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CRIME COMBATING AS ONE OF THE MAIN AREAS OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION INVOLVING THE NATIONAL POLICE

Abstract. **Purpose.** The purpose of the article is to describe crime combating as one of the main areas of international cooperation involving the National Police of Ukraine. **Results.** In the context of large-scale globalisation processes, transnational crime is increasingly widespread, as open borders lead to significant migration dynamics, including many representatives of the criminal world. In this regard, the National Police of Ukraine, in cooperation with international law enforcement organisations such as Interpol and Europol, as well as individual states, combats crimes that are punishable under national and foreign law. It is established that the main areas of counteraction to this type of crime are: creation of a legal framework, organisational, logistical and other conditions for effective combating organised crime, organisation of international cooperation in this area; identification and elimination or neutralisation of negative social processes and phenomena which give rise to organised crime and contribute to it; prevention of harm to individuals, society, and the state; prevention of the emergence of organised criminal groups; detection, investigation, elimination and prevention of offences committed by members of organised criminal groups, and bringing the perpetrators to justice; compensation for damage to individuals, legal entities, and the state; prevention of establishing corrupt ties with public servants and officials and their involvement in criminal activities; counteraction to the use of civil society and media associations by members of organised criminal groups in their interests; prevention of money laundering and the use of business entities for criminal intentions. **Conclusions.** In this article, relying on the analysis of scientific views of scholars, provisions of current legislation and law enforcement practice, the author reveals the essence of crime combating as one of the main areas of international cooperation involving the National Police. It is proved that this area is the most consistent with the competence, powers and tasks of the National Police of Ukraine, and contributes to their efficient performance and overall development of police mechanisms in accordance with international standards and the most positive foreign practices.

Key words: crime combating, transnational crime, international cooperation, National Police of Ukraine.

1. Introduction

According to Articles 1 and 2 of the Law of Ukraine ‘On the National Police’, the National Police is a central executive body that serves the public by ensuring the protection of human rights and freedoms, combating crime, and maintaining public security and order. The tasks of the Police are to provide police services in the following areas: 1) public safety and order; 2) protection of human rights and freedoms, as well as interests of society and the state; 3) crime combating; 4) assistance services to persons who need such assistance for personal, economic, social reasons or as a result of emergency situations, within the limits estab-

lished by law (Law of Ukraine On the National Police, 2015). The NPU organises and implements international cooperation in all areas of its activities within the scope of its competence provided by law, but the most active such cooperation is in the area of combating crime.

Nowadays, in the legal field, there is a significant scientific body of work devoted to the legal, organisational, political and other principles of combating crime with the participation of various state authorities in our country. For example, this issue has been addressed by: V.V. Vasylevych, V.N. Driemin, O.M. Dzhuzha, A.P. Zakaliuk, A.P. Zapototskyi, R.O. Movchan, O. H. Kolb, I.S. Timush, as well as many other

scholars. However, despite a significant number of theoretical developments, the issue of combating crime as one of the main areas of international cooperation with the participation of the National Police of Ukraine is insufficiently developed in the scientific literature.

Therefore, the purpose of the article is to describe crime combating as one of the main areas of international cooperation involving the National Police of Ukraine.

2. The National Police of Ukraine in cooperation with international law enforcement organisations

To begin our research, we should note that crime is a rather massive, historically variable, social, criminal law phenomenon of class society, which is the totality of all offences committed in a particular state over a certain period of time (Boiko, 2009). In some cases, the activities of criminal groups go beyond the borders of the state and have negative social consequences for the population of several countries at once, that is, they become transnational. According to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime of November 15, 2000, a crime is transnational in nature if: a) it is committed in more than one State; b) it is committed in one State but a substantial part of its preparation, planning, direction or control takes place in another State; c) it is committed in one State, but involves an organised criminal group that engages in criminal activities in more than one State; d) it is committed in one State but has substantial effects in another State" (United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2000).

In the context of large-scale globalisation processes, transnational crime is increasingly widespread, as open borders lead to significant migration dynamics, including many representatives of the criminal world. In this regard, the National Police of Ukraine, in cooperation with international law enforcement organisations such as Interpol and Europol, as well as individual states, combats crimes that are punishable under national and foreign law.

For example, according to the Law of Ukraine 'On the Organisational and Legal Framework for Combating Organised Crime', the main areas of counteraction to this type of crime are: creation of a legal framework, organisational, logistical and other conditions for effective combating organised crime, organisation of international cooperation in this area; identification and elimination or neutralisation of negative social processes and phenomena which give rise to organised crime and contribute to it; prevention of harm to individuals, society, and the state; prevention of the emergence

of organised criminal groups; detection, investigation, elimination and prevention of offences committed by members of organised criminal groups, and bringing the perpetrators to justice; compensation for damage to individuals, legal entities, and the state; prevention of establishing corrupt ties with public servants and officials and their involvement in criminal activities; counteraction to the use of civil society and media associations by members of organised criminal groups in their interests; prevention of money laundering and the use of business entities for criminal intentions. International cooperation in combating organised crime is based on the provisions of international law and current legislation of Ukraine, interstate and intergovernmental treaties, bilateral departmental agreements (Law of Ukraine On organizational and legal framework for combating organized crime, 1993).

In the course of international cooperation to combat and prevent organised crime in 2024, operational officers of the Strategic Investigations Department, investigators of the Main Investigation Department of the National Police under the procedural guidance of the Prosecutor General's Office in cooperation with Europol, Eurojust and law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Moldova and Romania eliminated the activities of a criminal group whose members 'specialised' in extorting money from gullible citizens through call centres. Citizens of Ukraine, who, together with representatives of other states, ensured the operation of four call centres in several cities of the Republic of Moldova, employing about 400, people were involved in organising a large-scale international fraud scheme (Official web portal of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, 2024).

Active international cooperation continues in combating drug-related crimes. In Ukraine, in accordance with the Law of Ukraine 'On measures to counteract the illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors and their abuse', the NPU is part of the system of bodies responsible for counteracting and combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs (Law of Ukraine On Measures to Counteract Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors and Their Abuse, 1995).

In some cases, drug-related crimes are committed simultaneously on the territory of several states by criminal groups, which makes it impossible to stop their activities without a combination of forces and means of national and foreign authorities. For example, in 2024, as part of international cooperation under the procedural guidance of the Prosecutor General's Office, operational officers of the Department for

Combating Drug Crimes, together with investigators of the Main Investigation Department of the National Police and specialised territorial police units, KORD and PPOP special forces in the capital, Dnipro, Kyiv, Cherkasy and Zaporizhzhia regions, with the assistance of the Drug Crime Department of the Main National Police in these regions, in cooperation with Europol and the Department for Combating Organised Drug Crime of the Central Bureau of Investigation, conducted a in cooperation with Europol and the Department for Combating Organised Drug Crime of the Central Bureau of Investigation of the Polish Police, with the support of the Bureau of Anti-Terrorist Operations of the Police 'BOA', exposed the illegal activities of a drug group. Ukrainian and Polish law enforcement officers conducted a large-scale special operation that resulted in the liquidation of the production sites of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The drug labs in Ukraine and Poland produced crystalline methadone and synthetic cathinones such as mephedrone and Alpha-PVP. As part of the investigation, searches were conducted at 38 facilities where drugs, precursors, chemicals and production equipment were produced or stored. Ukrainian law enforcement officers directly served five people with a notice of suspicion of illegal production, manufacture, acquisition, storage, transportation, shipment or sale of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues on a particularly large scale (Official Web Portal of the Prosecutor General's Office, 2024).

3. International cooperation in combating crime

International cooperation in combating crime covers counteracting trafficking in human beings as a separate and rather massive type of criminal activity. At the level of national legislation, the Law of Ukraine 'On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings' No.3739-VI of September 20, 2011 addresses this issue. According to the articles of the law, anti-trafficking is an integral part of the activities of the National Police in combating crime, which, in particular, take measures to identify crimes of human trafficking, victims of human trafficking, identify traffickers and bring them to justice through the implementation of organisational, operational and investigative, administrative and legal, procedural, analytical and research, information and other measures. The tasks of combating human trafficking are as follows: 1) to identify the causes and preconditions that facilitate human trafficking and take measures to eliminate them; 2) to ensure the safety of persons recognised as victims of human trafficking, witnesses and other persons involved in crim-

inal proceedings in cases of human trafficking; 3) to detect and investigate crimes related to human trafficking; 4) to bring to justice, including criminal liability, persons involved in human trafficking; 5) to ensure the restoration of the rights of victims of human trafficking; 6) to inform the entities involved in the field of combating human trafficking and the public about the results of activities in the field of combating human trafficking. In addition, Article 28 of the Law provides that Ukraine participates in international cooperation in combating human trafficking at the state, regional and local levels. Entities carrying out activities in the field of combating human trafficking have the right to conclude cooperation agreements and establish direct relations with the relevant authorities of foreign countries and international organisations in accordance with the legislation of Ukraine. The state supports and encourages international cooperation in combating this type of criminal offence (Law of Ukraine On Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, 2011).

An example of effective international counteraction to human trafficking is the elimination in 2018 of a transnational group that recruited Ukrainians to transport illegal immigrants. Employees of the Department for Combating Illegal Trafficking in Human Beings (currently the Migration Police Department) together with investigators of the Main Investigation Department of the National Police, under the procedural supervision of the Prosecutor General's Office, stopped the activities of a transnational criminal group that had been providing an international channel for human trafficking from Ukraine for three years. Both Ukrainian law enforcement and foreign colleagues from the UK, Greece, Turkey and Italy, with the support of Interpol and Europol, were involved in documenting this criminal network. The main task of the criminals was to recruit Ukrainians to work as labourers for the transportation of illegal migrants from North Africa to Europe. The recruits did not understand that they were committing a crime (Official web portal of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, 2024).

4. Conclusions

Therefore, given the current realities of the law enforcement system and the challenges faced by the National Police of Ukraine, international cooperation in combating crime is of the highest priority. This area seems the most consistent with the competence, powers and tasks of the NPU, and contributes to their efficient performance and overall development of police mechanisms in accordance with international standards and the most positive foreign practices.

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БОРІТБА ЗІ ЗЛОЧИННІСТЮ, ЯК ОДНА З ОСНОВНИХ СФЕР МІЖНАРОДНОГО СПІВРОБІТНИЦТВА ЗА УЧАСТЮ НАЦІОНАЛЬНОЇ ПОЛІЦІЇ

Анотація. **Метою** статті є охарактеризувати боротьбу зі злочинністю як один з основних напрямів міжнародного співробітництва за участі Національної поліції України. **Результати.** В умовах масштабних глобалізаційних процесів злочинність транснаціонального змісту набуває все більшого поширення, адже відкриті кордони зумовлюють суттєву динаміку міграції людей, серед яких багато представників кримінального світу. У зв'язку із цим, Національна поліція України у співпраці із міжнародними правоохоронними організаціями, такими як Інтерпол та Європол, а також окремими державами, забезпечує протидію злочинам, що є кримінально-караними відповідно до національного та зарубіжного законодавства. З'ясовано, що основними напрямками протидії даному типу злочинності є: створення правової основи, організаційних, матеріально-технічних та інших умов для ефективної боротьби з організованою злочинністю, організація міжнародного співробітництва у цій сфері; виявлення та усунення або нейтралізація негативних соціальних процесів і явищ, що породжують організовану злочинність та сприяють їй; запобігання нанесенню шкоди людині, суспільству, державі; запобігання виникненню організованих злочинних угруповань; виявлення, розслідування, припинення і запобігання правопорушенням, вчинюваним учасниками організованих злочинних угруповань, притягнення винних до відповідальності; забезпечення відшкодування шкоди фізичним та юридичним особам, державі; запобігання встановленню корумпованих зв'язків з державними службовцями та посадовими особами, втягненню їх у злочинну діяльність; протидія використанню учасниками організованих злочинних угруповань у своїх інтересах об'єднань громадян і медіа; запобігання легалізації коштів, здобутих злочинним шляхом, використанню суб'єктів підприємницької діяльності для реалізації злочинних намірів. **Conclusions.** У статті, спираючись на аналіз наукових поглядів вчених, норм чинного законодавства та правозастосовної практики, розкрито сутність боротьби зі злочинністю, як однієї з основних сфер міжнародного співробітництва за участю Національної поліції. Аргументовано, що саме даний напрямок найбільше відповідає компетенції, повноваженням та завданням Національної поліції України, сприяє їх якісному виконанню та загальному розвитку механізмів поліцейської діяльності згідно до міжнародних стандартів та найбільш позитивних іноземних практик.

Ключові слова: боротьба зі злочинністю, транснаціональна злочинність, міжнародне співробітництво, Національна поліція України.