

The Role of the European Court of Human Rights in the formation of the Procedures of Criminal Prosecution in Moldova

Anastasia Catan¹, Albert Antoci², Cătălin Lîși³,
Petru Popescu⁴ & Andreea Corsei⁵

Abstract

The issue of the role of the European Court of Human Rights in the formation of the procedures of criminal prosecution in Moldova is critically important for understanding the efficiency of the national justice system and determining strategies for its further improvement. The influence of the ECHR on criminal procedures directly influences the guarantee of human rights and the fairness of legal proceedings. The article aims to analyse the influence of the decisions of the ECHR on criminal justice in Moldova. Statistical methods of percentage ratios were used to evaluate crime dynamics, and characteristics of Moldova's legal system were formed based on the comparative analysis. The results found that complying with the European Convention on Human Rights will reduce crimes and increase trust in the legal system. The stable dynamics of crime reduction for 7% annually is observed based on statistical analysis. Recommendations of the ECHR and directions for improving criminal justice in Moldova were formed. The study results indicate the high efficiency of the changes made in national judicial practice. The perspective area is a study of the long-term influence of the decisions of the ECHR on the formation of legal norms and procedures in the criminal justice of Moldova. Special attention should be given to analysing the methods of integrating European standards into the Moldovan legal system with consideration of local peculiarities and needs.

Keywords: criminal prosecution, criminal justice, human rights, European institutions, trial, the European Court of Human Rights, criminality rate.

¹The author is a PhD in Law, Associate Professor of the Public Law Department, University of European Studies of Moldova. catananastasia@gmail.com

²The author is a PhD in Law, Associate Professor of the Public Law Department, Constantin Stere University of Political and Economic Studies, Moldova. antoci22@mail.ru

³The author is a PhD student in Constantin Stere University of Political and Economic Studies, Moldova. lisiicatalin@gmail.com

⁴The author is a PhD student in Constantin Stere University of Political and Economic Studies, Moldova. petru.popescu@just.ro

⁵The author is a PhD student in University of European Studies of Moldova. office.corsei@yahoo.co.uk

Introduction

Forming an effective legal environment is critically important for ensuring the rights and freedoms of convicts and suspects. Proper treatment of these categories of people and their further integration into society requires strict compliance with the legislation. According to Stratan (2023), the development of specialised programs should be directed at rehabilitation and social adaptation. Effective justice should not be limited to punishment only but also ensure mechanisms of correction and renewal, which enable people to return to normal life in a community. The consideration of individual peculiarities of every situation and the provision of fair and transparent case consideration are fundamental for reducing recidivism and criminality. Such an approach includes psychological support, professional education and socialisation, forming a sustainable and healthy society.

The process of formation of a fair legal environment in Moldova faces numerous challenges and transformations. Tănase (2021) indicates that from gaining independence and further integration into further European legal structures, the state has made significant progress in improving its legislative framework and judicial system. Nevertheless, the system requires improvements in the independence of courts and the efficiency of criminal prosecution. The issue with the execution of decisions of national courts and guaranteeing the rights of convicts requires special attention and resources for their solution. The author (Primush et al., 2023) considers proposals of the EU to be directed at ensuring transparency, reducing bureaucracy and increasing the qualification of law enforcement officers even under conditions of global military conflicts. The main reform task is passing new laws and ensuring their proper execution following the European standards of justice and human rights.

The role of the European Court of Human Rights in improving criminal prosecution in Moldova is extremely large. The ECHR contributes to protecting fundamental rights and freedoms and indicates systemic deficiencies in the national legal system, demanding their immediate elimination. Pantea (2023) believes that the legal mechanism acts as an external audit, ensuring objectivity and independence in evaluating and observing human rights in a country. The decisions taken have a direct influence on national legislation and executive government. They motivate them to reform judicial procedures related to the issues of guaranteeing the rights of detainees and prisoners. Moldova gradually adopts more effective practices that improve the country's criminal justice and general legal justice.

The research aims to analyse the influence of the European Court of Human Rights on the formation of the procedures of criminal prosecution in Moldova. According to the set aim, the main tasks were formed:

1. To study the criminality rate in Moldova and systematise data concerning criminal procedures.
2. To evaluate the influence of the ECHR's verdicts in improving criminal prosecution, such as processing cases of suspects.
3. To develop recommendations for improving observance of human rights in criminal procedures in Moldova according to the principles of fair justice.

Literature review

The observance of human rights during criminal prosecution is an important theme in scientific research. According to the study (Ursu, 2023), the influence of the European Court of Human Rights on the legal system of Moldova is significant, manifesting in reforming the procedure of criminal prosecution. Marit (2022) believes that reforms require ensuring compliance of national laws with the European Convention on Human Rights. According to Antoci and Cananău (2022), transparent judicial proceedings enable increasing fairness in criminal justice and reduction of the risk of recidivism. Pogorleckaya (2023), in her study, underlines that verdicts of the ECHR stimulate legislative changes, which influence the processing of criminal cases concerning ensuring the rights of suspects and convicts. The author (Spora, 2023) considers that human rights protection cannot be overestimated, as ensuring fundamental rights in the criminal process is essential for any democratic state. Soroceanu (2023) believes that methods of criminality reduction in Moldova require the integration of European practices and standards. Boldescu (2023) includes reconsidering the role of punishment and focusing on rehabilitation programs, which can reduce recidivism and contribute to the social adaptation of convicts. The study by Stati (2023) indicates that strengthening legal guarantees and ensuring social programs for convicts will significantly improve the results of criminal justice. Sult (2023) believes that judicial proceedings require tight cooperation between the government, judicial system and civil society to create a more effective and humane justice system. Scientist Glavan (2023) defines problems and challenges in improving criminal justice in Moldova. Results of the study by Bragoi (2023) include evaluating legislative changes, bureaucratic barriers, and slowing down the European integration process. According to Kucheruk (2023), the realisation of changes initiated by the decisions of the ECHR, is slowed due to the absence of a political will or limited resources. Strimbeanu (2023) believes that there is a need for constant training and professional development of judges and law

enforcement officers to effectively implement new procedures and standards. According to Catanzariti (2023), human rights should be ensured on the state level to achieve long-lasting positive changes in criminal justice. Brînza and Stati (2023) underline the necessity for improving the legislative framework in Moldova, considering the requirements and recommendations of the ECHR. Analysis (Pitac, 2023) shows that the efficiency of rehabilitation measures influences the frequency of recidivism. According to Gaina (2023), observance of the rights of suspects during prosecution ensures an increase in the country's role in the international system of law. The author (Veaceslav, 2022) studies the responses of the modern legal system of Moldova to challenges of ensuring fairness in criminal cases and preserving the balance between the necessity of society protection and observance of human rights. The study by Dumneanu and Boldescu (2023) indicates the role of individualisation in criminal justice, as it will contribute to more effective solutions to criminal cases. Girla (2023) analyses complex programs, integrating rehabilitation measures, education and psychological support. The study by Larchenko (2023) describes the importance of transparency and objectivity in the Moldovan legal system for increasing citizens' trust in court decisions and their efficiency. According to Chichai (2023), public awareness and its attitude to criminal justice following European standards is decisive in reforming. Thus, the researchers have determined key directions for developing criminal justice and possibilities for improving the regulatory-legal framework. The study of the long-term influence of the decisions of the ECHR on criminal practice in Moldova and their influence on individual rights and freedoms remains understudied.

The Aims

Investigate specific rulings by the European Court of Human Rights that have been utilised to modify or enhance the criminal procedural laws in Moldova. This task involves a detailed examination of case law from the European Court that directly impacted Moldova's legislative changes or judicial practices. The study will assess how these legal precedents have been integrated into the national legal framework and their effect on the fairness and efficiency of criminal prosecution in the country. This analysis aims to comprehensively understand the interplay between international human rights standards and local criminal justice reforms.

Materials and Methods

In the first stage, the study procedure involved analysis of the parameters of the number of crimes and convicts. In the second stage, data from official sources concerning decisions of the European Court of Human Rights was

analysed. In the third stage, an evaluation of dynamics and trends in the change of criminal activity was conducted, based on which problem issues in the legal system of Moldova were defined. The final stage included a review of the number of appeals to the European Court of Human Rights and its correlation with the level of number of courts and criminality rate, based on which evaluation of the efficiency of the national judicial system was provided.

Statistical methods were used in the article to process and analyse the collected data. A percentage ratio calculation method and time series analysis were used to determine the dependence and trends of criminal statistics development. Legal analysis of Moldova's applicable legislation was conducted according to the requirements of European institutions, which enabled the detection of legal deficiencies. The case analysis method was used to interpret court cases concerning criminal prosecution in Moldova of the ECHR. The received data were used to form a vision of the problems of the criminal prosecution procedure and the influence of legal government initiatives on the criminality rate.

To ensure the relevance of the study, the sample involves data from 2019-2023, which reflects processes of legal reformation in Moldova. The relevant period was selected due to significant legal changes initiated in response to international recommendations and the country's internal needs. The sample involves statistical data on the criminality rate in Moldova (Statista Moldovei, 2024), the number of convicts and appeals submitted to the ECHR. Available data were used to analyse the efficiency of reforms and their influence on ensuring law and order.

The research methodology was expanded to include triangulation with other methods to mitigate the limitations inherent in relying solely on case law analysis. Specifically, a thorough assessment of statistical data was conducted to evaluate trends in judicial outcomes in Moldova before and after the implementation of rulings from the European Court of Human Rights. This approach not only complemented the analysis of the legal precedents but also provided a quantitative foundation to measure the real-world impact of these international legal influences on the Moldovan criminal justice system. This multifaceted methodological approach significantly enhanced the robustness and comprehensiveness of the research findings.

Study instruments involve percentage calculations for calculating statistical parameters received from governmental sources in Moldova and European institutions. The use of time series methods enabled the evaluation of the quality of effective legal reformation based on statistical data and court cases. Legal instruments provide analysis of court cases and recommendations of the

ECHR concerning institutional changes in the dynamics of criminality and efficiency of justice in Moldova.

The article has a high level of ethical interpretation in collecting, processing, and interpreting data without bias. All procedures were transparent and open for a check, and collected information was used in compliance with the confidentiality and protection of personal data.

Results

Having achieved independence in 1991, Moldova began developing its legal system, which integrates international legal norms and standards. Joining the Council of Europe in 1995 obliged Moldova to comply with the European Convention on Human Rights, which became a key step in forming the country's legal system. The European Court of Human Rights contributed to becoming a candidate for membership in 2022 due to the decisions which improved legislation and judicial practice. The criminal prosecution procedure has weaknesses in Moldova's system of human rights protection. European institutions function as external regulators, improving bringing Moldovan legislation and law enforcement practice in compliance with all-European standards. The gradual transition of the country to a state governed by the rule of law is depicted in the gradual reduction of the criminality rate, which is presented in Figure 1.

During 2019-2023, Moldova observed a significant reduction in criminality rate compared to 2014-2015, when it was twice as high. The reformation of law-enforcement authorities and the judicial system, which was influenced by recommendations and decisions of the ECHR, played a prior role. The ECHR's verdicts motivated Moldova to improve its procedures for observing the rights of defendants and detainees. They included improving confinement conditions in custody and ensuring the right to a fair trial. The relevant measures reduced corruption and increased public trust in the judicial system. Monitoring missions led to the reduction of crimes, which take place based on mistrust in state institutions. The role of European institutions is critical in this process, as is the trend toward criminality reduction.

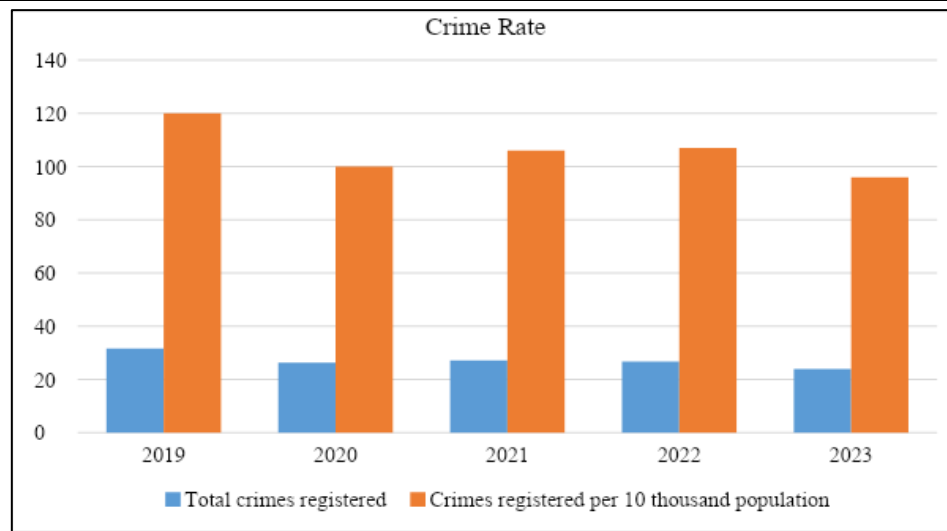


Figure 1. Moldova Crime Rate 2019-2023

Source: construed based on Statista Moldovei (2024)

The process of formation of the legal system of Moldova on the European model has undergone significant challenges, one of which is the procedure of criminal prosecution. Practical realisation of decisions has repeatedly violated human rights, which is indicated by the imperfect investigation of the defendants. European institutions required progress in reform to protect the rights of the prosecuted. The key demand became ensuring transparency and impartiality of criminal investigations. The main task for Moldova was strengthening the independence of the justice system and ensuring proper legal representation. The ECHR (2024) indicates the importance of observance of principles of the fair justice process, as it is a catalyst for introducing standards which prevent lawlessness and abuse of power. Informing the investigation procedure and compliance with the norms contributed to reducing the number of imprisoned, the statistics of which are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Number of persons charged with criminal offences

	2021	2022	2023	2023 in % compared to 2022
Total	14 263	13 482	11 246	83,4
By gender/age:				
Women	1 142	1 059	1 018	96,1
Men	13 121	12 423	10 228	82,3
Minors	1 163	1 039	735	70,7

First-time offenders	13 979	13 176	10 926	82,9
Persons who have previously committed crimes	284	306	320	104,6
Persons of working age but without occupation	5 548	5 091	3 993	78,4
Persons who have committed crimes in a group	835	685	553	80,7
Persons who have committed crimes while intoxicated	3 014	2 868	2 376	82,8

Source: construed based on Statista Moldovei (2024)

According to statistical data, the legal system of Moldova demonstrates significant success in reducing the criminality rate from 2021 to 2023. The total number of crimes reduced by 2990 in 202, which amounts to 83,4% from the parameter of 2022. An especially impressive reduction is observed among minors, where the criminality rate reduced to 70,7% compared to the previous year. This indicates the efficiency of juvenile justice programs and prophylactic measures oriented at youth. Criminality reduction among persons who committed a crime for the first time demonstrates success in realising rehabilitation and integration programs. The crime rate among working-age persons has reduced to 78,4%, indicating the potential influence of economic and social programs on criminality reduction. The number of persons who committed a crime repeatedly increased by 4,6%, which indicates the necessity of improving programs for education and strengthening measures of social reintegration.

Regardless of the general criminality rate reduction, there are some critical challenges for the legal system of Moldova within the context of combating recidivism and providing sustainable employment for the unemployed. The efficiency of the legal system in the future will depend on the ability to form complex strategies of social adaptation. Liberalisation of criminal prosecution should be based on the principle of human rights. They include law-enforcement measures, social support, education and economic initiatives. Ensuring access to work, educational programmes and systemic reforms in criminal justice can reduce the criminality rate and contribute to social stability. Legal cases on criminal prosecution and the general influence of the ECHR are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Table of influence of the ECHR on criminal procedures in Moldova

An influential case of the ECHR	Content of the case	Changes in legislation of Moldova
---------------------------------	---------------------	-----------------------------------

Case of Ilascu and Others v. Moldova and Russia	Establishing responsibility of Moldova for violations in Transnistria Governorate, where the judicial system has not provided a fair judicial process.	Increasing standards of responsibility and control in places where Moldova has limited sovereignty.
Case of Ciorap v. Moldova	The court condemned Moldova for inadequate prison conditions and inadequate treatment of prisoners.	Obligations to improve conditions of detention and medical services for prisoners.
Case of Sarban v. Moldova	Recognition of violation of the right to fair justice in Moldova due to insufficient independence and impartiality of judges.	Reform of the judicial system, in particular changes in assigning and responsibility of judges.

Source: construed by the authors

The case “Ilascu and Others v. Moldova and Russia” became one of the most important moments in the legal history of Moldova, as the ECHR condemned both countries for serious violation of human rights in Transnistria. The court has found that Moldova is responsible for failure to ensure human rights in the region, where it has limited sovereignty, but is obliged to perform its obligations according to international agreements. This decision had long-term consequences for Moldova, including ensuring proper judicial supervision over its territories. As a result, Moldova increased its standards of responsibility and control and relied on its government in situations where its sovereignty was limited. Conducted by implementing new measures for improving transparency and efficiency of the government.

The decision in the case “Ciorap v. Moldova” became a significant precedent, which found serious deficiencies in the prisoners’ detention system and medical care. The ECHR has critically evaluated the conditions of detention of prisoners in Moldovan prisons, considering inadequate medical conditions and abuse of powers during criminal prosecution. The decision, which was made, prompted Moldova to reform the penitentiary system by improving the conditions of detention and ensuring proper medical care for prisoners. In response, the Moldova government initiated several projects to modernise prison infrastructure and advance personnel qualifications to ensure compliance with international standards and guarantees.

The case “Sarban against Moldova” showed problems in the dependence and impartiality of judges in Moldova, which influenced the efficiency of trials. The ECHR (2024) recognised that Moldovan courts had not provided proper justice due to system deficiencies in the judicial system. As a result of this decision, Moldova began profound reforms of the judicial system. They included a

review of the procedures for assigning judges and advancing their qualifications. Implementing new measures to ensure transparency and accountability of court decisions during criminal prosecution was conducted. The changes aimed at renewing public trust in the judicial system and ensuring the protection of the rights and freedoms of every citizen in accordance with the European Convention.

The efficiency of the European Court of Human Rights in Moldova can be observed through changes in relation to application processing, which indicates constant cooperation between the national legal system and European legal standards. Each year, the number of cases received for case consideration has increased, which indicates the active use of legal mechanisms by citizens of Moldova. The present tendency stimulates the local legal system to improve and bring its procedures in compliance with European standards. Interaction between the ECHR and the governments constantly intensifies, leading to the correction of national legislation. The responsibilities of the government to its citizens and the international community are critically important, considering the dynamics of appeals, which are presented in Table 3.

Table 3. Results of processing applications to the ECHR from Moldova for 2021-2023

Applications processed in	2021	2022	2023
Applications allocated to a judicial formation	626	642	653
Communicated to the Government	76	150	53
Applications decided:	633	636	536
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Single Judge)	511	567	455
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Committee)	41	34	39
- Declared inadmissible or struck out (Chamber)	1	0	2

Source: construes according to the data of the ECHR (2024)

Improvement of procedures of criminal prosecution in Moldova is caused by interventions of the ECHR, which has practical results such as a reduction in the number of cases by 10%. Reduction in the number of illegal decisions indicates an increase in the quality of preparation of materials submitted to the ECHR and an increase in legal awareness among the public. Strengthening local judicial institutions, which conduct preliminary work in studying and determining the procedure of criminal prosecution, has positive trends. The relevant dynamics demonstrate the increasing capacity of Moldova to ensure fair and effective criminal prosecution, which corresponds to international human rights standards.

Discussion

Researchers discuss the efficiency of forming criminal procedures according to European human rights standards. According to the results (Oganesean, 2022), reforms in criminal justice initiated by the decisions of the ECHR, significantly improve standards of justice in Eastern Europe. Such an idea is supported by Sarpe and Rotaru (2023): reducing judicial abuses during prosecution directly influences recidivism reduction. In contrast, the results of the study of Spano (2023) state that there are difficulties in implementing European directives. The results indicated the efficiency of these processes in Moldovan legal justice. The study by Furculita and Guzun (2023) indicates that integration of the criminal prosecution procedure in the European example is insufficient, as it needs a transparent monitoring process. The conclusions of Negritu (2023) on the role of society in adopting reforms are similar to the results that were received, which underline the reduction in the criminality rate. The hypothesis (Bosinceanu, 2021) is confirmed that observance of human rights during investigation significantly reduces the probability of repeated crime. According to Strulea (2023), using ECHR practice accelerates the European integration process and improves the efficiency of criminal investigations. The study by Stahurschi (2023) demonstrates how social dialogue helps reduce youth criminality, preventing their further engagement in criminal activity. Own results confirm the thesis of the article of Puica (2023), that the use of liberal forms of criminal prosecution will effectively contribute to the socialisation of offenders. According to the analysis of Stati and Colteniuc (2023), the reduction of the criminality rate is related to the observance of European directives and courses on European integration. Thus, the discussion confirms the key role of the ECHR in improving criminal justice in Moldova and identifies the main areas for further research and implementation of changes.

Conclusions

The study of the role of the European Court of Human Rights in the formation of the procedures of criminal prosecution in Moldova confirms the significant influence of institutions on the local legal system. Verdicts of the ECHR detect gaps in the observance of human rights in national judicial practice and contribute to implementing important legal reforms. Cases, considered by the Court, initiated changes in procedural legislation and strengthened the protection of rights and guarantees of fair trial in Moldova. The study can be used to implement the experience of Moldova's legal reformation concerning improving criminal prosecution in countries on their course to European integration. The significant influence of the ECHR is observed in strengthening the rights of

arrested and convicts and improving detention conditions. The relevant changes certify that international judicial supervision effectively contributes to Moldova's performance of obligations concerning international legal standards.

Regardless of positive influence, Moldova can face problems in further integrating the recommendations of the ECHR into national practice. One of the key concerns is recidivism and the inefficiency of measures related to the re-education of convicts, which requires a more complex approach to the criminal justice and correction system. The issue of independence of the judicial system and its vulnerability to political influence is preserved, which can undermine public trust in court decisions. Global challenges involve the need to increase the legal education of the public and ensure equal access to justice for all categories of citizens. Under conditions of political and economic instability, the legislation should be improved based on the principles of European directives.

Recommendations

Based on the analysis of the results of the influence of the ECHR on the procedures of criminal prosecution in Moldova, the necessity of specific actions for further improvement of the legal system was defined.

1. To develop and implement clear procedural guidelines for ensuring the independence of judges and transparency of court decisions.
2. Implement complex rehabilitation and social integration problems for convicts, decreasing recidivism and their return to society and productive members.
3. To extend access to qualitative legal aid and increase public legal awareness through educational programs and informational campaigns.
4. To introduce the system of monitoring and evaluation of the influence of reforms implemented on the reform of the ECHR, which enables tracing the progress and making necessary corrections into criminal prosecution procedures.
5. To ensure adequate financing and resources for the realisation of programs directed at the improvement in efficiency of criminal justice.

References

- Antoci, A., & Cananău, A. (2022). The role of the compensatory mechanism in the implementation of criminal policy and criminal enforcement policy. *Revista Națională de Drept*, 3(245), 151-159. <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.2982277>
- Boldescu, A. (2023). The content of the illegality of the act that is criminated in art. 233 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova. Hunting without proper authorisation. *Studia Universitatis Moldaviae. Seria Stiinte Sociale*, 3, 198-210. [https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3\(163\)2023_24](https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3(163)2023_24)
- Bosinceanu, D. C. (2021). Brief considerations regarding the respect for the right of defence of the accused person during criminal prosecution, in the light of the case-law of the European court of human rights. Case study. *International Journal of Legal and Social Order*, 1, 610-621. <https://doi.org/10.55516/ijlso.v1i1.43>
- Bragoi, C. (2023). The analysis of scientific materials regarding criminal liability for interference with the administration of justice and criminal prosecution published in the Republic of Moldova. *The Journal of the National Institute of Justice*, 2(65), 12-17. [https://doi.org/10.52277/1857-2405.2023.2\(65\).02](https://doi.org/10.52277/1857-2405.2023.2(65).02)
- Brînză, S., & Stati, V. (2023). The crime of conspiracy against the Republic of Moldova: criminal-legal dimensions. *Studia Universitatis Moldaviae. Seria Stiinte Sociale*, 8(168), 3-12. [https://doi.org/10.59295/sum8\(168\)2023_01](https://doi.org/10.59295/sum8(168)2023_01)
- Catanzariti, M. (2023). Margari v Greece and Negru v Republic of Moldova: A Step Towards ‘Substantive’ Interdependence? *European Data Protection Law Review*, 9(4), 482-488. <https://doi.org/10.21552/edpl/2023/4/15>
- Chichai, C. (2023). Delimitation of the offence of illegal practice of financial activity from other related crimes. *Studia Universitatis Moldaviae. Seria Stiinte Sociale*, 3, 180-189. [https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3\(163\)2023_22](https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3(163)2023_22)
- Dumneanu, L., & Boldescu, A. (2023). Hunting during the prohibited period – hypothesis provided by art. 233 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova. *Studia Universitatis Moldaviae. Seria Stiinte Sociale*, 3, 82-92. [https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3\(163\)2023_10](https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3(163)2023_10)
- ECHR. (2024). Judgment concerning the Republic of Moldova. Retrieved from: https://www.echr.coe.int/documents/d/echr/cp_republic_of_moldova_eng
- Furculita, D., & Guzun, V. (2023). Online streaming as an expression of digital sexuality under the criminal law of the Republic of Moldova. *Studia Universitatis Moldaviae. Seria Stiinte Sociale*, 8(168), 128-137. [https://doi.org/10.59295/sum8\(168\)2023_17](https://doi.org/10.59295/sum8(168)2023_17)

- Gaina, A. (2023). Aggravating circumstances of the crime of disclosure of state secret. *National Law Journal*, 2(248), 56-64. [https://doi.org/10.52388/1811-0770.2022.2\(248\).06](https://doi.org/10.52388/1811-0770.2022.2(248).06)
- Girila, L. (2023). On the material object of the criminal offences provided by art. 290, art. 291, art. 292 CC RM: penal analysis, conclusions and recommendations. *Studia Universitatis Moldaviae. Seria Stiinte Sociale*, 8(168), 116-127. [https://doi.org/10.59295/sum8\(168\)2023_16](https://doi.org/10.59295/sum8(168)2023_16)
- Glavan, B. (2023). Starting the criminal process in the legal regulation of the Republic of Moldova – an essential criterion of the special investigation activity. *National Law Journal*, 2(248), 92-106. [https://doi.org/10.52388/1811-0770.2022.2\(248\).10](https://doi.org/10.52388/1811-0770.2022.2(248).10)
- Kucheruk, H. L. (2023). Comparative Analysis of Legal Regulation of Bank Secrecy in Criminal Proceedings of Ukraine, The Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Kazakhstan. *Juridical Scientific and Electronic Journal*, 7, 421-425. <https://doi.org/10.32782/2524-0374/2023-7/99>
- Larchenko, A. A. (2023). Deprivation of the right to take certain positions or perform certain activities under the criminal legislation of the CIS participant states. *Yugra State University Bulletin*, 19(3), 79-87. <https://doi.org/10.18822/byusu20230379-87>
- Marit, A. (2022). Approaches to transnational organised crime. Prevention and combat by international organisations. *Moldoscopia*, 1(96), 79-90. [https://doi.org/10.52388/1812-2566.2022.1\(96\).07](https://doi.org/10.52388/1812-2566.2022.1(96).07)
- Negritu, L. (2023). Destruction of Goods in the Criminal Legislation of the Republic of Moldova and Romania: Aspects of Comparative Law. *Intellectus*, 1, 105-114. <https://doi.org/10.56329/1810-7087.23.1.10>
- Oganesean, A. (2022). ECtHR judgments: National judicial authority execution obligations. *The Journal of the National Institute of Justice*, 1(60), 49-54. [https://doi.org/10.52277/1857-2405.2022.1\(60\).07](https://doi.org/10.52277/1857-2405.2022.1(60).07)
- Pantea, O. (2023). Legal classifier of penitentiaries in the Republic of Moldova. Human rights problems and solutions. *Studia Universitatis Moldaviae. Seria Stiinte Sociale*, 3, 59-69. [https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3\(163\)2023_07](https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3(163)2023_07)
- Pogorleckaya, I. I. (2023). Public Law of Moldova in the 16th – 17th Centuries. *Proceedings of Southwest State University. Series: History and Law*, 13(4), 22-33. <https://doi.org/10.21869/2223-1501-2023-13-4-22-33>
- Primush, R., Chmyr, Ya., Kravtsov, M., Perehuda, Yu., & Koniushkov, A. (2023). Information Wars: Historical and Comparative Analysis, Specifics and Factors of Actualization in the Modern World. National Security Drivers of Ukraine. *Information Technology, Strategic Communication, and Legitimacy. Contributions to Political Science* (pp. 259-272). Switzerland:

- Springer International Publishing AG. <https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-33724-6>
- Puica, V. (2023). Person authorised or employed by the state to provide public services on behalf or perform public interest activities - subject of the crime of excess of power or overriding of the duties in the criminal law of the Republic of Moldova. *Administrarea Publica*, 4(116), 157-166. [https://doi.org/10.52327/1813-8489.2022.4\(116\).15](https://doi.org/10.52327/1813-8489.2022.4(116).15)
- Sarpe, V., & Rotaru, V. (2023). Judicial assessment of the medical forensic expert report. Empirical study. *The Journal of the National Institute of Justice*, 1(64), 42-47. [https://doi.org/10.52277/1857-2405.2023.1\(64\).07](https://doi.org/10.52277/1857-2405.2023.1(64).07)
- Soroceanu, I. (2023). Legal-criminal analysis of the crime regarding the activity of mercenaries. *National Law Journal*, 2(248), 191-198. [https://doi.org/10.52388/1811-0770.2022.1\(247\).16](https://doi.org/10.52388/1811-0770.2022.1(247).16)
- Spano, R. (2023). The concept of media pluralism under the European Convention on Human Rights—substantive principles and procedural safeguards. *Journal of Media Law*, 15(2), 168-178. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17577632.2024.2305419>
- Spora, H. (2023). Historical development of the institute of special court proceedings in Ukraine (in absentia). *Visegrad Journal on Human Rights*, 1, 165-171. <https://doi.org/10.61345/1339-7915.2023.1.24>
- Stahurschi, A. (2023). Comparative criminal law elements regarding the offense provided for in article 208 Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova. *Supremacy of Law*, 1, 48-55. <https://doi.org/10.52388/2345-1971.2023.1.05>
- Stati, V. (2023). Offenses committed on the natural gas market: A new subgroup of economic offenses. *Studia Universitatis Moldaviae. Seria Stiinte Sociale*, 3, 39-49. [https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3\(163\)2023_05](https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3(163)2023_05)
- Stati, V., & Colteniuc, A. (2023). Determining or facilitating suicide in the criminal legislation of the Republic of Moldova and in that of the member states of the European Union: comparative law analysis. *Studia Universitatis Moldaviae. Seria Stiinte Sociale*, 3, 121-130. [https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3\(163\)2023_15](https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3(163)2023_15)
- Statista Moldovei. (2024). The level of criminality in the Republic of Moldova in 2023. Retrieved from: https://statistica.gov.md/ro/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-republica-moldova-in-anul-2023-9478_60977.html
- Stratan, A. (2023). Non-Banking Financial Organization – Victim of the Offences Provided for in Art. 238 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova. *Intellectus*, 1, 95-104. <https://doi.org/10.56329/1810-7087.23.1.09>
- Strimbeanu, A. (2023). Adjacent action from the composition of the offenses provided in art. 259 of the Criminal Code. *Studia Universitatis Moldaviae*.

Seria Stiinte Sociale, 3, 114-163.
[https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3\(163\)2023_18](https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3(163)2023_18)

- Strulea, M. (2023). Compensatory remedies in the execution of life detention in comparative law. *Studia Universitatis Moldaviae. Seria Stiinte Sociale*, 3, 106-109. [https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3\(163\)2023_13](https://doi.org/10.59295/sum3(163)2023_13)
- Sult, G. (2023). Analysis of criminal procedural principles in first instance courts in the Republic of Moldova. *Supremacy of Law*, 2, 61-71. <https://doi.org/10.52388/2345-1971.2022.e2.06>
- Tănase, A. (2021). Prezentă militară rusească în Republica Moldova prin prisma jurisprudenței CEDO. Plural. History. Culture. *Society*, 9(2), 28-42. https://doi.org/10.37710/PLURAL.V9I2_3
- Ursu, V. (2023). The European legal framework of environmental policy and its impact on the criminal legislation of Republic of Moldova. *Analytical and Comparative Jurisprudence*, 5, 671-676. <https://doi.org/10.24144/2788-6018.2023.05.119>
- Veaceslav, U. (2022). The Institution of Rehabilitation in the Legislation of the Republic of Moldova. *Przegląd Policyjny*, 145(1), 5-11. <https://doi.org/10.5604/01.3001.0015.8376>