The Role of the Police in Reducing the Fear of Crime in the Community

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Abstract

In places with relevant security and a satisfactory ratio for the inhabitants of a settlement, whether rural or urban, the presence of the police is necessary, especially in areas with criminal influence or in dangerous areas, where in this case it is an important factor in reducing fear. from crime for the citizens of that place of residence. Citizens are making more and more requests to the police to fight crime and this task is mainly addressed to community policing, but civil and academic society must be a permanent help to law enforcement institutions. So the alleviation of the fear of crime comes with the preventive actions of the police, and their presence in the neighborhood calms the situation or provides security for that society. Citizens, on the other hand, the presence of the police can be understood as an unsafe, tense, or disorderly situation if we are dealing with an increase in criminality. Many researchers have tried to explain the fear of crime theoretically, these efforts have tried to be dominated by researchers influenced by sociological knowledge, i.e. demographics such as age, gender, family income, friendship networks, length of stay, previous experiences of victimization, and so on have been suggested as key factors in explaining the fear of crime, and it has concluded that a crime map should be created as an early warning measure.

Keywords: Fear of crime, Police, Community Policing, Neighborhood, Situation.

Introduction

The feeling of fear of crime is a condition created by the bottom of many citizens, both in urban and rural areas, and this is the goal of many international researchers in the field of criminology.

Internationally, prevention research on fear of crime has been around since 1906 in, the United Kingdom (UK), USA, 1960. For example, the British Crime Survey now every two years interviews about 10,000 residents of England and Wales regarding their views of crime and crime-related matters. The survey has shed light on the attitudes towards policing, victimization, risk

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perception, and people's fear of crime. Crime surveys are carried out, not only in Western European countries and the USA, but also in Central and Eastern European countries (Kuri et al.) and South Africa.

Rooms and Tombs (1984), reviewing the 1982 British Crime Survey (Scotland) reported that "More than half of the respondents (58%) said that at some time in the past they had was worried about the possibility of being a victim of crime", (G.Meško, M.Fallshore, M.Rep and A.Huisman, 2007). Fear of crime comes as a result of socioeconomic, demographic, and psychological changes in a democratic society Boomkens. Society today in all countries of the world, especially after COVID-19 and important wars such as Ukraine, Russia, former Yugoslavia, Syria, etc., have shown the feeling of insecurity in communities, especially in urban areas when we are dealing with immigrants, refugees, who are targeted by criminal groups related to their exploitation in criminal offenses against human rights, life and body, sexual integrity, and criminal offenses of organized crime.

These effects include the disintegration of traditional societies that previously had the characteristics of social cohesion, predictable economic environments, and local specificities. These destructive effects have resulted in a society in which feelings of insecurity and the search for vague and secure identities in communities have become permanent and defining characteristics (G.Meško, M.Fallshore, M.Rep and A.Huisman, 2007). Garland refers to a cultural formation in high-crime societies. This cultural formation produces a psychological variety and the social effects that exert influence on politics and policy and "gives the experience of crime an established institutional form" (G.Meško, M.Fallshore, M.Rep and A.Huisman, 2007). People become more aware of crime in these conditions and are caught to institutions and daily practices that require them to obtain the current identity (or potential victims) of crime and think, feel, and act accordingly. In response, the focus of public policy has changed from offender-oriented policies (rehabilitation, etc.) to victim-oriented policies, which are mainly based on repressive and punitive measures ((Roberts, Stalans, Indermaur & Hough, 2003, 2003).

This article was built on three parts. The first part is an introduction to the factors that explain the fear of crime including Van der Wurff's socio-demographic and social-psychological model, Van Staalduinen and Stringer (1989). E The second part provides an overview of paradoxes and inconsistencies in the literature about the fear of crime and the role of the police in reducing the fear of crime. Public, political, and media perceptions of the role of the police and the implications of these perceptions of possible ways that the police can They are also prescribed to increase feelings of security. Finally,

measures that can reduce fear The crime was discussed (Marte Fallshore, Gorazd Meško, Mojca Rep, Aletha Huisman, 2007)

The social-psychological model of fear of criminality

Many researchers have tried to explain the fear of crime theoretically, these efforts have attempted to dominated by scholars influenced by sociological knowledge, that is, demographics such as age, gender, family income, friendship networks, length of stay, previous victimization experiences, and so on have been suggested as key factors in explaining the fear of crime. Approaches to fear of crime I also call indicators of safety in sociodemographic terms, whereas such models are useful in explaining the fear of crime in certain countries (Farrall, Ditton, Bannister and Gilchrist, Van der Wurff et al., 2000) .

The combination of socio-demographic and social-psychological characteristics such as reduction of criminality and fear of it. According to some models, we have three main ones that explain the levels of fear of crime . The first model is the victimization model where high levels of crime (a socio-demographic factor) lead to higher numbers of victims, resulting in higher levels of fear due to the expectation of becoming a victim (a socio-psychological factor). The model of vulnerability proposes that personal characteristics, another social-psychological factor, contribute to people's fear of crime. Social and/or physical vulnerability is one of the main explanations for fear of crime according to this model. The social control model proposes that the lack of social control, a socio-demographic factor, is the source of fear: Instability, disorder, and neighborhood decline to lead to actual or symbolic threats which increase the fear of crime models show that different kinds of socio-demographic and psychological factors may contribute to fear of crime. Socio-demographic factors like age, gender, health, and poverty may be related to social and physical vulnerability under the vulnerability model. The environment and media are two important psychological factors in the social control model. These three explanatory models take socio-demographic and social-psychological factors into account. In other words, both demographic concerns and individual levels of fear of crime are used to explain fear of crime in general, (G.Meško, M.Fallshore, M.Rep and A.Huisman, 2007).

Methodology

With this research, we could assess how (in)security would affect the citizens of Kosovo. In this research, we try to achieve an indicator of how it is possible to increase the quality of life in the municipalities where we live. In this research paper, some main findings analyzed in research undertaken in 2011 are

also identified (M.Ademi, R.Halili, FJU, 2016). We have tried to reflect the sense of security of the residents of Kosovo, how they perceive individual and collective security; safety, and the environment they live in; trust in the Kosovo Police (KP) as well as other law enforcement agencies; community relations, and inter-ethnic relations.

The research also analyzes the strongest and most problematic points, such as the challenges faced by the residents of Kosovo, as well as identifying several recommendations to strengthen the work of law enforcement agencies in the future. This research work has had a significant impact on issues of safety and increasing the quality of life for the residents of Kosovo, especially in the municipalities where the research was implemented, and from where the challenges presented to the Kosovar society can be seen, (Ademi & Vula, 2023).

The paper mainly tries to answer the questions:
1. What are the conditions and causes that lead to the occurrence or development of criminal behavior in a society at a given time?
2. How to remove the conditions and causes of criminal behavior?
However, this paper emphasizes the need for full commitment from municipal authorities and other stakeholders to achieve a sustainable improvement in the security levels of the residents of Kosovo. By including members of different communities in their compositions and working with non-Albanian communities during the implementation of the project, we have managed to build reliable and cooperative partnerships between residents and communities, improving the levels of trust in the municipality of Prishtina, Prizren, Gjakov, and Ferizaj.

Law enforcement agencies

Law enforcement agencies have the task of protecting society from criminality and extracting the number of "dark" and the number of "gray" criminal offenses. Analyzing certain practical cases, we have the opportunity to verify the validity of certain theoretical supports of the methods. tactics and technical tools, providing in this way the appropriate empirical material for preventive measures against deviant activities. Law enforcement agencies must undertake activities in the fight against criminality, and develop scientific methods and tools for the detection, investigation, judgment, and prevention of criminal offenses, I must investigate the entire repressive and preventive activity which aims to fight crime. existing should try to find new preventive methods and tools (Mirsad Abazović, Elmedin Muratbegović,Haris Halilović , Muhamed Budimlić, Edina Bećirević, 2018).

Results and discussions

With these data, it shows that the analyzed sample of respondents is mainly young, 43.8% younger than 20 years and 56.2% older than 20 years, Gender ratios (44% men, 56% women), According to the dominant data with secondary education are (80.5%), housing status (78.8%) are in a private house or staying for a long time at the existing address, (22.2%) live in an extended period of 11 years since it means that they have migrated to cities from different regions and in this case we see the counterculture (it is seen in criminology Conflict of cultures), the highlighted characteristic is that they live with their families (96.3%), their financial capacities are low (34.3 %), average (24.2%) and (41.5%) higher.
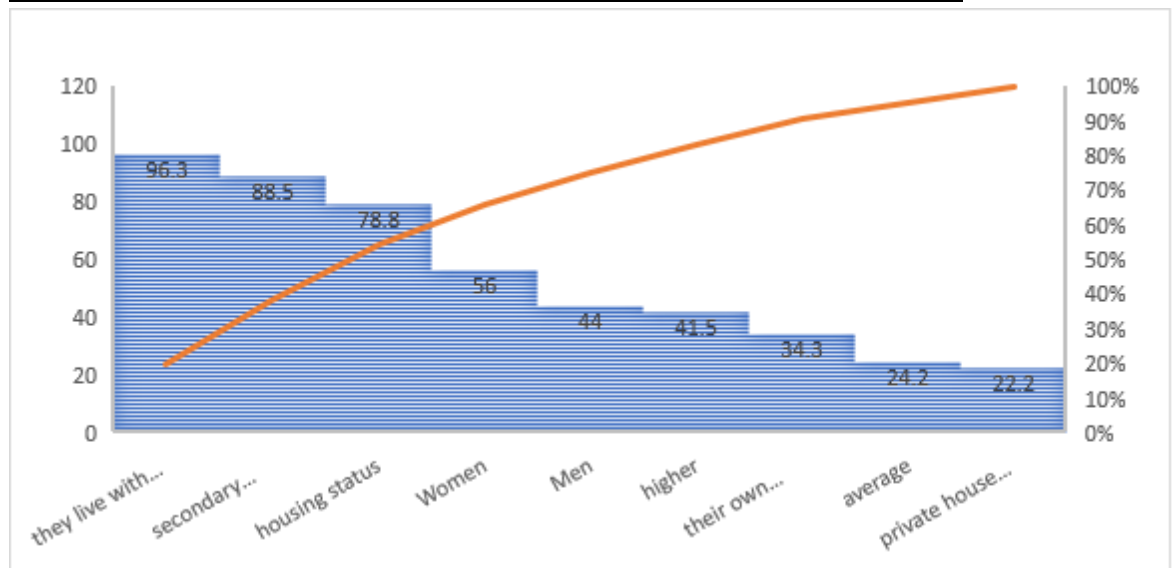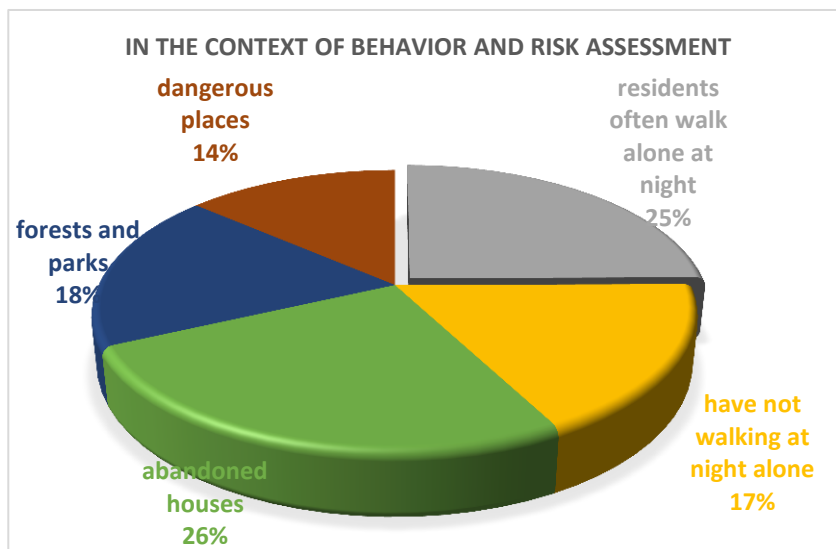
Fig.1- Gender ratios
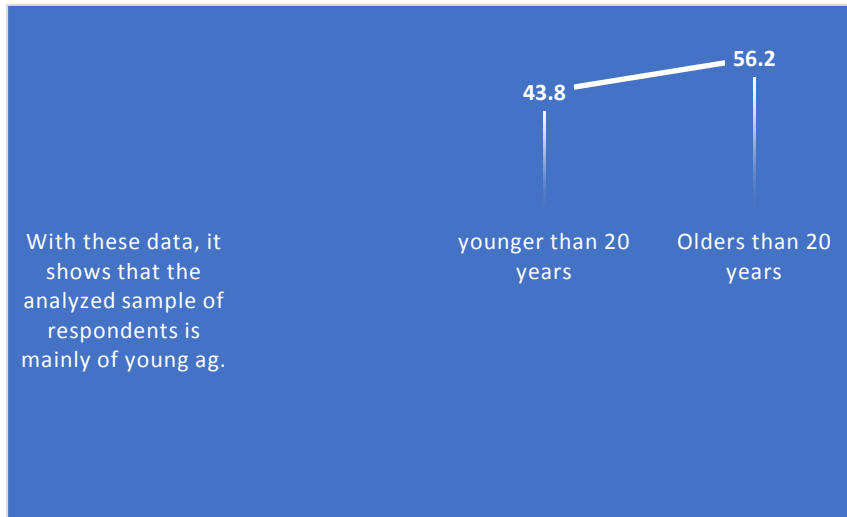
Fig.2.Economic situacio

The data show that only 7.5% of the tested samples, in the past, have been victimized by some form of delinquent behavior (damage, private matters, theft, etc.) these are data after the 2000-213 war

because before and during the war the percentage of victimization varies enormously. Their Psychophysical Ability shows that they can assess risk: average (42.3%) excellent (41%), Their health in most cases is judged to be excellent (75.5%), only slightly more than half of respondents communicate

with their neighbors (59.7%) and several interviewees (58.5%) visit friends in the neighborhood.
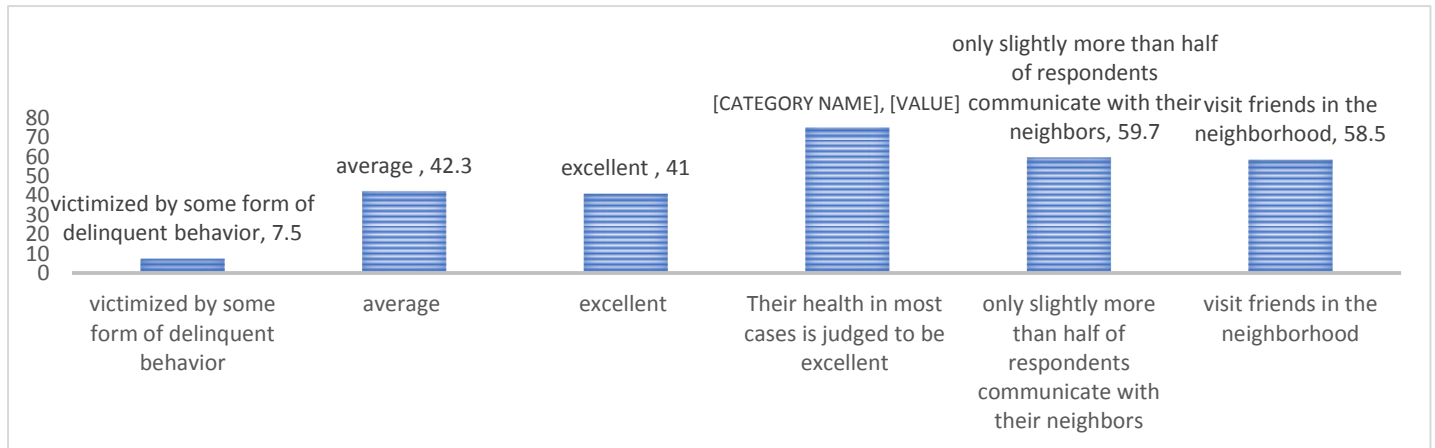

Fig.3. Behavior and risk assessment.

In the context of behavior and risk assessment, it has been shown that a relatively large number of residents often walk alone at night (43.6%), although (taking into account the age of the interviewees) the rest of the residents, 30.5% of respondents, have not walking at night alone. Regarding the risk assessment of certain locations, respondents perceived dangerous in most cases, (abandoned houses (45.2%), forests and parks (32.1%), while the market was perceived as dangerous places 23. 8%).

Fig.4. In the context of behavior and risk assessment.
Characteristics of the social-psychological model of fear of crime of the referred samples, can be seen that the analyzed samples of respondents do not perceive themselves as targets of significant victimization (29%) of respondents thought that bad people threaten them and their property, and (16, 8%) of respondents believe that people are jealous of them. (Stephen Farrall, Gorazd Mesko, 1999)

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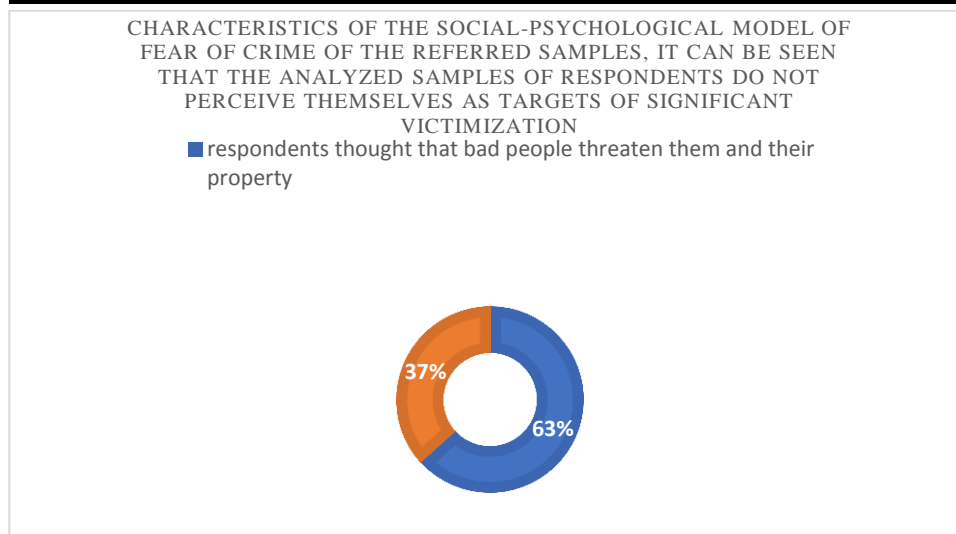property

Fig.5. Considering self-perception

Considering self-perception, it has been seen that almost all sexual characteristics age, and practice (the respondents think that he/she can overcome to stop a potential attacker, while more than a third of the respondents do not know. More than half of the respondents perceive that with their behavior they can avoid a case of conflict (50.4%).

Taking into account the perception, only 13.7% of the respondents trusted the people they knew, and 51.5% of the respondents did not trust some people in their environment. The perception of the criminogenic space is relatively high - more than 1 / 3 of the respondents sometimes imagine that someone can attack or steal on the street, and 27.5% of the respondents when they would go out on the street are convinced that the way there is going is safe. It can be observed that the highest level of risk is expressed in these situations in which they describe as possible "attackers", institutional and non-institutional groups ional which groups have a leader (78.3%) (Corruption and mistrust in institutions), even such a situation is perceived as a collective threat.
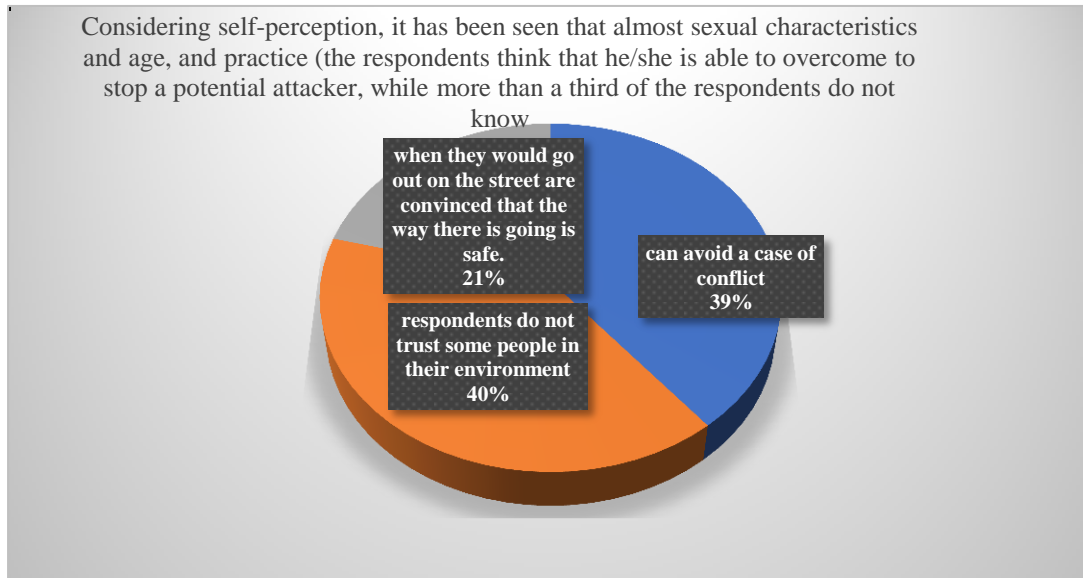
Considering self-perception, it has been seen that almost sexual characteristics and age, and practice (the respondents think that he/she is able to overcome to stop a potential attacker, while more than a third of the respondents do not know

when they would go out on the street are convinced that the way there is going is safe.
21%

can avoid a case of conflict
39%

respondents do not trust some people in their environment
40%

Fig.6. Trusted the people

Confronting the Fear of Crime

Van der Vijver (1993) used Lerner's (1980) theory of the 'Belief in the Just World' to understand how people deal with potentially threatening situations. The just world theory asserts that human beings want and have to believe that they live in a world where people get what they deserve and deserve what they get so that they can go about their daily lives with a sense of trust, hope, and confidence in their future. (Stephen and Husain, Sohail and Storey Angele, 1991)In a just world there is no place for innocent victims, but, at the same time, we are all aware that there are innocent victims. The judiciary is used to uphold our image of the just world because it is a symbol for both the protection of the 'good' and eliminating the threat of crime by ignoring the 'evil'. But if someone has become the victim of a crime that incites outrage, the perception of the just world has been violated and that perception must be reinstated. That has more to do with the battle against unjustness that has been experienced than arresting the perpetrator. This is why victims and the public want to know that the police and the justice department are doing their very best to solve the case (Lasthuizen, K., van Eeuwijk, B. A. P., & Huberts, L. W. J. C. , 2005). Lerner's theory of 'Belief in the Just World' is, however, problematic in many ways. The press and television give a presentation of a world where every single person, good or bad, can be a victim. It does not explain why a lot of people feel unsafe although, according to this theory, most people believe that

they are good citizens, and therefore implicitly protected from bad things, including crime.

Role of politics and media and fear of crime

The role of politics and media in people's fear of crime is a very important concept as it has a strong influence on political decisions (Kukaj Diellza , Ademi Mensut, 2024). We find punitiveness increasing in western countries in recent years, often based on a victim-oriented approach (Michael T. Costelloe, Ted Chiricos, and Marc Gertz, 2009). Fear of crime is such an important element of penal populism that politicians recognize and use expressed fear of crime generated by the media, well-publicized cases, and changes in some legal norms (often without sufficient expert consultation and under the pressure of so-called moral entrepreneurs) for their own ends (Helmut Kury,Igor Areh,Gorazd Mesko, 2004) According to (Dasić, 2022) political elites have been overlooking the fact that society is not only a victim but also a cause of crime. In order to fight crime and guarantee security, politicians are placed in a dilemma of 'freedom and security'. Political elites seem to sacrifice freedom for security. Their declared goal is citizens' protection from victimization but the hidden goal is quite frequently political gain (i.e., getting re-elected). Nowadays crime is a normal fact of our society and like most other problems (e.g., unemployment). solvable problem. It seems that contemporary society wants to eliminate all evil in society so that the 'good citizen' can live in freedom without feeling fear (justifying a belief in a just world). This perspective on reducing crime and reducing fear of crime raises high expectations of citizens about being good and accepted and not being a victim. Fear of crime issues are a political matter because of politicians who abuse fear of immigrants, the poor, southerners, easterners, and other marginalized and stigmatized social groups and attribute criminality to them to increase fear of crime and their credibility with a trusting public. Media's influence on one's understanding of the attribution of criminality to specific individuals, circumstances, and possible victimization deserves additional research. Media are often seen as one of the main causes of fear of crime; fear of crime is fuelled in part by heavy exposure to violent dramatic programming on prime-time television. For example, research by (Daniel Romer, Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Sean Aday, 2006) indicates that watching local television news is related to increased fear and concern about crime. (Lasthuizen, K.M.; Huberts, L.W.J.C.; Heres, L., 2024) showed that one single incident of violence that receives extensive media coverage can be enough to influence the feelings of insecurity of the public. The impact of the media focus is therefore significant, Methods of reducing fear of crime became an internationally discussed and researched topic in the 1990s (Ademi & Vula,

2023). Until recently, the European Union was especially focused on the prevention and investigation of different kinds of crimes (including organized crime), but, over time, has become aware of the importance of fear of crime as a quality of life issue. Reduction of fear of crime is now one of the priorities of the European Crime Prevention Network (EUCPN). Several measures and good practices to reduce the fear of crime are discussed in a review written by the EUCPN (2004) regarding their effectiveness in reducing the fear of crime (Rummens, 2016). Although the research on fear of crime is based on three indicators of the International Crime Victim Surveys (ICVS), (Van Kesteren John, Dijk Jan , Mayhew Pat, 2013) the EUCPN discusses the implications of certain methods of reducing fear of crime. These methods, discussed below, are often related to crime prevention and not specifically to fear of crime.

Conclusions

The latest criminological research emphasizes two original ways of studying and discovering the dark and hidden number of criminal offenses in the official national crime records. The most popular methods are self-report studies and Study of Victims. The consequences of Fear of crime, namely its economic and social effects, are serious tests for any society. The weight of the consequences of the fear of crime in any concrete society depends on many factors, with the criminalization of society, corruption, organized crime, nepotism, and criminal offenses provided for in national legislation, which lead to implementation in the system of social order for all the same. The consequences depend on the type of criminal offense that prevails in the respective country. Corruption and Organized Crime produce poverty and general economic decline accompanied by social dissatisfaction with reforms for democratic developments, reduce the effectiveness of the functioning of state power, and minimize the trust of citizens in Law Enforcement bodies and state public service.

The problems of combating and detecting criminal offenses such as corruption and organized crime are very complicated and caused by various political, legal, economic, and social factors in general. Laws always require enforcement, and while the limit of legal behavior has generally shrunk over time and to a large extent the laws in our country are very little applicable to a Society which is obliged to enforce the laws in force, the time movement of quality implementation is less clear. Enforcement requires some form of initial information about the collusive act, such as corruption – reported either by a government investigator or a third party – and then a legal action that acts on that information and culminates in a conviction. adequate. Public knowledge

about organized crime, and corruption is made possible mainly by third parties or by investigators of some of the branches of the government separated from the current criminal and corrupt groups.

Solving and overcoming the problems presented as an obstacle in the detection and combating of organized crime and corruption in particular is achieved with complex state and social treatment including: Analysis of the existing state of this phenomenon; Obligations of political activity and general goals in this field; Specific measures against organized crime and corruption in particular, the special laws against organized crime and the confiscation of illegally acquired property; The formation of specialized anti-corruption institutions where the Judicial Police will be operationalized, which is also foreseen by the Criminal Procedure Code and the Law on the Police; The full cooperation of intelligence bodies such as KIA (Kosovo Information Agency). Police Intelligence and many governmental and non-governmental organizations that are specialized in these fields, investigations and trials with professional principles and ethics; Legislative regulation of special authorizations of certain bodies and organizations in detecting and fighting corruption; Effective implementation of the law and measures in the control of institutions in this institutional discipline; Good governance, administration and full legality in the performance of the function of justice bodies, police, customs, inspections, municipal government bodies; The scientific and professional approach to detecting and fighting organized crime, corruption, educating the public and mobilizing the media in preventing and fighting organized crime and corruption in particular.

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