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Problematic aspects of studying the impact of criminal activity among illegal migrants on organised crime

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Abstract

The relevance of this article is justified by the need to analyse the problematic aspects of studying the link between criminal activity among illegal migrants and organised crime. This study aimed to conduct a comprehensive examination of international experience in preventing criminal offences committed by illegal migrants. To achieve this aim, the research employed general and specialised scientific methods, including analysis, synthesis, classification, and grouping, which facilitated the examination of a broad spectrum of academic discussions on the issue. A review of the scholarly literature enabled a critical analysis of the prevailing discourse on the erosion of distinctions between legality and illegality and the decriminalisation of unacceptable behaviour, particularly concerning illegal migrants. The analysis of research findings indicated that criminologists should prioritise the development of an effective state strategy for addressing crime, particularly that involving illegal migrants. Such a strategy would enable the optimal allocation of societal resources for countering criminal manifestations associated with illegal migration. It has been established that a significant obstacle to developing a scientific foundation and formulating such a policy is the lack of objective data, that would enable the construction of an accurate criminological profile of this social group. This is due to the fragmented nature of research on this subject and the absence of studies providing a comprehensive assessment of criminal activity among illegal migrants within specific states or large administrative units. The

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findings of this study may be applied in practice by governmental authorities to enhance migration policy and by law enforcement agencies to prevent criminal activity among illegal migrants

Keywords:

illegal migration; illegal migrants; organised crime; interaction; crime prevention

Introduction

For centuries, migration, including illegal migration, has played a significant role in the development of many social communities in various countries. It can be assumed that addressing migration policy issues will remain relevant in the future, as irregular migration becomes a survival strategy for entire age groups in certain countries (Ikuteyijo, 2020). The researched topic of the connection between organised criminal business and the criminal activity of illegal migrants is relevant due to insufficient study in the literature, which mostly considers the contribution of illegal migrants to crime in general.

Research on the link between migrants and crime was brought into sharper focus by the increase in migration worldwide in the 21st century. In a study by M. Leiva *et al.* (2020), a review of the literature on the connection between the growth of immigrants and crime rates was conducted. The authors found that evidence regarding the link between immigration and crime is contradictory, as some studies find no impact of immigration on crime or only a minor impact on economic crimes, while others find a positive correlation, which is also confirmed by the research of C. Chouhy & A. Madero-Hernandez (2020). The statistical study by M. Leiva *et al.* (2020) on the impact of migrants on crime in Chile showed no correlation between an increase in the number of immigrants and a rise in the level of most types of crime. However, it is worth noting that within such studies, researchers have significantly more data on legal migration, which, with some exceptions, does not allow these conclusions to be applied to illegal migrants. A notable exception is the study by C. Gunadi (2021), which records the absence of a correlation between the growth of crime in the USA and the nearly 11 million undocumented individuals in the country, with the clarification that illegal migration at an early age increases the likelihood of involvement in crime, which is linked to institutionalised crime. However, it is important to point out that conclusions from one country cannot be extrapolated to others. For example, the article by G. Adamson (2020) demonstrates that illegal migrants in Sweden, who make up 10% of all migrants, commit a disproportionate number of crimes relative to their share of the population. The discrepancies in the results obtained may be related to regional specificities, which only emphasises the need for more research in this direction within individual countries.

The importance of researching this topic is evidenced by the results obtained by M. Pocuca &

J. Matijasevic (2021) and A. Dyussenova *et al.* (2024), who studied the impact of illegal migration on human trafficking – one of the most dangerous forms of organised crime – and the security challenges in this area within the European Union and Central Asia region, as well as in the context of international security. According to the researchers, one of the most common forms of exploitation of human trafficking victims, linked to illegal migration, is sexual exploitation. Similar studies on the connection between illegal migration and human trafficking were also conducted by K. Kuschminder & A. Triandafyllidou (2020), who documented the formation of organised crime around migration flows from Libya to Italy.

New challenges in combating organised transnational crime require improved cooperation between the police and other government agencies in addressing these phenomena, as well as the implementation of new forms and methods for countering migrant crime, both legal and especially illegal, into the activities of law enforcement and other government bodies. This is supported by the research of M.A. Visser & S.A. Simpson (2019). Using a multi-level event history model, the authors concluded that the adoption of migration policy regulations by county governments is influenced by the racism of immigration discourse and political behaviour at the municipal and state government levels, while the economic characteristics of the local labour market and perceived ethnic competition from migrants have a minor direct impact on the likelihood of adopting migration policies. These findings are consistent with a more recent study by T.C. Kulig *et al.* (2021), which demonstrated that the perception of migrants as criminogenic elements is influenced by racial/ethnic prejudice and the white group's identity on public opinion and justice issues.

Crime and the number of illegal migrants, particularly through the Western Mediterranean route from Morocco to Spain (Fernandez-Sebastian, 2020), are natural problems that require government intervention. M. Neikova (2024) analysed the political measures and socio-economic consequences of illegal migration on Bulgaria's national security. The author highlighted various risks and threats associated with illegal migration and emphasised the need for comprehensive strategies that address both security needs and humanitarian obligations. The article states that illegal migration poses significant risks to Bulgaria's national security, affecting border integrity, economic stability, social cohesion, and international relations.

Yu. Kuryliuk *et al.* (2021) analysed the stages of development of migration policy and legislation in Ukraine during its independence. The authors concluded that, unlike Ukraine, where the fight against illegal immigration is mainly reduced to imposing prohibitions and fines on illegal immigrants, the EU has developed a system of incentives and measures aimed, among other aspects, at supporting the readmission and reintegration of migrants.

Given these trends, this study aimed to analyse existing research to provide an overview of international approaches to preventing criminal offences among illegal migrants. To achieve the aim, a methodology was applied that included a comprehensive approach to the analysis of secondary data. This allowed for the systematisation, generalisation, and critical evaluation of existing knowledge about the relationship between illegal migration and organised crime. The main methods used were the analysis and synthesis of literature and empirical research. The method of analysis enabled the examination of various theoretical concepts explaining the relationship between migration-related crime and organised criminal business, as well as the identification of the main approaches and models used in this field. This helped to structurally organise the review and highlight key thematic areas. The synthesis method, in turn, ensured the integration of the obtained data into a unified conceptual framework, allowing for the formation of a holistic understanding of the phenomenon. Through this method, various studies were combined, general trends in criminal activity among illegal migrants and their impact on organised criminal business structures were identified. Classification and grouping methods facilitated the organisation of materials by areas and types of criminal activity. For the critical evaluation of sources, the method of comparative analysis was used, which allowed for the comparison of different approaches to researching the issue. In combination, these methods enabled a thorough review of existing research and also ensured a critical understanding of the significance of illegal migrant criminal activity for organised criminal business.

The problematisation of illegal migration in modern public and academic discourse

The problem of immigration policy regarding border security and human rights protection is serious and complex. According to G.R. Musolf (2019), people fleeing persecution find refuge in other countries, and this American tradition has enshrined human values worldwide. The asylum process is complicated by illegal immigration. The surge in migrant numbers has led to controversial policies that have persisted for many years (Anderson & Gerber, 2008). Unlike those who cross the border illegally and remain unknown to law enforcement, anyone who files a positive asylum claim with a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

(USCIS) officer undergoes a thorough background check to establish identity and involvement in criminal offences and terrorism.

In turn, M. Mesáros (2021) noted that migration is a problem worldwide and represents not only a huge financial but also a social burden for economically developed countries. At the beginning of 2020, the problem partially receded due to the global pandemic, but it still exists and awaits resolution. Not only EU countries face this problem, but also the USA on the border with Mexico. Regarding EU countries, according to the author, they must quickly find a common solution to protect the countries on the northern Mediterranean coast, where terrorism and organised crime are gaining a new image by penetrating cyberspace, and migrants arriving in EU countries are becoming tools in the hands of organisations from the Arab world.

M.A. Paarlberg (2022) concluded that in countries with counterproductive immigration policies, there is more active activity of transnational criminal organisations that conduct illegal activities in several countries based on a mafia or cartel model. This model represents the most developed form of organised crime: deeply institutionalised, well-resourced, hierarchically structured, highly profitable, and diversified in its criminal activities. According to the author, transnational crime is very diverse in its organisation, activity, scale, and composition of participants. The main type of transnational criminal organisation that does not fit the mafia archetype is the transnational gang.

Having examined the years of the “migration crisis” (2013-2017) in Italy, I. Fontana (2020) concluded that there is a close relationship between migration, criminal groups, and domestic migration control policies. By examining the structure that connects the actions of criminal groups with domestic political processes in migrant-receiving countries, the author concluded that Italian migration policy is shaped by the link between crime and migration. In crisis conditions, this link has taken on new forms, which Italian migration policy has not adequately countered in a timely manner.

The National Intelligence Council (2021) report stated that changing migration flows can contribute to the emergence of certain types of organised crime. Ethnically organised criminal groups typically reach out to members of their own diasporas and use them to strengthen their positions in new regions. Issues of illegal migration related to crime have been constantly considered in recent years. For example, as B. Robert (2021) noted, as early as 2021, the U.S. Supreme Court stated that the Biden administration should have complied with a lower court ruling to reinstate President Donald Trump’s policy, which required many asylum seekers to wait outside the United States while their cases were resolved. The administration asked the court to suspend a federal judge’s order that the “remain in Mexico” policy, known as the Migrant Protection

Protocols (MPP), be immediately reimplemented. Earlier, U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk ruled that the Biden administration had not provided sufficient reason for cancelling the policy and that its procedures for asylum seekers entering the country were unlawful (Alvarez, 2021).

Immediately following the inauguration of the US President on 20 January 2025, Donald Trump signed a new executive order to close the southern US border to illegal migrants, suspending the physical entry of foreign nationals through the southern border. The order calls for immediate reinforcement of measures to combat illegal migration through the country's southern border (The White House, 2025). According to the order, the government is invoking Article IV, Section 4 of the Constitution of the USA¹, which mandates to "protect each of (the States) against Invasion". These legislative changes were deemed necessary following appeals from border states, such as Texas, which had repeatedly requested federal authorities to intensify measures against illegal migration, though no effective actions had been taken. Consequently, the executive order mandates the US Department of Homeland Security, the US Department of Justice, and the US Department of State to take immediate action to deport and repel illegal migrants. It also restricts the application of immigration provisions that would allow illegal migrants to remain in the USA (The White House, 2025).

As a result of their research, G. Murat Kırdar *et al.* (2022) concluded that the study of the impact of migrants on crime rates is mostly conducted in the context of economic migrants in developed countries. However, according to the authors, much less research has been done on the impact of refugees on crime in low- and middle-income countries, the number of which is increasing worldwide. Although these refugees are much poorer than the local population, have limited access to formal employment, and face partial mobility restrictions, the overall per capita crime rate (including locals and refugees) falls with the arrival of refugees, which applies to several types of crime except for smuggling, which increases due to the population influx. Research by X. Del Carpio & M. Wagner (2019) shows that although refugees were legally prohibited from working in the formal sector, many found work in the informal sector of the economy, which resulted in the displacement of low-skilled locals, with statistically significant results showing a negative impact of migrants only on women's employment.

M. Pocuca & J. Matijasevic (2021) noted that the scale and dynamics of migration movements in the 2010s, as well as their connection to numerous types of illegal activity, undoubtedly affect the security of individuals and regions, and also international security, and mainly – the security of the migrants themselves, who

become victims of human trafficking. The authors also emphasised the importance of considering whether the European Union, in its attempt to protect the national security of EU member states, hinders migrants arriving in its territories from adapting, as criminal groups of illegal migrants operate most often within the immigrant community.

According to the statistical data of the State Migration Service of Ukraine as of 31 December 2024 (Statistical data, n.d.), the following are registered: 1,464 persons – foreigners and stateless persons recognised as refugees in Ukraine, of which: 1,042 men; 422 women; 1,056 persons – foreigners and stateless persons recognised as persons in need of additional protection in Ukraine, of which: 781 men; 275 women. According to O. Pyshchulina *et al.* (2023), the full-scale aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine has created new challenges and threats both for Ukraine as a victim of aggression; and for countries that provide temporary shelter to Ukrainian citizens fleeing the war; for other countries that host Ukrainian refugees. Scholars have examined contemporary processes of forced emigration, considering the Eastern Partnership as an initiative aimed at developing civilised migration processes with EU countries, and concluded that during the full-scale military invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, migration problems are extremely relevant. Large flows of migrants (including internally displaced Ukrainian citizens) significantly impact the crime situation in the country, which in turn creates additional difficulties for the preventive activities of law enforcement agencies. The destabilisation of the economic situation in the country attracts foreigners with criminal intentions for profit through fraudulent operations in the economic and military spheres, drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms trade, and so on. In another study, Yu. Kuryliuk & S. Khalymon (2020) attempted to create a criminological profile of smugglers of illegal migrants in Ukraine. The study covered 360 verdicts from 2013 to 2018 regarding 406 individuals. The results showed that organised crime is associated with this offence in only 8% of crimes, which may be due to Ukraine's lower attractiveness to migrants and, consequently, the lack of demand for smugglers' services.

In his research, D.O. Nazarenko (2013) concluded that there is a close connection between the increase in the number of visiting migrant criminals and individuals who do not have a permanent source of income, the unemployed. Such individuals are in most cases inclined to seek illegal sources of income. The author focused not so much on the quantitative as on the qualitative features of the criminality of foreign visitors, who are characterised by high criminal professionalism and organisation in committing crimes. However, this study

¹ Constitution of the United States of America. (1787, May). Retrieved from <https://constitutioncenter.org/the-constitution/full-text>.

does not consider inter-ethnic relations and crime rates. For example, according to a study by M. Couttenier *et al.* (2019), most migrants in Switzerland commit offences against their own ethnic group.

Important features of foreign crime are association on an ethnic basis (Couttenier *et al.*, 2019) on an economic basis. Crime among migrants and illegal migrants in Ukraine is a pressing issue that affects public safety and social stability. Research indicates varied trends in this area, particularly regarding crime levels, its structure, and the factors influencing its dynamics. The COVID-19 pandemic and related quarantine measures have significantly impacted migration processes and crime among migrants. According to research by A. Kalinina (2021), in 2020, Ukraine saw a decrease in the proportion of crimes committed by migrants, to 0.5% of the overall crime structure. The level of registered criminal offences committed by migrants decreased by more than 30%, and the number of convicted foreigners decreased by 13.5%. At the same time, the number of detained illegal migrants decreased almost threefold compared to 2019, while the number of registered offences for illegal transportation of persons across the state border of Ukraine increased by more than 10%. According to research presented at a scientific forum on criminology, illegal migration is a significant criminogenic factor that contributes to the growth of crime, the spread of dangerous diseases, and the creation of a shadow labour market (Lutsenko & Tarasiuk, 2021).

Among the main causes of migrant crime are socio-economic factors, legal vulnerability, cultural differences, and discrimination. Illegal migrants often find themselves in a vulnerable position, which increases the risk of their involvement in illegal activities. To reduce crime rates among migrants, it is necessary to improve migration policies, ensure the social integration of migrants, enhance the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies, and conduct public awareness campaigns (Solomko, 2014). Thus, the problem of migrant crime in Ukraine is multifaceted and requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account contemporary challenges and trends.

Although the literature review presented is not systematic, it outlines key directions and approaches to the problematisation of illegal migration in contemporary academic discourse. The analysis demonstrates that the issue of illegal migration is examined through the lens of its impact on the labour market, the scrutiny of public prejudices against migrants, and the evaluation of the effectiveness of government strategies aimed at combating illegal migration and its impact on crime rates. Scholars pay particular attention to the involvement of illegal migrants in organised crime and the possible mechanisms for their social integration or exclusion. Thus, contemporary academic discourse on illegal migration balances between the pursuit of an

objective analysis of the problem and the influence of socio-political contexts that determine the direction of state migration policy. However, a more detailed study of this issue is complicated by several factors. Firstly, the presence of public stereotypes and the politicisation of the discourse lead to discrepancies in research conclusions and difficulties in separating real threats from speculation. Secondly, the illegal status of migrants complicates access to reliable data, as they often avoid official contact with state structures and researchers, making their participation in organised crime difficult to accurately assess.

Problems in developing concepts for preventing migrant crime

The effectiveness of preventative measures against migrant crime largely depends on the systematic interaction between prevention agencies, the implementation of joint preventative actions, the exchange of operational information, and the holding of coordination meetings to develop unified, agreed-upon strategies. The cooperation of law enforcement agencies with the migration service and other government bodies, as well as scientifically grounded concepts for preventing illegal migrant crime, are of particular importance in the fight against migrant crime. The formation of these concepts requires both the aforementioned cooperation and a systematic approach to data collection, which would allow for the development of victimological forecasting practices for this social group.

Regarding the difficulties in identifying migrant criminals and implementing preventative measures against them, these lie in the specific nature of certain groups of temporary migrants who do not officially re-register their place of residence. In this regard, it is worth mentioning the views of O. Frolova (2003), who rightly noted the importance of studying the contingent of “visiting” migrants who influence the criminogenic situation in the region, and proposed investigating their commission of offences according to two criteria: the place of commission of the crime and the permanent place of residence of the offender. In case of discrepancy between these criteria, a person who committed an offence outside the country where they are registered is classified as a “visiting” criminal. The author also identifies migrant criminals who do not belong to the “visiting” category, as they have officially registered in the host country, and therefore, from a formal legal standpoint, should be considered local residents.

It is necessary to note that as of 2025, the distinction of crimes committed by “visiting” migrants into a separate category has certain criminological significance, as a whole range of new economic, social, political, and ideological problems arise, including those related to international legal aspects: the status of foreigners on the territory of the state, ensuring their

safety, place of residence, and so on. The impact of illegal migration on crime must be considered through the lens of the latency of migrant crime because it is often actually recorded as the crime of illegal migrants only upon the detection of the crime and the identification of the perpetrators, that is after it is established that the perpetrator is a migrant. Migrants who influence the criminogenic situation in the country need to be studied according to certain types: their composition; the motivation and purpose of their arrival; duration of stay; and demographic, ethnic, and social characteristics. It is also necessary to consider the specifics of regions and the scale of the influx of visitors, in particular, large cities have always been the most attractive to migrants.

Victimological forecasting of criminal offences by foreign nationals is based on two main methodological principles. The first is the recognition of the objective nature of negative social processes that determine victimological phenomena. The second principle is based on the recognition of the primacy of the subjective factor in the development of victimological forecasting and the system of victimological crime prevention, that is the purposeful activity of a person, taking into account accumulated scientific (victimological) potential and moral values, as well as the ability to choose specific guidelines for the development of a system for preventing criminal offences. It is noted that one of the principles of victimological forecasting is the principle of clearly defining the status and characteristics of the victimological object of forecasting (Nikitin *et al.*, 2018).

Victimological forecasting includes: analysis of pre-prognostic and prognostic background; study of the victimological problem in theory and the situation in the practice of victimological crime prevention; defining the goals and objectives of specific forecasting; formulating hypotheses of victimological forecasting; conducting a pilot study; forming the conclusions and proposals obtained. The effectiveness and reliability of forecasts are determined by many factors, including the study of victimological phenomena and processes; the choice of the main victimological determinants, determining their role and significance in society; compiling a comprehensive multilevel forecast both in general about victimisation and for its individual types; the depth and objectivity of victimological analysis of initial information. This is facilitated by: the development of victimological crime prevention programs; the implementation of victimological forecasting through situational victimological centres (Golina *et al.*, 2017); the implementation of forecasts through the victimological service; and the provision of forecasts to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine.

Victimological forecasting is based on the calculation of the possibilities of mass victimisation in the future under the influence of both objective and subjective victimological determinants. Victimological phenomena

and processes are largely determined by the inevitable development of society. This allows, based on victimological modelling, to predict the victimological future. An ideal victimological forecast is one for which a database of victimological indicators collected by the victimological service with the participation of situational victimological centres is used (Dzhuzha *et al.*, 2020).

As successfully noted by researchers T.V. Kornikova *et al.* (2016), victimological modelling is the basis of victimological forecasting because a predictive model is a model of the object of victimological forecasting, the study of which allows to obtain new victimological information about the possible states of the object of victimological forecasting in the future. It is obvious that a law-abiding state is obliged to direct its efforts to the creation of a migration victimological service, which, in cooperation with law enforcement agencies, will carry out continuous victimological prevention.

The systematic practice of such victimological forecasting could be the scientific basis for the Concept of Targeted State Migration Policy of Ukraine. According to the data obtained and victimological modelling, it would be possible to substantiate both possible liberalisation and anti-crisis measures, for example, strengthening the punishment of employers who hire illegal migrants, for example, depriving them for five years of the right to participate in public tenders or receive subsidies, and revoking licenses to engage in certain commercial activities.

In preventing criminal offences by migrants, especially those of a transnational nature, Interpol and Europol provide significant assistance (Serova, 2004). They conduct direct contact with foreign colleagues regarding the search for criminals, their extradition, and other legal issues. Also, the National Bureau of Interpol has information useful for the preventive activities of law enforcement agencies, because to achieve positive results in preventing criminal offences by migrants, quality information support is necessary. In this regard, it is necessary to create a unified centralised database that contains the necessary information on the prevention of criminal offences by migrants. The analysis of activities to prevent criminal offences by migrants involves the need to develop special targeted plans, and programs for the application of preventive measures in this area, taking into account the financial and material resource support for the implementation of such programs (Hailu, 2024).

Migration victimological policy, in the apt opinion of V.V. Vasilevych (2020), will be possible only when science accumulates reliable victimological information about the current criminal situation, scientifically grounded knowledge about the interdependence of criminological and victimological factors, provided that effective methods are developed to reduce and prevent the harm caused to society by migrant crime, especially illegal migrants.

Regarding the regulation of migration policy in the area of ensuring a secure environment and preventing criminal offences committed by illegal migrants, M. Počuča & J. Matijasević (2021) noted that a mandatory condition for establishing a common movement regime within the entire European Union is, among other things, the adoption of the *acquis communautaire*. This means that each member state must take responsibility for controlling its immigration policy and thus contribute to the stability of immigration movement throughout the European Union, which has long been very important for member states from a purely security point of view. The long-standing concern in this segment actually relates to the ability of new member states to control migration movements within their territories.

Conclusions

The subject of this study was to examine the link between illegal migration and crime, as well as the role of organised criminal business in these processes. The research focused on analysing contemporary academic approaches to the issue and the challenges in preventing crime among illegal migrants. The study found that the problem of illegal migration and crime is multifaceted and has significant regional specificities. An analysis of academic literature indicates that scholars do not have a unified view on the direct link between migration and crime rates: some studies confirm an increased level of criminal activity among illegal migrants, while others emphasise the socioeconomic aspects that play a key role. Particular attention was paid to the issue of the involvement of illegal migrants in organised crime, particularly in the areas of human trafficking, smuggling, and drug trafficking. In addition, the study demonstrated that state migration policies significantly affect the scale of crime among migrants: more repressive strategies can lead to the marginalisation of

illegal migrants, which contributes to their involvement in criminal structures.

The literature review revealed that the issue of illegal migrant crime is considered through the lens of social, economic, and political factors. The analysis shows that the criminalisation of illegal migrants in public discourse is often based on stereotypes, which influence migration policies and law enforcement practices. At the same time, studies confirm that the involvement of illegal migrants in criminal activity largely depends on state integration mechanisms or their absence. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of improving international cooperation in the fight against organised crime related to illegal migration. Despite the significant volume of studies reviewed, aspects such as the impact of illegal migration on specific types of crime in individual countries, as well as the effectiveness of alternative approaches to integrating migrants into host societies, remain understudied. Further research should focus on expanding the empirical base and analysing the long-term impact of state migration strategies on crime rates, which will allow for the scientific substantiation of new and more effective concepts for preventing migrant crime.

All of the above indicates the need to continue international criminology, including comparative legal studies, which compare both the crime of different countries as a whole and its individual types. In this sense, criminology can become a general theoretical basis for the sciences of the criminal law cycle.

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Conflict of Interest

None.

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Проблемні аспекти вивчення впливу кримінальної активності нелегальних мігрантів на організовану злочинність

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Анотація

Актуальність статті обґрунтована необхідністю аналізу проблемних аспектів вивчення зв'язку кримінальної активності нелегальних мігрантів з організованою злочинністю. Метою статті було комплексне дослідження міжнародного досвіду у сфері запобігання кримінальним правопорушенням, вчинюваним нелегальними мігрантами. Відповідно до поставленої мети в статті використано загальні та спеціальні методи наукового пізнання, серед яких: методи аналізу, синтезу, класифікації та групування, які надали можливість опрацювати широкий спектр наукових дискусій з порушеної проблематики. Аналіз наукової літератури допоміг критично проаналізувати представлену в публічному дискурсі думку щодо нівелювання відмінності між законністю та незаконністю, декриміналізації неприйнятної поведінки, зокрема нелегальних мігрантів. За результатами огляду наукових досліджень встановлено, що головним завданням кримінологів має стати розроблення ефективної державної стратегії впливу на злочинність, зокрема нелегальних мігрантів, що надало б можливість максимально результативно розподіляти ресурси суспільства для протидії злочинним виявам, пов'язаним, зокрема, з нелегальною міграцією. Встановлено, що перешкодою для формування наукової бази й напрацювання такої політики є брак об'єктивних даних, які надали б можливість скласти точний кримінологічний портрет цієї соціальної групи. Це спричинено фрагментарністю досліджень із цієї тематики й відсутністю студій, у яких було б надано комплексну оцінку кримінальній активності нелегальних мігрантів у межах окремих держав чи великих адміністративних одиниць. Результати дослідження може бути використано на практиці в діяльності державних органів для ефективного забезпечення міграційної політики та правоохоронних органів у запобіганні кримінальній активності нелегальних мігрантів

Ключові слова:

нелегальна міграція; мігранти-нелегали; організована злочинність; взаємодія; запобігання правопорушенням