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COOPERATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING IN UKRAINE

Ukraine cooperates with international organizations and law enforcement bodies of foreign countries to prevent and combat organized crime, including drug trafficking. This cooperation is realized in cooperation agreements concluded between Ukrainian authorities and partners or based on mutuality.

As it is known, one of the leading roles in worldwide cooperation in combating organized crime, including drug trafficking, is the Interpol. Interpol “provides operational support, analysis, and training to help law enforcement authorities tackle widescale drug trafficking. Since the kinds of drugs trafficked and the routes used are constantly evolving, countries must work together in a united and coordinated way.” [2]

Interpol supports law enforcement agencies at national, regional, and international levels to counter the illicit production, trafficking, and abuse of drugs as follows:

- cross-border operations against drug trafficking and support to ongoing/current investigations;
- criminal analysis of intelligence on drug trafficking routes, modus operandi, and the criminal networks involved;
- complex worldwide police training to better fight drug trafficking.

Interpol coordinates drug trafficking operations covering different parts of the world and assists with drug operations and investigations led by international or national bodies. The main aim is to break the movement of specific products along routes affecting target regions or global illicit drug flows. Interpol also organizes operational working meetings to exchange information between law enforcement authorities.

Ukraine became a full member of Interpol on November 04, 1992, due to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 555 "On the Accession of Ukraine to Interpol."

Each member of Interpol has a National Central Bureau, which is responsible for the connection between national law enforcement agencies and other states and the General Secretariat of Interpol via secure global police communications.

The tasks and functions of the National Central Bureau in Ukraine are assigned to the Department of International Police Cooperation of the National Police of Ukraine. To deal with current challenges and all types of organized crime, as well as drug trafficking, Europol works closely with its partner organizations, such as the Interpol and the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA). Europol helps drug raids by offering criminal intelligence analysis and operational support to law enforcement agencies, for example, through Analysis Project (AP) Cola, Europol's specialists dedicated to combating drug trafficking.

One of the successful examples of cooperation between Ukraine and Europol due to the information exchange (SIENA) was the detention of members of a drug syndicate who were transporting 25 kilograms of heroin in a car. Thanks to the National Police of Ukraine resources and due to the information exchange, the police stopped an elite crossover belonging to the drug dealers on the outskirts of Kyiv. The inspection of the car lasted several hours. Police officers found several professionally equipped caches containing 45 packages of heroin inside the vehicle.

These packages were treated with various spices, making it difficult for sniffer dogs to detect the drugs. The total weight of the seized drug is 25 kg, and their total cost on the black market is over 50 million UAH.

Organized crime, including drug trafficking, is an urgent and universal problem that requires international, local, and national efforts to fight and prevent its spread.

One law enforcement agency, one country, or one organization cannot combat drug trafficking alone.

Thus, for counteracting drug trafficking in Ukraine, it is necessary to deepen cooperation between Ukraine and foreign countries' international organizations; continue reforming law enforcement agencies by implementing the international legal standards and best practices; intensify the work on exchanging information, involving police officers in international teams and professional training; and promote the issue of combating drug trafficking in society by organizing informative events and meetings.[1]

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EXPERIENCE OF FOREIGN COUNTRIES IN FIGHTING CRIME

At the current stage, the development of the information society, new technologies, and the intensification of globalization processes generate new forms of threats. Crime is one of the main threats to the national security of the state. The European community promptly responds to these