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SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Abstract: Europe is today exposed to numerous security challenges. The permanent influx of migrant population represents a very high security challenge, which primarily threatens the European population. Strong barriers to entry into the European Union, placed at the borders of Hungary and Croatia, hinder the flow of migrants, but on the other hand, they enable various illegal and impermissible ways of crossing state borders, open opportunities for human trafficking and also contribute to additional destabilization in the depth of the territory of the European Union.

Who are the migrants, where do they come from and with what motives, is an essential question. How much do migrants imply in certain security risk situations in the European Union and do they abuse the difficult security situation that occurred on the Asian and African continents to place their “warriors” on European soil to wage religiously motivated wars against the Christian population. These are fundamentally important issues facing the European Union today and they are the most important security risks.

For the purposes of the research presented in this paper, a security assessment was made in one European country, Austria, in a given time frame and in a location that is considered the most critical in terms of the overall security of the local population. Taking into account that Austria is a good benchmark and indicator of the situation in the whole of Europe, because since the beginning of the migrant processes, it has received a large number of migrant populations from all over the world and provided them with a good shelter.

Austria can rightfully be classified in the category of more regulated European countries, both in terms of the standard of living of citizens, in terms of the social rights of citizens, and in terms of the degree of protection of human and civil rights. However, Austria is facing

serious problems of a security nature, which is significantly contributed by precisely that migrant population, which successfully reaches Austrian cities. The picture that can be seen in Austria today is devastating from the security point of view, because whole gangs, mostly made up of migrants from Asia and partly from Africa, dominate bus and train stations, streets and entire neighborhoods. The Austrian population often feels unsafe, and when observing the field, from direct contacts with the local population, the authors of the paper learned that some residents of neighborhoods experienced concrete physical attacks from migrant criminal structures.

Keywords: migrants, security risks, narcotics, dealers, crime.

INTRODUCTION

The whole world is facing extremely difficult security crises today. From intense criminal activities, war events that take place literally on the border with the European Union, to crises in the Middle East, permanent illegal trade in narcotics, weapons and people, a clear picture of impaired security is being created in the whole world. Even today, the European Union can be distinguished as a geographical area with significant living standards and general living conditions. Precisely for this reason, the European Union is detected as a desired destination for many migrants fleeing war-torn areas. However, the essential question is whether the migrants represent only those layers of the population, originally from Asia and partially from Africa, or among them the so-called economic and social migrants. In other words, as an even more important question, there is the question of whether among the migrants there are also political activists who want to reach the European Union in order to spread terrorist and other harmful ideologies in its countries.

Previous scientific research, based on the factual situation from the field, confirms the validity of those darkest assumptions, because with the emergence of the migrant crisis, after the “Asian Spring”, comes the radicalization of terrorist activity on the soil of the European Union. Almost all European countries have come under the attack of radical terrorism, based on the ideology of the “Islamic State”. The ideology based on the “Jihad” declared against the “unbelieving Christian life” represented an alibi for all the terrorist acts that were being provoked in the current period. Also, data from the field confirm that the perpetrators of terrorist acts are mainly from migrant structures, and to a lesser extent, persons originating from the Asian or African continent, who were born on the soil of the European Union, but apparently did not adapt sufficiently to European living conditions

Substantial for this scientific-professional analysis is the reflection of migrant processes on general criminality in the area of the European Union. Terrorism and related crimes are classified as special crimes or political crimes. General criminality includes those crimes that directly and intensively affect ordinary people, residents of the European Union. The level of general criminal acts and their intensity directly determines the

security of an ordinary person, as well as his personal feeling and experience of personal security. Often, this subjective feeling has a far stronger reflection on those factually irrelevant visions, such as, for example, the feeling of personal fear due to the presence of migrants, who do not threaten the local population with direct and concrete actions, but cause insecurity among them by their very presence. The reason for this should be found in insufficient knowledge of the cultural, religious, ethnic, linguistic and other characteristics of the migrant population. The feeling of not knowing the factual situation only incites additional negative feelings for the common man, which is not relevant from the legal aspect, but is relevant when analyzing security risks and the personal perception of them by the common man (Paraušić, 2019: 105).

What represents the factual parameters is the following: In the territory of the European Union, there has been a rapid increase in general criminality in the past decade. The age census of persons who decide to commit crimes for the first time is decreasing, with a permanent increase in recidivism, especially among minors. Property crimes, crimes against public order and peace, crimes of causing general fear and panic, crimes against life and body, crimes of rape and rape are on the rise, where younger and weaker persons appear as victims. The number of people addicted to psychoactive substances is on the rise, as well as the criminal offenses of producing and putting into circulation narcotic drugs. The number of criminal offenses of prostitution and gambling has increased on the territory of the European Union.

All of the listed crimes of general criminality are crimes in which the migrant population actively participates. They resort to petty theft in order to provide themselves with the basic necessities of life, clothing and food, as well as medicines and narcotics. Thus, they often cause general panic and insecurity, especially if you take into account the formations of their movement in groups. Thereby, they ensure their dominance over the local population, and that is why these groups of migrants can be called mini-gangs, which act in an organized manner, with the aim of satisfying personal needs (Pečar, 1998: 152).

The way of satisfying the sexual urges of the migrant population is also very specific. Rapes and attacks on local residents are often justified by migrants with high sexual urges and abstinence crises, which they suffer due to the living conditions they live in. We are talking about mostly younger men, in their prime and in full sexual power. The targets of these rapists are mainly women, but also men of homosexual orientation. It often happens that they end up killing their victims.

A large number of the migrant population can be classified as drug addicts. We are talking about users of synthetic drugs such as amphetamines (MDA and MDMA), Ecstasy, as well as new types of drugs, so far unknown on the European continent, such as crystal meth. Crystal meth is a new class of methamphetamine-based synthetic drugs. For medical purposes, methamphetamine is used in attention deficit disorders and in cases of severe obesity. In the form of crystal meth, as a narcotic, which is called a "street drug" in jargon, it is used exclusively for the purpose of causing reactions characteristic of drug addicts, who fall into addiction crises. Crystal meth is particularly popular among the juvenile

and adolescent population, who consume it by heating it over aluminum foil. Young people do not have a clear vision of crystal meth and, in layman's terms, classify it in the category of "soft drugs", which, according to its characteristics, it is not (Ririn, 2023: 661).

Crystal meth produces strong stimulating feelings and induces hallucinations. In appearance, it resembles powdered sugar. It is white in color and in a powdery state. It can be snorted, smoked and inhaled, and most often it is heated over aluminum foil, in order to have a more effective effect. Persons under the influence of this drug have intense physical activity, hypertension and breathing disorders, hyperthermia, dilated pupils, sweat intensely, have no appetite, are extremely irritable and aggressive, euphoric, their behavior is not predictable and usual, they often behave aimlessly and without a clear movements (they spin in circles, cannot stand up, sit down or lie down, have no orientation and feeling in space, etc.). They have severe nausea and cannot control vomiting, defecation and urination, they have problems with dry mouth and bad breath, and they have certain facial tics and spasms, without the ability to control the jawbone. Because of this, they often have a half-open mouth or a strong spasm of the lower jaw, accompanied by teeth grinding. The psychological picture of crystal meth users is accompanied by depressive states, mental confusion, anxiety and fatigue.

THE MIGRANT CRISIS IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Migrant processes have been present for many years. Big wars and severe economic crises create a big migrant wave, which has been sweeping the most developed countries of the European Union for a long time. For the European population, the essential question is who comes to the European Union with the intention of settling there and with what motivation.

The primary position is that migrants are people seeking refuge in Europe from the war and the terrible war horrors that have engulfed Asia. However, over time it has been proven that, in addition to these security motives of running away from security risks, there were also economic, political, and religious motives. Economic migrants in the European Union are looking for salvation from the economic crisis, lack of work and poor existence. Economic migrants are not only from Asia, but there are many from economically underdeveloped countries. Economic migrants from the Balkan Peninsula are also known. There are no precise data on how many citizens of Serbia live and work abroad, nor how many people annually look for work outside the country's borders, and according to domestic statistics, which base their data on the 2011 census, there are 313,411 of our citizens abroad. According to estimates recently published by the OECD Secretariat, the average annual number of migrants from the Republic of Serbia to OECD member states alone in the period from 2005 to 2014 was 31,000. In 2014, 57,000 people emigrated, and in 2015 that number reached a record 60,000. The motives of economic migrants are very clear. It is the demand for better living and working conditions, better financial

stimulation, better conditions for starting a family, economic and political stability and security of personal property (Srđić - Đaković, 1997: 444).

Migrants who settle in the countries of the European Union with religious motivation represent a real security risk for the European Union. They are members of radical Islamic organizations, and the goal of their arrival in Europe is actually to deal with non-Muslims and non-Islamic life. They are integrated and well disguised with war migrants and thus try to hide their real reasons for migrating. They have very good logistical support and are connected to members of Islamist radical organizations that are already operating illegally in Europe and other parts of the world. The goal is their integration with the European population and the feeling of their infiltration with it. They settle down, lead the usual lives of ordinary people, until the moment when their radicalization and activation in committing terrorist acts occurs.

Precisely, through the analysis of these religious migrants, we came to the essence of the greatest security challenge in Europe today, which is the risk of terrorism. Analyzing the terrorist acts that took place in the relatively recent past, it was found out that persons who crossed the "Balkans migrant route" took part in them. Today, terrorism based on a religious-ideological basis prevails throughout the world. Most often, Islam as a religion is misused for terrorist purposes, although forms of radical actions can also be encountered among Christian, Judaic and other religions.

Terrorism in the 20th and the first two decades of the 21st century could be classified into several dominant categories, namely ideological terrorism, state terrorism, separatist terrorism and religious terrorism. Ideological terrorism is terrorism that occurs in order to achieve certain political goals, based on strong political ideologies. Most often, it is about ideologies that are not generally accepted and that were often the subject of certain prohibitions, and among the most famous is anarchism, which was represented especially at the beginning of the 20th century. The main means of achieving their goals was violence and repression, and the only goal of the anarchist groups was a social and political upheaval, with the open physical liquidation of the holders of legitimately elected state authorities (Bataveljić et al. 2018: 61).

Ideologically motivated terrorism is closely related to the actions of certain political subjects. With the spread of harmful ideology, terrorism is becoming a growing problem in Europe and through the idea of religious confrontations and the radicalization of certain ideological and religious attitudes. Terrorist organizations operate at the level of government, and at all levels, from local to state and interstate. Based on the provenance, terrorism can be ultra-right and ultra-left. Although fundamentally different, these ideological directions have a relatively similar basis, which can be in nationalist, separatist, religious and other fears (Antonović, 2018: 275).

State terrorism should be understood as terrorism that takes place under the auspices of the state. State terrorism is justified by alleged state interests and manifests itself through the following forms: assassinations, diversions, kidnappings and other repressive measures that create and maintain a sense of fear for one's own safety. State terrorism

is carried out with the help of the state apparatus of coercion and repression, which the state legitimately disposes of. Such acts of state terrorism are carried out at the behest of the holders of state functions, and basically, they represent illegal and illegal actions. State terrorism is primarily aimed at preserving the current state regime, not protecting the state and state interests. State terrorism is characteristic of authoritarian and non-democratic regimes (Životić et al. 2022: 288).

MIGRANT CRISIS AND CRIME IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

Members of the International Police Organization, Austria section, organized a field observation - problematic locations in the city of Linz, Upper Austria. Previously, they had a conversation with the residents of the location, which they received information that is high-risk, considering that people from criminal structures gather there, that they noticed by direct observation that these are dealers, but also drug users, who during the entire day they enter the entrances, corridors and passageways of residential buildings, where they stay without authorization and perform illegal activities in them, such as exchanging, buying and selling narcotics and enjoying them.

Members of the International Police Organization, Section Austria, in the period from November 17 to 20, 2023, visited the following marked locations in the city of Linz at different time intervals: Kremplstrasse number 1 and 3, "Schpinat bunker" quarter, Winer strasse numbers 170 to 176. Pensions for the migrant population were found at the location of Winer strasse. We are talking about devastated buildings, which from the street side appear abandoned. However, secret entrances can be seen from the courtyard part of the building, through which the migrant population enters the disputed building and resides there illegally. At the Winer Strasse location in question, there is a specialized catering and trade facility, adapted specifically to migrant life. According to some claims of the local population, it is believed that they use that facility to hide from the police and that they find logistical support in that facility.

At Kremplstrasse 1 and 3 there are two 13-story apartment buildings. The entrances are oriented towards the south and north. On the south side of the building there is a large parking lot, as well as a passage leading to the main street. On the left side of the passage, seen from the street, there is a large hypermarket, while on the right side there is a fenced garage. During the previous observations of the field, persons, migrants, who very aggressively offered narcotics for sale were observed at the crossing point. They literally ran in front of cars and openly offered narcotics. According to witness statements, they knew how to hide packages with narcotics at a height or in some other hidden places, so that, in case of police controls, they would be free of compromising contents and to fool police dogs into not being able to smell the narcotics.

On the north side of the buildings, there are two dark passages, which connect the hypermarket with the buildings themselves. As a particularly dangerous place, which can be designated as a gathering place for migrants and other persons from criminal structures,

is a room with vending machines from which you can buy various food products and drinks, which are available non-stop and are under video surveillance. Although there is the aforementioned video surveillance, it is not an obstacle for migrants and other problematic animals to stay in that facility and engage in illegal activities. This room is especially suitable for them in the colder months, when they can find refuge in it from winter and unfavorable climatic conditions. Recently, during one such stay in that room, they broke the window that is oriented towards entrance number 3. It is assumed that the incident occurred due to a more severe form of drug addiction and due to certain psychological hallucinations.

When entering entrance number 3, the authors notice a large number of remains of aluminum foil, used for heating crystal meth, and according to the statements of the tenants, often in the corridors and passages, used knives and needles, as well as other drug paraphernalia, can be found. Also, traces of urination, traces of feces are still visible and in the corridor itself you can feel the characteristic smell of marijuana. On the tenth floor of the building, a guy and a girl are found, who according to their statements are 23 and 28 years old. They were found sitting on the stairs and holding the remains of aluminum foil and crystal meth in their hands. Also, it is obvious that both of them are under the influence of narcotics, especially in his case, because he was visibly slowed down and disabled in verbal communication. They do not show signs of aggression, but try to justify their stay in the corridor of the building. With great physical difficulties, due to intoxication from narcotics, they leave the corridor of the building and go outside.

During the evening visit to the building, the authors entered entrance number 1, where on the ground floor of the building they found a whole group of people who were visibly enjoying drugs. Particularly interesting was the case of a dark-skinned guy, who sat on the stairs and used a lighter to heat crystal meth that was on aluminum foil. He did not notice our presence and continued with his business, despite our questions about what he was doing and pleas to leave the facility. He also did not show any forms of aggression or resistance, but it was obvious that he was in a state of extreme intoxication and that he had no clear connection with the outside world, more precisely, that he could not hear or see what was happening around him.

The cooperation of one of the housekeepers from one of these two entrances was especially useful. Although they were guaranteed anonymity, one of the housekeepers was not allowed to participate in the survey that the authors conducted on the spot. We only received significant information from one housekeeper, and her husband was the target of attacks by migrants and persons from criminal structures several times, suffering minor injuries. Although they do not show aggression, the members of these street gangs know how to be unpleasant and aggressive, especially when they are in larger groups and in the late evening hours.

In addition to the observation, which was carried out in the area of the aforementioned settlement in Linz, observations were also made in the strict center of the city and in the area of the main railway station. Smaller groups of the migrant population are also

represented in the central city core, which do not show aggressive patterns of behavior, but it is generally known that they go to larger shopping centers and engage in petty theft. The situation at the main railway station was such that a middle-aged person was observed who was under the influence of narcotics. That person was publicly lighting a cigarette, known as a “joint” in front of the entrance to the train station (Fuchs, 2019: 189).

CONCLUSION

Based on the analyzed case and collected data from the field, it can be concluded that Austria is facing numerous security challenges. The situation manifested on the ground in the territory of Austria is actually a situation that can be attributed to the global security conditions in the territory of the European Union. The permanent influx of migrant population represents a very high security risk, which is especially expressed when migrants gather in groups in certain parts of populated areas. This creates entire enclaves in which they form the dominant population, which openly creates a nuisance and risk for the domicile population, which becomes a minority and therefore at risk of possible inconveniences and problems.

In most countries of the European Union, there is a liberal attitude towards migrants and the migrant population. Their arrival is viewed with a certain favor by the political structures, while the local population does not have the same attitude towards them. Cultural, religious, ethnic and other differences contribute to the creation of misunderstandings between the migrant and resident population and thereby only intensify the prevailing animosities. On the other hand, the ways of meeting the needs of the migrant population and their understanding are not compatible with European cultural models. In the paper itself, as drastic examples of the distinction between these peoples who are now forced to meet and co-exist, the ways of satisfying the instinctive needs of migrants through the execution of certain incidental and excessive actions are listed.

What is evident is that migrants especially have a tendency towards narcotics and their consumption is a regular and common occurrence for most of them. The ways of obtaining and enjoying narcotics are different, but all of them are characterized by the fact that they are illegal, at least according to the positive legal norms of most European countries. Precisely, in that segment, the life and behavior of migrants is legally unacceptable and very risky from a security point of view.

In the paper, the authors present the security risks that migrants and other populations close to crime pose in relation to the local population. Through the analysis of the case, it is clear that the migrant population is integrated and located in a certain locality and that it acts as a group. By spreading the criminal pattern of behavior, migrants and members of criminal groups network with each other and create criminal groups, and then start criminal activities. They operate in smaller groups, by age, they are younger men, although there are also women, that is, girls. They are generally not aggressive, but they represent a latent danger.

It is noticeable that the action of the police is very mild when such actions of members of migrant structures are reported. One gets the impression that migrants in the countries of the European Union, with the exception of Hungary and Croatia, have a privileged position and are slightly privileged compared to the domicile population. The situation is similar in the Republic of Serbia, which is considered a transit country for migrants. There is an evident increase in crimes along the border, and the local population reports an increasing number of crimes committed by migrants.

The security risks that burden the European Union today are very high. Perhaps it is the right moment to approach preventive measures and to enter into the process of socialization of these migrant-criminal groups, in order to integrate them as effectively as possible into the principles and rules governing the territory of the European Union. Also, the migrant population must undergo education and professional training, as well as treatment and rehab from addiction. This would prevent further criminal behavior, and for those individuals who cannot achieve the desired effect, deportation would be applied as a last resort.

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