

DRUG ADDICTION, POLICE AND NARCOTIC-BASED CRIME

*Lajić O.¹, Ivanović Z.¹¹*Criminal Justice and Police Academy, Belgrade*

Abstract: In the introductory part of the paper the authors were involved in reviewing the problem of drug abuse and drug-related crimes as socio-pathological phenomenon with a wide range of criminal consequences. They also give a brief overview of the genesis and development of the basic causes of the wide prevalence of this phenomenon in the society. After that there is a cohesive review of the factors of drug addiction and crime (primary, secondary and tertiary drug-related crime), while the central section is devoted to typology and characterization of persons in the sphere of drug-related crimes and their relation to the police, as one of the entities that are actively involved in combating this social evil.

Keywords: drug addiction, police, drug-related crime.

1. Introductory review

According to one study a profit from selling drugs makes in fact 8% of the total profit realized in world trade, which is more than the participation of trade of metallurgical products in the world (Modli, 2002). The profit amounting to 500 billion a year in the international trade in narcotics presents the second level of cash income, behind the international arms trade (M. McConville, 2000). The value of transactions related to drug trafficking only in the UK reaches 1% of GDP (*Gross domestic product*), or in figures 8.5 billion pounds a year (Proceeds of Crime, 2001). On the other hand, the number of persons who are commonly considered as drug addicts or problematic drug users is about 25 million worldwide, which amounts to 0.6% of the population aged 15 to 64 years (Council of Europe, 2006). In addition to the harmful consequences of misuse

* corresponding author: e-mail: oliverlajic@nadlanu.com

of drugs, the activities of organized criminal groups produced at national levels are reflected in the destabilization of governments and financial markets, the corruption of public officials and the increase of social costs for health care (CoE, 2006), due to the enormous economic potential of the drug trade and the global threat, very often associated with terrorism, which is the greatest challenge of our time in terms of global stability and security. It is estimated by the international experts that amount of 95% of all revenues at the world level, realized by illegal drug trafficking, goes on funding terrorist organizations and networks (Ured za suzbijanje zlorabe opojnih droga, 2005). It seems that it is no coincidence that each of the three countries with the world's largest amount of opium producing result and crops of coca in the fields (Afghanistan, Burma and Colombia) has permanent rebellions financed with the money from the drug sale, in which terrorist actions have become common occurrences of everyday life (Winer 2002).

The profitability of illegal drug trafficking is a key factor for attracting persons belonging to the criminal milieu. Illegal trades in narcotics activities include well-equipped and organized criminal groups of transnational character, with enhancements and specializations in improvement of their methods of operation on a daily basis, and also constantly keeping up with the technical and technological development, using its benefits and methods of adopting them in their own criminal activity. On the other hand, the prosecution authorities are given the very difficult task of proving the role of leaders of criminal organizations in the illegal activities of drug trafficking, with the effort to bring to justice the vast majority of persons involved in smuggling chain activities. For accomplishing these ventures it usually takes many years of hard police work in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders (prosecutors, judiciary, customs, inspection bodies, etc.). However, the removal of the leaders of criminal groups from the criminal stage does not necessarily lead to the termination of their organizations' actions, and it is well known that from the existing core of new leaders usually some new are to be recruited, while engaging more new members, and again in search for the methods that would make this fight more efficient.

Drug trafficking is not, as it was deemed to be shown, by the beginning of 1980s, something that happens exclusively in the developed Western countries, and as a phenomenon that was in marginal importance of our society. Namely, in 1970s it was considered that drug-related crimes in our area almost did not exist. Accordingly, the very phenomenon did not have great importance. The number of drug users was small, it was mainly about the opium addicts, and they were marked as such and, in some way - implicitly, excluded from social life in the communities in which they lived. The situation in our country

changed significantly, and this is influenced by numerous factors. General social crisis and atrophy of the institutions of the early 1990s prevented the adequate reaction to the new situation. The fall of standards of life has resulted in that the main preoccupation of most working-age population was struggle for survival, while their young found role models in those whose easy money activities were criminal, or at the very edge of legality. Such a social situation and the general decline in morality, as well as its logical consequence, with the absence of any effort of political elite aimed at the organized action to eliminate drugs generating factors, represented the ideal milieu for its development. The number of drug addicts has started increasing, from year to year, and therefore illegal activities of smugglers and resellers of psychoactive substances have been given a greater impetus. Consequently, there is the increase in recorded property-related crimes where the perpetrators appear as drug addicts. According to the recently adopted National Strategy for combating narcotics in the Republic of Serbia, there are processes of decomposition of the previous social system by establishing a new, still forming, together with the rise of organized crime, prostitution, trafficking and general fall of living standards of the nation. All of these only contributed to the intensification (main present concern, authors input) of drug-related problems. Huge economic losses of the society due to drug trafficking, illegal flows of money and transactions, among other things, are producing high costs of treatment of addicts, their social protection and similar problems (the National strategy for combating narcotics in Republic Serbia in 2009 to 2013, 2009).

However, the combination of poor social circumstances at the end of the last century, followed by inertia of competent institutions, cannot be considered the only reason of building the current situation. This assertion is supported by the fact that the problem of drug abuse still exists in a far more developed member countries of the Council of Europe. Tendencies in the development of illegal drug markets in Europe seem worrying. According to the European Monitoring Center for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), 6% of Europeans abused cannabis in 2005. Ecstasy abuse has increased before amphetamines abuse and thus became the second most widespread drug in Europe, following cannabis. The number of "problematic" heroin users is estimated between 1.2 and 2.1 million, out of which more than a half use heroin intravenously, while demand for cocaine has a rising trend (CoE, 2006). It is believed that currently 200 million people around the world (5% of world population) have used some kind of drugs, out of which 80% cannabis, ATS 17%, 7% cocaine, heroin 5% and 3% other opiates, where the largest number of drug abusers lives in the developing countries (CoE, 2005). The above circumstances speak in favor of the thesis, that the past activities of the police and other subjects involved in com-

bating drug-related crimes have not provided satisfactory results. Hence, more and more attention is focused to prevention. Foreign and domestic experience serves to the point in which we cannot achieve satisfactory results acting only *post festum* to this problem. Therefore, there is obvious necessity of preventive action synchronized with all entities that have common points with drug addiction in their work, while at the same time strengthening the implementation of the repressive activities in this field where the police should give their full contribution.

2. Drug abuse and crime

Correlation of drug abuse and crime is undoubtedly significant and arises both from nature and complexity of the narcotics themselves, which presents at the same time the personality disorder and acute disease and also socio-pathological occurrence with expressed crime-generating effects, and a rigorous and precise form of the incrimination of all activities undertaken in order to produce illegally and make trafficking in these substances, or to allow for their misuse to the others (Marinković, 2004). Research conducted on the interdependence of drug addiction and crime generally confirms the previously expressed hypothesis. Thus, for example, the main conclusion of the study that lasted almost three decades, about the relationship between drug abuse and crime, was that it was obvious that there was a significant relationship between these two phenomena (McBride, Vander Waal and McElrath, 2002). Studies indicate increased abuse of drugs among the arrested, the rising level of criminal behavior among drug users, and very tight correlation between drug abuse and crime in the general population, with significant differences in this relationship depending on the types of drugs and types of crime (McBride et al, 2002). It seems that in the period between the late 1990s and 2003, the drug-related crimes recorded growth in many EU countries (CoE, 2006). It is estimated that about 70% of crime in the developed countries are in some way connected with narcotics (di Argentine, 1996). These data can be accepted as credible for current local conditions, free estimates based on the experience of workers of the Crime Police support the hypothesis that about 70% of property crimes were committed by drug addicts, with the aim of obtaining funds to purchase drugs (similar: Vasić, 2001)¹.

The connection of drug addiction and crime has multiple emergent forms, i.e. there are different criteria based on which the dominant cohesive element in

¹ Here it is estimated that over 60% registered armed robberies committed in the street or in stores, were done by drug addicts in the course of obtaining drugs.

the phenomena are determined. The first relates to the fact that the production and marketing of drugs is strictly defined in a legal form, and any illegal activities on their production and sale present a type of crime, which is commonly called the primary drug-related crime. The secondary drug-related crime includes criminal acts performed under the influence of drugs or in order to acquire money for the drugs purchase, which would be a second binding element, while the tertiary crime, commonly called a crime related to activities of transnational organized criminal groups, is focused on the smuggling and sale of narcotics (the third binding element)².

If we would transpose the previous exposure about the drug and crime related factors onto the practical plane, we can see that the primary drug-related crime in our conditions include various forms of incriminating activities. Unauthorized production and processing of narcotic drugs at our territory were most related to marijuana, (given the previously presented data on its obtuseness and the fact that Indian hemp, whose processing creates marijuana, and which successfully grows on our soil) but it should be kept in mind that we registered the cases of synthetic drugs production, which are closer to the European trends (CoE, 2006). Other ways (possessing, trafficking, and offering for sale, purchase, possession or transfer to sales, brokerage in buying or selling) are represented in the marijuana, and other types of drugs. Each drug in the way from the production to the end user, certainly was offered for sale, kept and transmitted to the sale, but each of these emergent forms of crime is not identical in the number of cases in domestic practice, where the most often cases are possessions of small amounts of drugs and direct sales, besides before mentioned growing cannabis. The reasons for this are mainly practical - for some of the forms it is difficult to collect valid evidence even then when there is no dispute that the drug was in the possession of the perpetrator (i.e., offering to sell small quantities of drugs, when resorting to legal qualification of possession), or is extremely difficult to prove a link between the perpetrators and drugs found (due to the fact that the perpetrators are especially careful during its transport, for example, transmission in hidden suitable places of public transport vehicles). Selling drugs through network of associates and resellers, as aggravated form of this crime, was rarely detected³. The causes of this situation are not to

² Tri-parted division of drug-related crimes is widely accepted in literature, and some of the authors name these forms as cited (Bošković, Banović, 2001) while others do not (M. Bošković, 2001). There are authors who do not recognize the third type as a form of interconnection of drug addiction and crime (Ignjatović, 1996) which could be rightfull because the tertiary type presents a special international form of the primary type.

³ According to the data from research in PU Novi Sad conducted by the authors the correlation of crimes of unauthorised production and trafficking of narcotics and organized type of this

be found in this rare way, of committing criminal acts, but in the complexity of enterprises aimed at discovering and proving the illegal activities of organized criminal groups carrying out these works and in the difficulties which prosecution faces. In the primary group of drug-related crimes it relates to facilitate narcotic drugs, which is in practice usually realized through giving other drugs to enjoy and allowing premises to recreational drug use.⁴

In theory, the manifestations of secondary forms of crime can be roughly divided into two groups: 1) the criminal acts done under the influence of drugs and 2) the criminal acts carried out in order to obtain funds for the purchase of these substances. Many authors have been trying to answer the question of whether the consumption of drugs is the driving element in the formation of the will of the criminal act (*mens rea*). Although today there are numerous works on the interdependence of the influence of drugs and delinquent behavior, of which a large number of speaks positively about this interdependence, and bearing in mind the perennial own experiences in working with the population, seems the most acceptable position. The author S. Petrovic speaks of delinquency as drug addicts forced "delinquency" and said that the drug itself does not cause any form of criminal conduct, that person does not already carry a predisposition in mind, and that would not be shown in any other situation, with the other provocative cause (Petrović, 2003). Drugs only contribute for the loss of some inhibitions in the process of committing a criminal act that in a normal situation the perpetrator's personality has (Nikolić, 2001). A similar position is present and the official position of the American Medical Association (AMA) cited: "crimes of violence are rare and sexual homicides almost unknown among drug addicts" (Petrović, 2003). Crime addicts (under the influence of narcotics) are not characterized by the resort to violence, which does not mean that it is completely absent (Nikolić, 2001). Presence of violence is significant for some forms of funds securing manifestation in order to obtain drugs throughout criminal activities, which will be more discussed below.

Given the stated positions, we can say that on the national scope of actual secondary narcotics-related crime is more present as the other modality, i.e. se-

crime in 2003 was about: 287:1, in 2004, 396:6, in 2005, 601:11, in 2006, 642:11 and in 2007, 630:31. Also it has to be kept in mind that in 2003, while performing operation „Saber“ it included a criminal group of 44 suspects, all suspected for narcotics trafficking on wider area of Novi Sad town and on the rest of Vojvodina, wich gives more significance to the fore mentioned figures.

⁴ According to the data derived from the same research the number of committed crimes of giving others the opportunity to use drugs is also small in correlation with basic form of narcotics trafficking criminal act (Data for Police station Novi Sad: 2002-7, 2003-21, 2004-8, 2005-14, 2006-5 i 2007-5), which can be acounted to high „dark figure“ usually connected with this types of crime.

curing funds for the purchase of drugs criminal act. Its events are present in various forms of property crime, forgery and misuse of documents required during the procurement of drugs with psychoactive effects or, in fewer cases, fraud and embezzlement within the company or body in which the offender is employed. There is a form of drugs sale by consumers, which enables them "free" use of these substances. Although, in essence, it belongs to the primary narcotic-based crime, no doubt that this specific category of drugs users could be considered a special kind of secondary narcotics-related crime, which further indicates the strong interdependence of forms within this tripartite division. Criminal forms of securing money usually precede the abuse of trust within the family environment. Formally and legally, one cannot say that it is a crime, but it is certain that abusing the trust of parents by children, reflected in the petty thefts and selling valuable house holdings usually leads to the zone of criminal activity if not revealed before. The most common within the property crimes are theft, grand theft (burglary and breaking pharmacy, houses, apartments, cottages, commercial shops and other business premises, cars, etc.⁵), and robbery (in shops, exchange offices, petrol stations and other places where they expect a larger amount of money), and grand theft qualified by manner (usually tantamount handbags and mobile phones from persons who are not expecting it, or can provide strong resistance). The tertiary drug-related crimes or the merchants at the higher levels of drug markets will be more elaborated in the following chapters.

3. Relationship between the police and petty sellers and drugs consumers

The police in our present conditions is the institution whose activities are still of a repressive character primarily. Although the Law on police⁶ in the Art. 10, line 1, p. 3 speaks primarily about prevention and thereon about discovering and solving crimes and criminal offenses, this kind of policing is still not sufficiently emphasized. A drug-related crime is in the first row of the center of interests of Criminal Police's specialized services. Drug abuse, which some authors refer to as "the by-product of drug-related crime" (Modli, 2002) or negative social phenomenon, which stems from narcotics-related crime and has a retroactive effect to it in terms of security markets, still has a little attention by the police and is largely left to health and social workers. Despite all this, the

⁵ From the police practice in PS Novi Sad and PS of Belgrade city which are similar to the others, we can conclude that they include armed robberies committed by the knife, real or more often fake guns (replicas, which does not diminish the seriousness of a crime in question), and there were spotted cases of threatening with needle supposedly infected with AIDS.

⁶ The Police Law, Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia, No. 101/05.

nature of the activity on both sides seems to multiply contacts between drug users and petty dealers on the one hand and the police on the other hand. They stem from the fact that the illegal drug trade is consensual, contractual relationship between a seller and a buyer, proving of which, for the police and other relevant stakeholders, implicates necessity to ensure the presence of both parties, i.e. both the buyer and the seller. As the last link in the chain of commerce, direct consumers' trading is at the lowest level and it is carried out daily and very widespread. Other grounds for the contact of the drug consumers and the police are the enforcement of criminal acts in the sphere of secondary narcotics-related crime, previously elaborated.

J. Bukelić is deducing about seller and buyer conjunction as a victimless "crime", in which they both benefit, as this type of crime is a rich, inexhaustible and creative model of criminal behavior (Bukelić, 1998). The correlation of the buyer and the seller leads to their apparent alliance, given that there are the joint ventures, the realization of common interests, and against anyone who can prevent it, especially the police. The interests of the seller (the so-called "Street-level trafficking" is also often a drug user) and the consumer for a successful job, and the fear of potential embarrassment that may result from the deprivation of liberty and of the future activities of police and judicial authorities, makes them particularly cautious, as the police imposed the task of continuous monitoring and introducing new modalities of street drug trafficking.⁷

Normally, the police approach information mining from drug consumers by bringing them in police premises, most often, after the act of buying and selling. The recent changes in criminal legislation resulted in the criminalization of possession of narcotics, so that by the previously mentioned act of purchase all the customers will find themselves in the criminal area, because of the purchase, i.e. factual possession of drugs presents committing a crime. This fact may represent an additional cohesive factor that strengthens the interdependence of the seller and the consumer in their joint venture, and opposed the prosecution. In larger urban areas depending on the buyer the seller has a relative character, because the extraordinary dynamism of the street drug market allows for supplying from several mutually independent sources.

It was stated previously that the subject of interest of the specialized police services are primarily drug-related crimes and their perpetrators involved in the sale at various levels. Within the context of drug-related crime consumer is in-

⁷ By the crime units praxis there are different ways of protecting by the criminals (street sellers) in case of arresting, i.e. placing the narcotics in certain places, and after obtaining money from the buyer then they explain where the drugs paid for are to be found; while selling in the apartment consumer is forced to consume immediately, so that it could not be found at him after leaving the apartment.

teresting for these services if he (or she) can provide information about vendors, methods of operation, possible sources of supply and trends in the local market. Data collected by the police about the drug abusers, their relationships with other persons from narcotics milieu and previous criminal activity can also be interesting, having in mind that due to the nature of his illness, every addict can become a seller very quickly. A street vendor, who can show to the police a person from whom he purchased drugs, is more interesting. However, in practice this rarely happens. Most small dealers face the objective circumstances and admit the execution of works, but do not indicate the supplier, partly out of fear of retaliation, and partly hoping to silence the police to gain some benefit by their employers. Appreciating the "good manners" in the police detention, higher levels of criminal structure can provide counsel in criminal proceedings and provide "business" after the release to freedom.

In contact with the police officers this person applies different ways of dealing. Less experienced consumers, with short user career, tend to self-assertive behaviour and seek to confirm or improve their place in drug user sub-cultures. Because of this they often resort to "hard" attitude while denying that they bought drugs from a person even when it is obvious that it was found on them and that after the act of purchase when the seller was brought in and with the money. Under some other circumstances they do not speak, and often negate the use of any drugs, although it is more than obvious in the present symptomatic picture. This is similar, with small dealers, particularly during the first detention. As already said, they are usually addicts, and thus everything that has been said about this category refers to them as well. Most resort to lies as a means of defense. Lie is a widespread form of communication in drug abuser population, which in the beginning usually has a defensive character, and later becomes functionally independent and often applied to new or unknown environment (Petrović, 2003).

More experienced abusers are often repeated criminals and have various attitudes towards Criminal Police – from being dozed in communication about the required information aiming to their generalization and avoiding specific names and events, to the fact that, deeply aware of their illness and situation are, in conversation finding some form of instant relief, agreeing to communicate in an informal chat revealing everything they know about the local market, offering sometimes even some forms of cooperation. However, users who have a more flexible attitude toward the police are aware that the new situation is only temporary and will soon be found in their usual environment where providing the information to the police or a possible collaboration is not looked on favourably. So, in their environment they deny any disclosure of information, while the proposed cooperation is often forgotten as soon as "they go around the corner".

4. Police and organized drug-related crimes

As already stated in the introductory considerations, the huge profits that an international drug trafficking is a decisive factor affecting the interest and involvement of criminal groups in this activity. Their relationship records for decades, so that in the literature have long been the traditional means. Criminal consortia involved in smuggling and drug trafficking are truly global, and the nationality of its members, and the scale of their operations (Legresley, 2003). These organizations may be organized as pyramid (like the Colombian cocaine cartel), or they can form criminal network, composed of a larger number of smaller horizontal groups to join together as needed, from regional to international level (Marinković, 2004). Nowadays, especially in Europe, another type of organization predominates. Production and sale of large scale drug indicated as the most common form of crime the criminal networks, aimed at whole Europe (CoE, 2006).

The fact that long way that drug goes over from manufacturer to consumer differentiated functions in the chain of smuggling and selling. Seen vertically, usually we think of importers, wholesalers, retailers and, finally, the small dealers. This division is only of broad character, because in practical activities of criminal drug organizations do not move from manufacturer to customer always through the same means and through the true number of persons with a previously defined function, as it is marked here. Criminal organizations are flexible and easily adapt to new circumstances, so it is difficult to determine the constants in this regard. In fact, in the case of smuggling and sales of those drugs where their physical properties permit, initial shipment, considered in absolute amount, loses quality, and gaining weight, rises the overall price.

Apart from this, vertical, there is a division of traders with respect of the motives for criminal activities of this kind. Thus, in one paper a group of distinguished authors (Dorn, Levi, King, 2005) distinct all traders as "political-military", "business criminals" and "adventurers". Political-military traders aim for restructuring political relationships, or achieving a dominant position within the existing political structure or the state, or decaying country. Business criminals, driven by the financial ideas and aspirations, are limited to their own quiet enjoyment of the profits that are realized illegally. They are not craving for general political change, but they can go for a limited corruption in a defensive purpose. Adventurers are indicated traders who are forced to be great risk exposed, because of their belief of non existing other solution (i.e. due to the debt, or extortion), or they may feel excitement, while not fully understanding the risk to which they are exposed to.

Actors of this kind of criminal activities are in a possession of characteristics that differentiate them in relation to other delinquents and qualify as a particularly socially dangerous (Đorđević, 2004). As a rule, they are intelligent, cunning, skilful

and very communicative people who never admit the crime, even when caught in action, with smuggled goods (Đorđević, 2004). The smugglers are always closely in monitoring the market situation and activities of the opposite side, police and its specialized agencies, also the activities of customs bodies. Unlike the employees of these agencies, who are working in the public interest, smugglers and drug dealers do not have that kind of comfort in acting, knowing that any mistake can lead to financial loss of the money invested and to the lack of expected earnings, with always present a risk of detention and closure, and the loss of all or most of the illegally acquired property. We could say that the domestic situation, but also in the market of Europe, mainly present is the type of business "criminal" who actively works to improve "working conditions", whether that it is a possibility of corruption of higher officers in police, customs, judiciary, or politics, or the implementation of technical improvements achieved by intensive technological development. They are constantly dealing with risk assessment and opportunities evaluation for the profits, and the relationship of these two factors most often presents the key element which guides while making decisions about job participation.

The supplying of drugs involves a wide range of personnel, from organized gross sale up to opportunistic criminals in selling small quantities of narcotics. This phenomenon requires a variety of multi-dimensional response (Browne, Mason and Murphy), which should include the fight against transnational organized criminal groups and containment strategies for narcotics based crime and narcotics trade demand at the national level. In each of the combat segments the police have an active role and especially in first two, we could say, it is crucial. Today there are various forms of public reaction to the problem of smuggling and drug trafficking, which range from a wide range of suppression of the smallest form of narcotics based crime up to the state association at the international level. Hence we can say that there are different levels of that activity. Transnational aspect is reflected in the activities of international or regional organizations and inter-state cooperation in specific cases of international drug trafficking, but also in the immediate intervention of global powers in the country of origin or of the finished products. National form consists in the fight against all forms of trafficking in drugs in one country, from street sales up to suppressing the activity of the highest levels of criminal organizations, including all measures aimed to reduce demand. The preamble of the UN Convention against illicit traffic in Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances⁸ has been clearly perceived harmfulness of all activities of transnational criminal organi-

⁸ Adopted in Vienna in 1988. Ratified by Law (In Yugoslavia) 1990, Sl. list SFRJ – Međunarodni ugovori, br. 14/90. Other relevant international law acts are: The Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs from 1953. Ratified in 1964. (Sl. list SFRJ – Dodatak, broj 2/64) and The Convention on Psychotropic Substances from 1971. (Sl. list SFRJ, br. 40/73).

zations and concluded that the illegal trafficking and other organized criminal activities in the plan "undermine the legitimate economies and threaten the stability, security and sovereignty," and that the illegal operations present: "international criminal activity whose suppression requires immediate attention and the highest priority."

5. Conclusion

There is no doubt that there is a high degree of interdependence between drug abuse and crime, which is confirmed by the results of research showing the increased drug use among the arrested, the high level of criminal behaviour among drug users, and some degree of correlation between drug use and crime in the general population. Criminal acts related to drugs were recorded growth in many EU countries, while a high level of ordinary crime (70%) in some way linked to the use of narcotics. According to available data and experiences of domestic police, one could say that in this respect is not far behind the developed Western countries. Contacts of drug sellers at the lowest (street) level of sales with the police are very common, despite the obvious interdependence that exists between the population and consumers of narcotics and their mutual interest in such ventures to remain undiscovered. These contacts arise from the fact that trafficking in narcotics constant subject of interest of the police, especially its specialized agencies. In addition, these are persons who are called actors of "secondary" type of narcotics based crime. Their behavior in contact with the police may vary from total denial of connection with the purchase or sale of narcotics to dozed disclosure of relevant information or easy offering some form of cooperation. Unreliability of addicts, as an important personality trait, is the limiting factor of any serious cooperation. If we observe statistical indicators related to the number of crimes committed in this area, there can be spotted a smaller number of charges filed against the perpetrators of the organized form of sale of drugs (Art. 246th al. 2. of the Criminal Codex) and for enabling the crime of narcotic drugs (Art. 247th al. 2. of the Criminal Codex⁹), in relation to the basic form of criminal sale of unauthorized drugs. This discrepancy could be explained in the first case by insufficient human and technical resources necessary to detect and prove complex types of this crime, with the exception of several specialized units of the ministry, which in this respect is not lagging behind European standards. In the second case it is, in our opinion, the police are first focusing on the crimes of sale and on the quantity seized of psychoactive substances, while enabling the enjoyment of drug treated incidentally, along already discovered sales activity.

⁹ Criminal Codex of Republic Serbia, Sl. glasnik RS, br. 85/05, 87/05 i 115/05.

Organized narcotic-based crime is one of the greatest dangers to any democratic society. In the market of Europe, as well as in national frameworks, mainly present the so-called type of "business criminal", which is actively working "to improve working conditions", whether it is a possibility of corruption of holders of higher functions of the police, customs, judiciary, or politics, or the introduction of technical newspapers offered intensive technological development. The above circumstances in many ways stand out in comparison with other delinquents, and make the actors of this form of criminal activity particularly socially dangerous, especially when one bears in mind the constant increase of available capital that allows new ventures and the so-called criminal "trade influences", widespread in systems with under-developed institutions and with lack of rule of law. Because of this, the society's answer to the problem of narcotics based crime must be continuous, dynamic and multidisciplinary, with the constant repressive actions of the police and other relevant institutions and intensive application of measures focused on reducing demand psychoactive substances.

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NARKOMANIJA, POLICIJA I NARKOKRIMINAL

Rezime

Autori se u uvodnom delu rada bave razmatranjem problema narkomanije i narkokriminala kao sociopatološke pojave sa širokim dijapazonom kriminalnih konsekvenci i daju kratku genezu razvoja i pregled osnovnih uzroka široke rasprostranjenosti ove pojave u našem društvu. Zatim sledi razmatranje kohezivnih faktora narkomanije i kriminala (primarni, sekundarni i tercijarni narkokriminal), u kojem autori zaključuju da nesumnjivo postoji visok stepen međuzavisnosti između narkomanije i kriminala, što potvrđuju ranije sprovedena istraživanja, čiji rezultati govore o povećanoj upotrebi droga među uhapšenima, visokom nivou kriminalnog ponašanja među korisnicima droga, kao i velikom stepenu korelacije između korišćenja droga i kriminala u opštoj populaciji. Centralni deo rada posvećen je tipologiji i karakterizaciji lica iz sfere narkokriminala i njihovom odnosu prema policiji, kao jednom od subjekata koji aktivno učestvuje u suzbijanju ovog društvenog zla.

Summary

In the introductory part of the work the authors are addressing the problem of drug abuse and narcotics crime as sociopathological phenomenon with a wide range of criminal consequences, and they are, also, doing a brief overview of the genesis and development of the basic causes of the wide prevalence of this phenomenon in our society. Then there is a review of the drug addiction cohesive factors and crime (primary, secondary and tertiary narcotic-based crime), in which the authors conclude that there is undoubtedly a high degree of interdependence between drug abuse and crime, which confirms earlier research conducted, which results show the increased drug use among the arrested, a high level criminal behavior among drug users, and some degree of correlation between drug use and crime in the general population. The central part is devoted to the typology and characterization of persons in the sphere narcotics based crime and their relation to the police, as one of the entities that are actively involved in combating this social evil.