

Organized crime in Slovenia: scenarios about its operation in a wider social environment

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Research of organised crime has been marked by a lack of definition of this phenomenon and by political consensus about the danger it represents. The so-called »risk assessment« approach is an effort to solve these and other methodological problems. The Institute of Criminology at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana conducted such a pilot study, the methodology of which was prepared by a group of researchers from the Institute for International Studies of Crime Policy at the University of Ghent (Belgium), co-ordinated by Tom Vander Beken. The research methodology is built upon a business definition of organised crime, which is therefore affected by similar factors as legitimate economic activity. The methodology is intended to enable systematic analysis of socio-economic and political variables and evaluation of their impact upon organised crime. Collection of data on the relevant social environment was carried out by so-called »thinking in the form of scenarios«. The article provides an example of such a scenario. The methodology is an innovation in the conceptualization and research of organised crime, but it also raises lots of questions. However, before giving a final appraisal of this methodology, it is necessary to wait for its precise formulation. Looking at the recent literature on organised crime and the fact that this approach was adopted by the European Union, it is possible to expect that »risk assessment« will become with time one among the most important methods of research of organised crime.

Key words: organised crime, Slovenia, 2015, risk assessment, scenario thinking, crime policy

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