systems phenomenon and their immediate scientific explanation implies a special emphasis on the analysis and understanding of politically - historical processes and political systems.<sup>65</sup>

Security in the broadest sense is a state of stability in nature and in the state aimed at performing preventive preparations for defense and protection, primarily from the various sources of endangerment in order to avoid causing an imbalance in nature and in society, thus endangering the physical, social and spiritual integrity of individuals.<sup>66</sup> It is necessary for successful and continuous functioning of the states and state institutions, providing and guaranteeing its citizens with the basic life functions and a healthy environment. That means that security today is not only related to the problem of endangerment of human life and the states well being, but it is increasingly observed through the prism of quality of life. Weather we can realize our set goals and ourselves is very important in life, and in that realization someone or something is preventing us or threatens our recognized values and our way of life. At the same time, but in reverse, it is important that we with our behavior and the measures taken do not prevent or endanger others in achieving their set goals and objectives.

By increasing the interest for non-military threats, especially for organized crime, there was a change in the values, covered by the term for security.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>65</sup> Masleša R. – "*Teorije i sistemi sigurnosti",* Magistrat, Sarajevo, 2001

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>66</sup> Nacev Z. Nachevski R. - "*Security and national defence*", Makedonska riznica, Kumanovo, 2001.

In the traditional concept of security the center of attention is the protection of the state and its basic attributes of sovereignty primarily by military means, where as in the new concept or the so called concept of human security where the meaning of the state is not disputed but the importance of protection of the citizens is emphasized, their communities and environment, as equally important. This means that security today focuses on new challenges, meaning threats that aim at human lives. Security threats come not only from other states, but also from the large number of natural and social processes and occurrences that cross the national borders.<sup>67</sup>

Kennedy<sup>68</sup> talks about global security as a concept, saying that it requires deepening and widening of the security content besides the military and political topics, meaning that this new concept of security includes the protection of human rights and freedoms, environmental protection, economic prosperity and social development. For Kennedy the definition of global security represents previous defining of the global interest, which is analyzed as primary and secondary. Thus, the primary interest is comprised of the physical integrity of planet Earth and its Eco-system, while secondary interest implies the improvement of conditions for exercising the basic human needs and human rights.

This raises the question, is the realization of security and freedom of citizens at the highest level possible. The answer is that that would be impossible because firstly it is necessary providing a balance between the security, the protection of the fundamental rights and freedoms of citizens and the interests of the states, which unfortunately is impossible. According to Masleša, the freedom and security should be seen as variable magnitudes, given the differences, conflicting and irreconcilable interests of individuals and groups in every society.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>67</sup> King G. and Murray C. - "Rethinking Human Security", Political Science Quarterly, Vol. 116, No. 4, 2001-2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>68</sup> Kennedy G. - *"The Planetary Interest",* Cambridge, 1995.

#### 2. Organized crime as a side effect of globalization

Organized crime is typically undesired and harmful occurrence of globalization. The emergence and development of organized crime is a complex socio-political and security process associated with the process of changes in one state, with the emergence of corruptive behavior as mostly exploited and non-violent way of achieving its objectives, as well as the emergence of "the gray economy", which is parallel to its legal economy and trade.

In accordance with Buzan's claim<sup>69</sup> that in the period after the "Cold War" the security of the states was influenced by its five basic dimensions: military, political, economical and social, also the security that relates to the environment, so today organized crime as a modern non-military threat has significant impact on each of these dimensions.

Namely, the states whose governments enter into symbiosis with organized crime use their military and police structures for achieving criminal goals, or for the protection of the current structures of organized crime. These criminal structures, which are in symbiosis with the states are powerful, part of its members are employed in the state administration and use their resources and services to achieve criminal goals. Thus, states that were weakened by political, ethnic and religious conflicts, as was the case with most of the states in the Southeast Europe region, became states in which organized crime easily penetrated in the state itself. In the newly formed states in Southeast Europe, the underdeveloped legal framework and the weak and corrupt judiciary among others went in favor to the criminal structures. These factors contributed to the growth of well-organized criminal structures with international prefix and ones that have large financial resources.

Organized crime does not have any particular ideological omen, but the acquisition of money and power, among other things, is aimed at obtaining greater support from the politics for the protection from the police and prosecution. These structures never publicly show their political ambitions, but indulge themselves with

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>69</sup> Buzan, B., Weaver, O. and de Wilde, J. (1998), *Security: A New Framework for Analysis*, London: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

corruption of the public administration and of politicians who helped them implement their criminal activities. The purpose of organized crime is not to destroy the established democratic institutions, but its purpose is its incorporation into them to make citizens and states unsafe, thus rule them through its criminal activities of the structures under his control. However, organized crime endangers the foundations of the modern state and denies all of its democratic and legal regulations.

Grubać gives clarification and says that organized crime threatens the society and its values, the individual and the family as the fundamental social values. It destabilizes governments, undermines the parliamentary, destroys citizens' trust in the state and in the legal institutions, it denies the laws and social morality. It questions security, not only individual but also collective, state and international.<sup>70</sup>

Mijalkovski<sup>71</sup> emphasized that the structures of organized crime fulfill their goals even if they "concurred" just one area of social life or just a state institution, if the state is unable or does not show determination to prevent some of the forms of organized crime.

In context of the stated above, mostly it is a matter of weak and unsuccessful states in which organized crime tries raise its achieved tactical success to a strategic level, meaning to "cover" or put under its control the other areas of life in the state. That would mean that the structures of organized crime tend to create optimally weak state, and their appetite would go so far and they would try to create their own criminal state.

Thus, according to Rakćević<sup>72</sup>, a hesitant and disorganized state cannot counteract organized crime. If there were no political will and no prompt and decisive action up to settling and individualization of responsibilities, meaning of state structures, organized crime would jeopardize the foundations of the state.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>70</sup> Grubać M.- "*Organizovani kriminal u Srbijl*", Zbornik radova Pravnog fakulteta u Splitu, br.464/2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>71</sup> Mijalkovski M. – "Organizovani kriminal – najopasniji oblik ugrožavanja bezbednosti države", Revija za bezbednost, br.12/08, Centar za bezbednosne studije, Beograd, 2008.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>72</sup> Zharko Rakchević – coordinator of round table on the 2010 Forum that took place in Podgorica, titled "Organized crime – challenge for the democratic development of Montenegro".

The economy, the financial and bank institutions always suffer from the main blast of organized crime, for reasons that organized crime besides the already existing legal, creates a parallel gray economy. If the gray economy becomes dominant, it directs the economic trends according to its logic of gaining profit, creating inflationary pressures, reducing profits of legal business, raising product prices, which on the other hand prevents the developmental strategy of the Southeastern Europe states.

Criminal act characteristic for organized crime, mainly, are divided into two basic forms: when a crime is the foundation of the criminal structure (criminal group or criminal network), or under the Criminal Code of the Republic of Macedonia - Criminal association (Art.394) and a second form that represents a set of crimes carried out by the members of the criminal structures with clear objectives for which they were formed. Thus, by committing these crimes the criminal profit is directly achieved, which together with acquisition of power are among the main goals of organized crime.

The social danger coming from organized crime is a consequence of its few characteristics that distinguish it from the so-called classical crime. Those are the high degree of organization of its members, the great desire for money and power, as well as the international component, which does not recognize national borders and national sovereignty. The main threatening aspects of organized crime are firstly the large obstacles in preventing and destroying the criminal structures, their international dimensions and influence and secondly their infiltration into the economy and other social spheres. The first aspect gives immunity and longevity to the criminal structures, while the latter aspect, connects them to the legal world, adversely affecting the will and preparedness of the states in preventing and destroying it. As much as these structures are established in society, they become more respectable, making it harder for their members to be brought to justice.

The negative effects of the actions of organized crime over the legal economic flows, usually are recognized through the increased levels of crime and corruption, then as disloyal competition to the legitimate business entities, through reduction of tax revenues towards the state because of the money flow over illegal financial channels, through impaired reputation of the state on international level, through weakening of the financial institutions and the destruction of their credibility, through compromised economy and private sector and the endangered efforts tied around the process of privatization.<sup>73</sup> By using violence, the structures of organized crime threaten public order and peace, and thus affect the security of the citizens. However, today the issues of organized crime and security do not cover only the problem of public order and peace in Southeastern Europe states, but they include the whole corpus of issues regarding the quality of democracy. It has a strong influence on social cohesion in societies and the confidence in democracy. Thus, the increased intensity of its activities leads to deterioration of the quality of urban life and to collapse of the established relationship between citizens and state institutions.

The Southeastern Europe region became the most sensitive to the organized crime as a contemporary threat to national security, because most of the states at the end of the eighties and the beginning of the nineties of the last century experienced changes in their socio-economic formations, structural impoverishment of the population, and in some of them-armed conflicts occurred. In this way, historically speaking, some of the states from the Southeastern Europe region had to face numerous difficulties when they started the transition processes directed towards a market economy. Changes in political and economic terms, the nationalism, the rising unemployment, the large differences between income and product price level on the market, contributed to the rapid creation of "gray economy" and the "black market".

Through established control over the media, organized crime inflicts a blow over the freedom of expression. In fact, in many cases, it uses the media, which corrupts directly or indirectly so that the corrupted journalists through the electronic or print media directly and indirectly provide assistance in protecting and by falsification of topics, in affirmation and smoothly carrying out its illegal activities.

In case of its establishment in the state, organized crime questions the system of political decision-making, and thus the sovereignty of the citizens. Therefore, by moving the headquarters of the actual power for delivery of key political decisions contributes to the infiltration of organized crime in the political parties, especially during election campaigns, as in central also in the local government.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>73</sup> Бошковић Г. – *"Организовани криминал*", Криминалистичко-полицијска академија, Београд, 2011.

Political elites are in opposition, and because of the fact that the state institutions are under governmental control, show weakness in prevention of the activities of organized crime. The lack of power comes from the inability to implementation of the activities for its proving and prevention, therefore all they are left with is to recognize its existence and to publish the names of its performers, which it must be admitted is not enough for such serious problem.

According to Grahovac<sup>74</sup> all this is a characteristic for undemocratic regimes in the region that are led by families and where the overall control, money and power is concentrated. They are not concerned by the fact that they can rule for a short time, after which they and the state will have to pay a heavy price for their misdeeds, but the most important thing for them is to preserve the power and feel powerful and to achieve all their set goals and meet their needs during that period.

#### 3. Corruption as an accompanied segment of organized crime

Corruption is a phenomenon that affects negatively on all areas of social life and affect on law disobedience, on weakening the morale and on creation of mistrust toward the state and its institutions. It is heavily used by the structures of organized crime, that do corruption not only to establish criminal links with relevant politicians and civil servants, but also to ensure the uninterrupted flow of the process of money laundering, in order to secure safe way for uninterrupted illegal drugs and arms trafficking, providing sure triumph in rigged tenders, winning in election processes and etc. The criminal structures by doing the corruption can get protection by the state administration, can influence the political decisions in the states, and create a possibility for their infiltration of state structures and legal businesses. In this way, using the weakness of the states and their governing structures and relying on politicians with dubious credibility, and by conducting illegal criminal activities, the structures of organized crime generate power and huge profits expressed through untaxed money.

It is inevitable and integral method of action of organized crime, which morally undermines society, and an expression of the collapse of social values and the existence of double morality. As a method of nonviolent achievement of set goals, today organized

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>74</sup> Blagoje Grahovac (član Savjetodavnog odbora Međunarodnog instituta IFIMES) – *"Geopolitika i organizovani kriminal i korupcija pocetkom 21 vijeka sa osvrtom na Balkan",* 2011.

crime increasingly uses corruption, and the money invested in corrupting public officials considers a good investment. Criminal structures consider the money given in the form of bribes as so called "utility costs" resulting from "done job", if it increases the chances of success and avoidance of penalty, and at the same time it reduces or lowers the threat of detection of the criminal acts, with all damaging consequences they can cause.<sup>75</sup>

The most dangerous, and at the same time the most sophisticated way of corruption, is that when the criminal structures through the corruption of senior government officials persist to obtain confidential information, long-term privilege and benefits, to ensure protection for their members, and to continuously conduct illegal activities for a longer period. In addition, the danger from the existence of corruption comes from the fact that through it a cohabitation of the criminal structures and the current political elite is insured, which ranges from local, through national and international level. This type of cohabitation between political authorities and criminal structures creates conditions for some states not to implement their protective mechanisms, but partially, from time to time, and only when it is useful and necessary for their governing structure.

Within the states, the corruption manifests itself as economic and political. Thus, economic corruption allows certain companies to help in establishing a monopoly on the market, and in return, the criminal structures for "the provided assistance" receive money. The political corruption is characteristic mostly for the election period, in order obtaining support of single political option, but to intimidate the opponents. The most used method for corruption of politicians is giving large amounts of money for financing political campaigns, in order to gain influence over elected officials. This may contribute to discouragement of the security structures in the implementation of effective investigation and finding mechanisms for replacement of corrupted judges and senior police officers.<sup>76</sup>

The corruption as a negative social phenomenon that is widely spread in the states of this region contributes to economic differentiation of the population and for deterioration of foreign investments. Today, characteristically for the corruption in Southeast Europe is its topicality, the high degree of social danger, new manifestations of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>75</sup> Korž V.- "Korupcijske veze organizovanih kriminalnih grupa i organizacija-kriminalistička analiza", Bezbednost 6/02, Beograd, 2002.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>76</sup> http://unpan 1.un.org/intrados/groups/public/documents/UNTC/UNPAN016997.pdf

corruption in the public and private sector within the economic and non-economic activities and the relationship with organized crime with which symbiotically represent important factor in undermining the stability and endangering the security of the region.

# 4. Proposal for National strategy for combating organized crime in Republic of Macedonia

The elements of the national strategies for combating organized crime result from the basic tasks of the security structures, namely the prevention and suppression of organized crime through collection, analysis and operational use of criminally intelligence information, as well as through coordination of their activities with the activities of other institutions and organizations, state and non-governmental. In this way the security services are directed primarily towards studying the structures of organized crime, their organization, connections and who the leaders are, rather than towards the criminal acts that they committed, in order to predict the threats to the security of states and their citizens which they produce, as well as prediction of the trends and future activities and types of threats that could be integral part of the strategy of the criminal structures of organized crime.

The Republic of Macedonia has not yet prepared a "National Strategy for combating organized crime" as a basic document in which the commitments, objectives, directions, methods, and the institutions responsible for implementing the activities of the state in terms of recognition, prevention and hindering of this negative phenomenon would be refereed. This strategy should predict the possible trends and directions for development of organized crime, and therefore the possibilities of the Republic of Macedonia to develop its national capacities and potential for effectiveness in prevention of organized crime. In order for this to be accomplished, there is a need of establishing a national consensus of all relevant factors in order to determine the quidelines for recognition, prevention and repression of organized crime. The adoption and implementation of the "National Strategy for combating organized crime" should be a priority for the Republic of Macedonia, for reasons that it represents an important step in the process of integration into the European Union and the NATO structures. This strategy as a basic document should be solid conceptual and functional connection with the adopted strategies in the Republic of Macedonia in the field of security such as: Strategy on integrated border management (2003), Strategy for prevention of money laundering and financing of terrorism (2008), Strategy for prevention of human trafficking

and illegal migration (2002), Strategy for drug handling (2006) and others. This strategy must include measures and activities that include cooperation with states from the region in the prevention from the activities of organized crime. "The National strategy for combating organized crime" would constitute public document, which is necessary to be regularly updated according to the implemented activities outlined with the measures in this strategy. For successful management and coordinated implementation of the activities outlined in the "National Strategy for combating organized crime", but also for conducting analyzes of the findings, to delivering relevant conclusions and recommendations based on these analyzes, there is a need of making periodical action plans, and the need for establishment of a national body, committee or a commission.

#### 5. Conclusion

In the nineties of the last century, human rights and freedoms arising from the belonging to a certain social and political community were seriously endangered in the states in this region because certain number of people from the state structures was involved in the processes of criminal privatization, and in other lucrative criminal activities. This endangerment represented major source of insecurity in the region that determined the way of thinking and the political behavior of the citizens for a longer period. This political behavior, among other things, naturally and systematically influenced will further influence the election results and the processes by which the institutions in the states of this region are established and maintained. It can easily happen for the fear to become a dominant social motive for political behavior, and societies managed by fear, progress and provide a climate of stability and security very difficult, which is necessary their citizens to have an authentic, healthy and uncorrupted government. Because of this, many successful people who represent the base of the developmental policy in their states leave the states from this region, although they are not directly economically disadvantaged. For the same reasons, highly educated young people because of the lack of prospects in their states, motivated by the desire for a better life and achievement of their ideas and goals, in large number emigrate to the rich Western European states who have stable democracy, more commonly known as "brain drain".

The prevention of organized crime, whose destabilizing effects are felt in the political, economic and social areas of Southeast Europe, is often unsuccessful. The reasons lie in the difficult proving of the criminal activities, the prevalence of corruption

as one of its most used methods, in the symbiosis with the ruling structures, in a remarkably constructed systems of self protection the criminal structures, as well as in the possession of enormous financial power. Organized crime poses a serious threat to the development of democracy; rule of law, human rights and freedoms and to the security of the states, for the social and economic development of the entire Southeastern Europe region. The weak response of these states in prevention of organized crime may be a result of insufficient, uneducated and technically unequipped state security resources, the influence of the politics, but also because of the increasing presence of corruption.

Organized crime and corruption will prevail as much as the state and its institutions would required time to deliver decision for their prevention. However, if the activities of organized crime be gelatinized and minimized by the state institutions, its criminal structures will undergo a serious attack and try to put under its control the ruling elites, while not leaving them space and time to use their available protective mechanisms in order to prevent the profitable criminal activity.

Therefore, for the implementation of serious activities in preventing and hindering organized crime, strong state institutions are required, and the existence of political will in the states and the region.

The political parties have great influence over the officers from the security structures which is reflected through their degradation during their service, layoffs of "unsuitable" or opponents to the current political elite and filling the vacancies with so unprofessional and incompetent members of the party, justifying it as implementation of necessary reforms in the security sector, which is one of the crucial factors to favor organized crime. The low income of these civil servants, their unprotectiveness from the arbitrariness of political or criminal authorities, directed to each other, in part of the states from this region, their poor material and technical equipment and low level of education on the methods and ways for recognition, prevention and hindering of the forms of organized crime, represent one of the factors that contributed to the survival and uninterrupted development of organized crime. Namely, in a situation where chaos rules, there is lawlessness, erosion of morals and lack of a system of values in some of the states of the region, the members of the criminal structures found their opportunity.

The protection from organized crime would consist of taking on complex measures for prevention, through eradicating corruption, through control over employees in public administration, through raising awareness about the necessity of inclusion of all state institutions, as well as animation of the general public and relevant political factors in its prevention. The greatest attention should be focused on uncompromising seizure of property and other material gain acquired by illegal activities of organized crime. The material gain is usually expressed through money and represents one of the main goals of organized crime, and it must necessarily be confiscated from the criminals. If the structures of organized crime through the consistent implementation of the institute confiscation of property and other material gain be deprived of the necessary money for corruption of judges and prosecutors, as well as hiring the best lawyers, it is logical in a legal procedure they to be sentenced to a highly effective long prison sentences. In this way, the repression will prevent the activities of organized crime.

The security structures cannot effectively or efficiently confront organized crime in cases when acting alone, or when isolated from other state systems, citizens and society. All states in the region of Southeast Europe, in the future, have to establish a system of values in which there will not be a slightest degree of tolerance on crime, while the strong interstate and regional cooperation will represent one of the key instruments for effective prevention of crime. Therefore, part of the states in the region, in order to successfully prevent organized crime, created specialized agencies, whose main activity is the collection of criminally intelligence information. The activities of these agencies should not be directed as a direct response to a specific crime committed, but it is necessary to follow the trends and the actions of the structures of organized crime, to gather useful information and to insist on anticipation of the possible directions of development of the threats on security, arising from the activities of organized crime.

Finally, it can be concluded that the greatest social danger from organized crime comes from its several characteristics that distinguish it from other types of crime, which are the high degree of organization of its members, the great "thirst" for money and power and its international character. This last characteristic is one of the main reasons that modern states began to deny the dogma of the inviolability of national sovereignty and began to recognize the necessity of international cooperation and the creation of common international protective institutions for international response, which includes military, police and judicial cooperation between states. However, not everything goes so

easy because one of the main obstacles in establishment of this cooperation is the preservation of the sovereignty of states. Thus, one of the bitterest problems related to the field of international cooperation is its establishment; each independent state includes its legislation and the judicial system, however it has to give up part of their sovereignty always when signing and ratifying an international agreement. Nevertheless, if positive results in combating organized crime want to be achieved, an intensive and solid international cooperation between states of the region and worldwide needs to be established.

Organized crime is not the only a problem in the states of Southeast Europe, but it is clear that it represents a big problem that can be an obstacle in the process of stabilization, maintenance of security and development of this region. For these reasons, the current governments in the countries of the region should actively monitor and be ready to meet the new trends and manifestations of organized crime. In order for that to be feasible, an existence of a close cooperation between the politicians and the experts is necessary, as well as standardization of the measures and harmonization of the security services and the judiciary. International collaboration in its prevention should be at the highest level, by accepting the basic principles for cooperation and implementation of already signed and ratified international treaties. However, states often fail to realize their obligations arising from international agreements, for reasons that the harmonization of domestic legislation with international standards for the prevention of organized crime is often cosmetics rather than real. The reasons can be found in the weak capacities of the states, the lack of political will or in the corrupt public institutions and individuals. For these reasons, there are cases of failure to meet the international outlined and accepted standards by the states, so the community sometimes is forced to implement certain sanctions on them.

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