

Human Beings", and the trafficking of 4 potential victims of human trafficking abroad was prevented.

In order to prevent such situations, measures are constantly taken to familiarize the population with the opportunities and threats. The subjects of such actions are always either international organizations, such as the OSCE, the UN, and others, or Ukrainian authorities or individual scholars.

Ukraine is making a lot of efforts to combat human trafficking; the Law of Ukraine "On Combating Human Trafficking" was adopted, and the National Mechanism for Interaction of Entities Engaged in Combating Human Trafficking was implemented. Despite the statistics, the real scale of human trafficking in Ukraine is much higher, given the rather high level of latency of these crimes. Most victims do not have information and do not seek help.

Overall, the Government of Ukraine does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so. These efforts included investigating more suspected traffickers, allocating significantly more money to the national budget for anti-trafficking measures, and improving access to identification documentation and official registration for vulnerable populations.

#### *Список використаних джерел*

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## **FIGHTING DRUG-RELATED CRIME IN EUROPE**

Organised crime is a major threat to European citizens, businesses and institutions. Law enforcement authorities across all

EU member states work together to fight criminal threats through investigations, seizures and other police operations. The illicit drugs market is one of the major sources of income for organised crime groups in the European Union.

Drugs are a complex social and health phenomenon that affects millions of people in the EU. Illicit drugs can have tremendous negative consequences, not only for the people who use the drugs but also for their families and communities. The abuse of drugs generates enormous costs for and harm to public health and safety, the environment and labour productivity. It also poses security threats linked to violence, crime, and corruption [1].

Criminal networks traffic a range of drugs including cannabis, cocaine, heroin and methamphetamine. As international borders become increasingly porous, global abuse and accessibility to drugs have become increasingly widespread. This international trade involves growers, producers, couriers, suppliers and dealers [1].

Drug trafficking is often associated with other forms of crime, such as money laundering or corruption. Trafficking routes can also be used by criminal networks to transport other illicit products.

As criminals devise ever-more creative ways of disguising illegal drugs for transport, law enforcement faces challenges in detecting such concealed substances. In addition, new synthetic drugs are produced with regularity, so police need to always be aware of new trends and products on the illicit market [2].

Trade in illicit drugs is experiencing a boom on the Internet and Darknet. The fact that illegal drugs can be ordered online has prompted law enforcement agencies to shift their approach towards a "Multi Agency-Principle". In particular, the dispatch of illegal drugs by mail presents a major challenge to the police, as their legal possibilities are restricted. Irrespective of this development, the open street trade will have to be monitored more in future. Regardless of new scenarios, illegal drugs continue to be trafficked through traditional routes [3].

Trafficking in illicit drugs tends to be associated with the commission of violent crimes. Reasons for the relationship of drug trafficking to violence include: competition for drug markets and customers; disputes and rip-offs among individuals involved in the illegal drug market; individuals who participate in drug trafficking are prone to use violence; locations where street drug markets proliferate tend to be disadvantaged economically and socially; legal and social controls against violence in such areas tend to be ineffective [4].

Law enforcement agencies of the European Union are fighting against the circulation of drugs with the support of Interpol. Interpol

coordinate drug trafficking operations spanning different regions of the world, and support drug operations and investigations led by national or international agencies. They aim to disrupt the movement of specific products along routes affecting target regions or international illicit drug flows [2].

Interpol assist national, regional, and international law enforcement bodies to counter the illicit production, trafficking, and abuse of drugs in the following ways [2]:

1) Global operations against drug trafficking and assistance to ongoing investigations.

2) Criminal analysis of intelligence on drug trafficking routes, modus operandi and the criminal networks involved.

3) Comprehensive training for police worldwide to better tackle drug trafficking.

It is also important to mention EMPACT (European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats) in the fight against the spread of drugs. EMPACT is a security initiative driven by EU Member States to identify, priorities and address threats posed by organized and serious international crime. Through the EU Drugs Strategy, the EU coordinates evidence-based, balanced, and integrated measures with EU countries and speaks with one voice internationally. Law enforcement action against drug trafficking is coordinated through EMPACT. Drugs-related health damage is addressed under prevention, treatment and care services and harm reduction [5].

Thus, the struggle of law enforcement agencies in Europe against the circulation of illegal narcotics is a complex and multifaceted process that requires not only effective operational measures but also continual improvement of legislation, cooperation with international partners, and the development of harm reduction programs for individuals engaged in drug abuse.

#### ***Список використаних джерел***

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