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MAFIA AND ORGANIZED CRIME IN EUROPE

Organized crime is a category of transnational, national, or local groupings of highly centralized enterprises run by criminals who intend to engage in illegal activity, most commonly for profit. Organized crime is a threat to European citizens, businesses, state institutions as well as the economy as a whole. Criminals easily operate across a border, which creates a need for consistent European-level action. Also organized crime consists of to the mafia or crowds.

Today's criminal market is complex because the criminal activities are more articulated and the criminal groups have grown in number. A criminal organization or gang can also be referred to as a mafia, mob, or crime syndicate; the network, subculture and community of criminals may be referred to as the underworld. European sociologists (e.g. Diego Gambetta) define the mafia as a type of organized crime group that specializes in the supply of extra-legal protection and quasi law enforcement.

Therefore, it is misleading to sustain that the mafia or any other criminal organization has a monopoly on world crime. There isn't a monarchy, a Number One, in the organized crime world, but there are many republics that variously interact and are protagonists of the international division of criminal labor. Drugs and money laundering are the best-known aspects of today's criminal activities, but the most devastating is probably the connection between politics and crime. This mixture between illegal and legal, criminal and institutional is the heart of the mafia's historical model, but it has grown and spread independent of the presence of Mafioso's.

The mafia's strength lies in its capacity to be both local and international, in the sense that it grew to a worldwide level without losing its roots in society. Besides this spread of the mafia, the development of illegal activities, the formation and strengthening of other criminal groups similar to the mafia are causes for worry. Many criminal organizations are present in Italy: the Camorra in Campania, the Sacra Corona Unita in Puglia and other groups. On the international level, besides historical groups like the Japanese Yakusa and the Chinese Triads, new organizations like the South American Cartels and the Russian Mafia have formed.

No legitimate business can afford to compete with criminal companies that can produce goods and services at a loss as part of a long-

term strategy to take over markets. Thus, mafia groups have extended their presence into parts of Italy and Europe not historically affected by organized crime, a development that could have serious negative implications for the EU economy in the long run.

The assessment of the activities of the mafia concluded with a series of recommendations for law enforcement authorities and policymakers:

1. The identification, targeting and dismantling of the most dangerous mafia families and clans.

2. The harmonization of anti-mafia legislation in the EU, so that mafia membership is criminalized and extradition requests made easier.

3. A regional/continental intelligence focus by Member States in implementing their national intelligence cycles in order to avoid important information gaps on organized-crime-affecting-the-EU-generally.

Europol also set up an operational project, Analysis Project ITOC, dedicated to tackling Italian organized crime groups. The project is fully supported by Italian law enforcement and judicial authorities, which have contributed their in-depth experience in the field. Many other Member States, non-EU countries and organizations such as Euro just are also involved in the project.

Список використаних джерел

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COMBATING ORGANIZED CRIME

Organized crime is considered to be a changing and flexible phenomenon. Many of the benefits of globalization such as easier and faster communication, movement of finances and international travel, have also