

Тринога Т.,

здобувач ступеня вищої освіти бакалавра
Національної академії внутрішніх справ

Консультант з мови: Романов І.

EFFECTIVE CRIME REDUCTION STRATEGIES: INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDIES

Today, crime knows no borders, creating complex challenges for law enforcement agencies and politicians. Together with the development of crime, strategies to combat it must also develop. By studying international crime-fighting efforts, we can gain valuable insights into effective practices and adapt these lessons to improve crime prevention and public safety around the world. An analysis of international crime-fighting experiences indicates that in modern conditions, criminal activities pose a real threat to democratic development and national security in most countries worldwide. Criminal elements, with close interregional and international connections, are increasingly directing their efforts towards establishing control over the most profitable areas of economic relations.

1. Case Study 1 (Community Crime Prevention): Stay Alive Program (Brazil)

The end of the 20 th century saw a steep rise in homicide rates in the city of Belo Horizonte, Brazil and other Brazilian state capitals. Most of these homicides occurred in the slum areas of the cities, and involved young males under the age of 24. Various community partners were brought together in the development and implementation of the crime prevention interventions. Such partners included; the Belo Horizonte City Office, State Social Defence Office, local and federal police, business organisations, NGOs and local communities. Many of the interventions targeted youth, and included components relating to social support, education and recreation. Numerous workshops were also run, addressing issues such as violence, drugs, and sexually transmitted diseases, through programs that focused on sports, arts performance, job training, and computer skills. Additionally, crime and violence prevention training was provided to local police officers, community members, social workers, health care workers and educational staff. Thirty months after the implementation of the program, there was a decrease in violent crimes in the piloted areas. Homicides decreased by 47%, attempted homicides decreased by 65% and bakery robberies decreased by 46% [1].

2. Case Study 2 (The impact of information systems and technology on police investigate effectiveness in Norway).

Investigation is the police activity concerned with the apprehension of criminals by the gathering of evidence leading to their arrest and the collection and presentation of evidence and testimony for the purpose of obtaining convictions. The performance of police investigation units is

subject to considerable variability. One potential explanation for such variation is the extent to which detectives have access to information technology and electronic information sources. Knowledge work in police investigations is based on a variety of information sources such as incident reports, crime scene investigator reports, witness statements, suspect statements, tip lines, crime scene photographs and drawings, fingerprints, DNA, physical evidence (e.g., ballistics, tool marks, and blood spatters), informants, and property tracking. Four examples of IT in police work can be examined. These systems have functionality that typically covers more than one stage in the stages of knowledge management technology model. Therefore, these examples of policing systems suggest that the stages are overlapping. However, as we shall see at the functional and user level, stage perspectives might determine system perceptions. The first example is COPLINK, it is an application for information and knowledge sharing in law enforcement. The system uses a three-tiered architecture. The user accesses the system through a Web browser. The middle tier connects the user interface and the backend databases and implements the work logic. COPLINK Detect is targeted for detectives and crime analysts. In COPLINK Detect, detailed criminal case reports are the underlying information space, and concepts are meaningful terms occurring in each case. These case reports contain both structured (e.g., database fields for incidents containing the case number, names of people involved, address and date) and unstructured data (narratives written by officers commenting on an incident, e.g., witness A said he saw suspect A run away in a white truck) [2, c.28]

3. Case Study 3 (Rehabilitation and social reintegration programs in Sweden, Norway and Germany).

Several countries have shifted their focus from solely punitive measures to rehabilitation and reintegration. Sweden, Norway, and Germany have developed comprehensive rehabilitation programs aimed at reducing recidivism rates by addressing the underlying social and psychological factors that lead individuals to criminal behavior. These programs often include education, job training, and psychological support, helping former offenders reintegrate into society. Research has shown that countries with strong rehabilitation programs experience lower crime rates and better long-term outcomes for individuals and communities alike [3].

4. Case Study 4 (Legislative reforms and strengthened legal frameworks in Japan and Australia)

Effective crime control often depends on robust legal frameworks that allow for quick, decisive action. Japan, for instance, has implemented stringent anti-gang legislation, resulting in a significant reduction in organized crime activities. Other countries, like Australia, have introduced strict anti-corruption laws to curb financial crimes, creating greater transparency and reducing the influence of criminal elements in both the public and private sectors. Legislative reforms that address specific forms of

crime, such as human trafficking and cybercrime, are critical to keeping up with the changing tactics of criminal organizations.

Given the interconnected nature of criminal networks, international cooperation is crucial too. Cross-border collaboration has proven effective in combating transnational crime, such as human trafficking, drug smuggling, and cybercrime. Organizations like INTERPOL and the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation (Europol) facilitate information sharing and joint operations among countries. A successful example of this cooperation can be seen in the European Union, where member states work closely to address organized crime and terrorism. By sharing intelligence, conducting joint investigations, and harmonizing laws, European countries have been able to disrupt criminal networks that operate across borders.

The examination of international crime reduction strategies demonstrates that effective crime control requires a multifaceted approach. From community-based interventions to advanced technology use, rehabilitation programs, and legislative reforms, countries around the world are employing diverse and innovative methods to combat crime. Each case study highlights the value of tailoring crime-fighting efforts to address the specific social, economic, and cultural contexts in which crime occurs. Ultimately, by learning from these international experiences, policymakers and law enforcement agencies can develop more effective, comprehensive strategies that not only deter crime but also foster safer, more resilient communities. The global fight against crime requires ongoing adaptation, collaboration, and a commitment to understanding the factors that drive criminal behavior across diverse regions. Through these efforts, nations can strengthen their capacities to protect public safety and uphold democratic values in an interconnected world.

Список використаних джерел

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2. International case studies strategies for effective crime reduction. URL: <https://books.google.com.ua/books?hl=uk&lr&id=CCrNBQAAQBAJf>
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