

Criminological aspects of organised crime

Abstract

Organised crime is a serious issue affecting global society. Its influence globally destabilizes order and safety. In this thesis I provide a basic overview of the subject of organised crime and attempt to give a general insight into the main aspects of this phenomenon. Criminological aspects are introduced in the context of conceptualization, typologization and history of organised crime. Legal aspects are also given attention, with attempts to summarize most important legal tools in fighting organised crime. I have also attempted to provide a critique of current legislative measures with predictions about new challenges in controlling organised crime.

First chapter focuses on introducing the phenomenon of organised crime. Various definitions of organised crime are explored and compared against one another. Further analysis of individual traits associated with the phenomenon follows. Last part of the chapter is devoted to exploring various criminal activities of organised crime.

Second chapter focuses on typologies of criminal organisations. Four typologies are explored in total. First comes the summarization of a terminology by two Czech authors, Scheinost and Musil. Exploration of the typology provided by a United Nations survey follows. Third and fourth explored typologies are the work of German criminologist von Lampe. First of von Lampe's discussed typologies comes from his 2008 article about criminal networks. Second of von Lampe's discussed typologies is the one he created via synthesis of his own previous work and work of other criminologists for his 2016 publication.

Third chapter is dedicated to the history and contemporary reality of organised crime. First part of the chapter focuses on world history of organised crime. Second part of the chapter focuses on Czech republic and its organised crime history. Last part of the chapter explores contemporary circumstances of organised crime in Czech republic. Brief exploration of different kinds of criminal organisations operating in Czech context is included.

Fourth chapter explores the etiology and prevention of organised crime. The chapter begins with a brief introduction of theories of crime. Introduced theories of crime are split into four categories: individual approaches, group influence and socialisation theories, community (or locality) theories and lastly societal (macro) theories. The typology utilised here is based on work by Dennis Howitt. Second part of the chapter consists of an overview of criminogenic factors affecting organised crime in Czech republic both historically and currently. Last part of the chapter

is dedicated to prevention of organised crime. Prevention is discussed from the perspective of activities of international organisations, European Union and Czech institutions.

Fifth chapter introduces various measures against organised crime and organisations participating in the fight against organised crime. The chapter is split into four parts. First three are focused on measures and organisations in international law context, European union context and context of Czech republic respectively. Fourth part of this chapter is dedicated to exploring my ponderings on the possible improvement of legal countermeasures against organised crime, both in European Union and in Czech republic.

The future of the fight against organised crime is uncertain. It's impossible to think, that this phenomenon can be ever completely defeated. However, it is still necessary to do so. In recent years various countries all over the world have made steps to joint he fight. It is only this willingness to cooperate, that makes fighting against organised crime possible.

Klíčová slova: organised crime, criminal structures, measures against organised crime