

trade and business community. A comprehensive basis for Joint Port Control Units is established for the exchange of information and intelligence and use of risk assessment and targeting techniques to identify high-risk consignments for law enforcement scrutiny, without hindering free flow of legitimate trade.

The programme further aims to promote the formation of alliances between customs, trade and enforcement communities as a means of collectively preventing the abuse of legitimate commercial trade for the purposes of organized crime.

#### **Список використаних джерел**

1. Law enforcement. URL: <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/law-enforcement.html>.
2. Law Enforcement Agency. URL: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/topics/computer-science/law-enforcement-agency>.

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### **COMBATING ECONOMIC CRIMES**

First of all, one of the most common categories of crime are economic crimes.

Economic offences also known as financial crimes, refers to illegal acts committed by an individual or a group of individuals to obtain a financial or professional advantage.

However, Economic crime is usually confused with another term, corruption. There are different definitions of what is corruption. Each definition illuminates different dimensions of the phenomenon to be studied, influencing the analysis and prosecution tasks to be implemented.

A first identify focuses on public ethics. Here, corruption is defined as an ethical confusion between public and private space. A second vision relates the problem of corruption to the lack of transparency of the state, may that be it in the form of barriers to access public information or the pinpoint hiring opportunities to certain companies in the area of goods and services.

Although, there is a third definition, which is the one that we as an organization promote: corruption is one of the many parts of a more complex and more comprehensive criminal phenomenon, which is economic crime. Therefore, our vision is not limited to crimes committed in the public sector, but also extends to those perpetrated by economic actors in the private sector.

Thus, economic crime covers a wide range of offenses, such as :

- MTIC (Missing Trader Intra Community Fraud) fraud, which involves the criminal exploitation of value-added-tax (VAT) rules in the

EU, resulting in lost revenue running into the billions of euro for Member States;

- excise fraud, which refers to the smuggling of highly taxed commodities such as tobacco, alcohol and fuel;

- money laundering, the process of making the proceeds of criminal activity appear legal.

As you know, people start to engage in crime because they have:

1) Low risk, high profits.

The low risk and high profits associated with economic crime make it a very attractive activity for organised crime groups. The likelihood that fraud will be detected and prosecuted is low because of the complexity of the investigations required. This is particularly so for cases of fraud that can be uncovered only through international cooperation, and for internet offences for which jurisdiction needs to be established.

Organised criminal groups operating at an international level benefit from differences in national legislation. Individual and organisational vulnerabilities such as a lack of awareness on the part of victims and low risk perception by target groups are enabling factors for most types of fraud.

2) Not victimless.

There is increased awareness that certain acts within the financial sector that were once considered to be merely poor business practice may in fact have been criminal. Widespread reckless investment, misrepresentation of financial statements and conspiring to manipulate inter-bank interest rates fall within the definition of serious and organised crime.

The huge losses associated with high-level financial fraud undermine social-security systems and destabilise economic systems, thus clearly indicating a failure of self-regulation.

3) Current threats.

The 2019 Serious and Organised Crime Threat Assessment (SOCTA) highlights a number of fraud areas that are of particular concern to Europol and law enforcement in Member States. These crime areas, which are described in more detail below, are:

- investment fraud
- mass-marketing fraud
- payment-order fraud
- insurance fraud
- benefit fraud
- EU subsidy fraud
- procurement rigging
- loan and mortgage fraud.

In Britain, there has been created The National Economic Crime Centre (NECC) to deliver a step change in the UK's response to, and impact on, economic crime. For the first time, the NECC brings together law enforcement and justice agencies, government departments, regulatory bodies and the private sector with a shared objective of driving down

serious organised economic crime, protecting the public and safeguarding the prosperity and reputation of the UK as a financial centre.

The NECC will coordinate and task the UK's response to economic crime, harnessing intelligence and capabilities from across the public and private sectors to tackle economic crime in the most effective way.

It will jointly identify and priorities the most appropriate type of investigations, whether criminal, civil or regulatory to ensure maximum impact. It will seek to maximize new powers, for example Unexplained Wealth Orders and Account Freezing Orders, across all agencies to tackle the illicit finance that funds and enables all forms of serious and organised crime.

The NECC will ensure that criminals defrauding British citizens, attacking UK industry and abusing UK financial services are effectively pursued; that the UK's industries and government agencies know how to prevent economic crime; and that the UK's citizens are better protected.

In addition, The Economic Crime team within UK Finance is responsible for leading the industry's collective fight against economic crime in the UK, including fraud, anti-money laundering (AML), sanctions, anti-bribery, corruption and cybercrime.

UK Finance seeks to ensure that the UK is the safest and most transparent financial centre in the world - thus creating a hostile environment for criminals by working with members, law enforcement, government agencies and industry.

We have introduced new procedures between police and bank branches to prevent vulnerable people falling victim to fraud (Banking Protocol), devised and delivered Take Five – a national awareness campaign about the risks of fraud, and developed voluntary standards for payment service providers to follow when processing a claim following an APP scam.

And so, *on top of* everything else, we established the Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit (DCPCU), a dedicated police unit paid for by UK Finance. The DCPCU was created in response to a rapid growth in organised crime and the lack of a dedicated police investigatory capacity. Our Economic Crime Information and Intelligence Unit also provides up-to-the-minute information about fraudulent attacks on financial institutions.

Summarizing the above, nowadays the economic crime is one of the most prevalent categories of the offence. There are different systems, which *cooperate* with the police forces of other countries, directly or through Interpol.

#### **Список використаних джерел**

1. Economic crime. URL: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/crime-areas-and-trends/crime-areas/economic-crime>.
2. National crime agency. URL: <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/what-we-do/national-economic-crime>.