

**COMPARATIVE DIMENSIONS OF THE CRIMINAL PHENOMENON  
IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND ROMANIA**

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**Abstract**

Crime is one of the main elements of the object of criminology as a science, without the study of which it is impossible to clarify other criminological issues concerning the causes and conditions of crime and the organisation of the process of combating it.

We propose an analysis of the comparative quantitative-qualitative indices of crime in the Republic of Moldova and Romania to highlight its dimensions and particularities in the context of the current conditions of development of society, which would allow us to give new assessments to this phenomenon, to determine the guidelines and strategy of fighting this negative phenomenon.

**Keywords:** crime, offence, clues, particularities, prevention.

**Introduction**

Human social existence is diverse, as are the contradictions and conflicts that accompany it. This is what determines the difficulties that arise in the relationship between society and the individual, the conflicts of different classes, social groups, and specific people within society.

A special type of social (negative) activity is criminal activity, the commission of crimes. (Криминология: Учебник. Под ред. В.Н. Кудрявцева и В.Е. Эминова.-3-е изд. Перераб. и доп. Москва: Юрист, 2006, p.15)

Every year in the Republic of Moldova, according to official statistics, tens of thousands of crimes are committed: in 2021 - 27.2 thousand crimes were registered, i.e. 3.1% more than in 2020 ([https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2021-9478\\_49944.html](https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2021-9478_49944.html)); in 2022 - 26.8 thousand crimes were recorded, meaning the crime rate was 103 crimes per 10 thousand inhabitants ([https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2022-9478\\_60321.html](https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2022-9478_60321.html)); in 2023 - 24.0 thousand crimes ([https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2023-9478\\_60977.html](https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2023-9478_60977.html)). In the

first 06 months of 2024, 9,883 crimes were registered by police units, of which 34% were committed in the Chisinau municipality. Of the total number of registered crimes, the largest share—40% (3,975 crimes)—was for crimes against property. (Raport cu privire la activitatea poliției Republicii Moldova pentru 6 luni 2024, available at: [https://www.politia.md/sites/default/files/igp\\_raport\\_activitate\\_6\\_luni\\_2024.pdf](https://www.politia.md/sites/default/files/igp_raport_activitate_6_luni_2024.pdf))

In 2022, in Romania, the police solved 358 thousand crimes and referred 1,000 to the Prosecutor's Office. In 2022, per 100,000 inhabitants, the police solved 1,878 crimes and reported them police to the Prosecutor's Office. (Pintilia L., Pisiță S., Gheorghe F., and others. Romania in figures. Statistical brief. Bucharest, 2023, p.51. available at: [https://insse.ro/cms/sites/default/files/field/publicatii/romania\\_in\\_cifre\\_2023.pdf](https://insse.ro/cms/sites/default/files/field/publicatii/romania_in_cifre_2023.pdf))

According to the statistics of the main activities carried out by the Romanian police in 2023, 374829 crimes were solved/referred to the prosecutor's office. In 2023, the crime rate was 1714 crimes per 100,000 inhabitants. Theft (228, 229, 230 CP R) accounted for 91220 crimes. (statistics data, available at: <https://b.politiaromana.ro/ro/informatii-publice/coeficienti-de-criminalitate>)

### **Materials and methods**

For the elaboration of this study, will be used of the national legal framework of the Republic of Moldova and Romania, international normative acts in the field; of the method of selective interviewing of the employees responsible for the evidence of crime; allied documentation from the criminal cases; the investigation of the criminal and executive criminal doctrine; by the statistical, historical and logical-legal method, etc. Examining the collaboration of national legislation with the international normative framework, and studying the national judicial practice.

### **Results and discussion**

It is clear that today, one of the most important problems for both societies —and not only that —is the fight against crime. To fight crime, it is necessary to understand its essence and dimensions.

It should be noted that the problem of crime has been relevant not only today but also for many centuries. Most likely, socially dangerous behaviour appeared simultaneously with the appearance of man on Earth. Crime belongs to the category of eternity, from time immemorial, exciting the minds of scientists, jurists, legal practitioners, government officials, and ordinary people. (Быргэу М. Криминология и противодействие преступности. Общая часть. Учебное пособие. Кишинэу. 2020, р. 27)

What should be understood by crime?

In criminological doctrine, there are many definitions of the concept of "crime".

Thus, in the opinion of V. Bujor, the essence of crime as a social phenomenon is expressed as "a set of illegal acts that deny the social values accepted and promoted in society." (Бужор В., О сущности преступности. Кишинэу, 1998, р. 30) In the same framework, researcher Iu. Larii defines crime as "a negative social-legal phenomenon, of mass character, historically variable, which consists of the totality of crimes committed on a certain territory,

in a determined period of time, which is characterized by quantitative (level, dynamics) and qualitative (structure, character) indices".(Larii Iu. Criminologie. Chișinău, 2020, p.12.)

At the same time, Ig. Ciobanu mentions that the notion of "criminality" has two meanings:

1. broad sense - the totality of crimes committed throughout human evolution on the entire surface of the globe.
2. restricted sense - the totality of crimes committed within a specific period of time, in a specific geographical area. (Ciobanu I., Criminologie. Chișinău, 2011, p. 135)

In turn, the Russian author GF Khokhriakov emphasizes that crime should be understood as a socially dangerous socio-legal phenomenon, which is generated by the conditions of the community, but has become relatively independent, capable of widespread reproduction, which requires a constant fight against it.(Хохряков Г.Ф., Криминология. Учебник. Москва: Юристъ, 1999, p. 29)

Despite the fact that the definition of crime is found in many scientists, the main features of its content remain unchanged over the years and are expressed through basic features of crime such as: historical-evolutionary character; social character; mass social character; legal character; character of social danger (Аексеева Е.А., Абдулин Р.С., Криминология: Общая часть: учебное пособие. Курган, 2019, с.55); *varied character etc.* In what follows, we will highlight some specific characters or traits.

*Crime has historical-evolutionary character.*

It is important to remember that crime is not a foreign body in the body of society, but the result of its historical and cultural development, a specific deformation of the relations existing in it, their degeneration. A specific stage of development of society, including in the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> centuries, determines the incrimination of acts - the emergence of new crimes and types of crimes (such as cybercrime) and their decriminalization - their exclusion from the list of crimes (for example, speculation). (Larii Iu., Criminologie. Chișinău, 2004, p.14) In the Republic of Moldova, at present the normative sources regulating the legal aspects of the activity in the field of the national information infrastructure, as an environment for the functioning of the national information system in general, are established within several branches of law. (S. Cernomoreț, A. Nastas, Comparative Analysis of Cybercrime in the Criminal Law System Bucharest, Paris, Calgary 2023, p . 37) These are ongoing processes that are also inherent in the current criminal legislation of the Republic of Moldova (for example, the criminalization of the following acts: domestic violence (Article 2011 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova); driving a vehicle while intoxicated with alcohol or other substances (Article 264/1 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova); passive political corruption (Article 324/1 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova); separatism (Article 3401 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova). ), etc.), and other countries in modern society. All these changes significantly influence crime rates.

The state of crime is not the same in different socio-economic formations. Its level and structure also change at individual stages of development of a particular formation, depending on the content and trends, causes and conditions of crimes, as well as on the definition by states of the range of acts declared criminal. The historical-evolutionary character of crime is reflected in the history of criminal law.

It is worth noting that crime as a negative phenomenon did not appear specifically in the Republic of Moldova and Romania and is not typical only for the Republic of Moldova and the Romanian space.

Crime is a long-standing companion of humanity. Crime in the broad sense of the word has always existed. Since the emergence of customs and traditions in human society, negative deviant behavior has appeared that violates established rules (norms). (Криминология: Общая часть: учебник. Под общей редакцией Ф.К. Зиннурова. – Казань: КЮИ МВД России, 2019, p.74.)

So, crime as a historically variable phenomenon is characterized by the fact that its emergence is associated with the division of society into classes, the emergence of private property and the formation of state power. Recognition of the historical conditionality of crime allows us to state with complete certainty that from the moment of its appearance in society, it has been continuously changing, constantly transforming, the general criminological picture of crime and its criminal legal characteristics have looked different. This applies equally to the criminological characteristics of crime both in various socio-economic formations (slavery, feudal, capitalist, socialist), and at individual historical stages. Its level, dynamics, structure, specific causes and conditions, as well as the assessment by the ruling classes of the range of acts classified as criminal, were constantly changing.

*Crime is a social phenomenon.*

It is social because its subjects, such as the persons whose interests and relations are violated, are members of society. Crime is also social because it is based on socio-economic laws determined by the totality of existing production relations and the nature of the productive forces. Crime is generated by motives and conditions of a social nature. (Артемов Н.С., Криминология. Курс лекций. Рязань, 2007, p.13)

The social nature of crime is manifested in the fact that crime is invariably inherent in any society and is generated by it. Social relations in all spheres of society are those that determine the existence of crime as a social phenomenon. Thus, in the economic sphere – low wages, high prices and inflation, underdeveloped domestic production of consumer goods and their low quality (the need for import substitution), etc. Crisis phenomena in the economy are undoubtedly generated by the imperfect organization of social relations in this area and entail an increase in crime, primarily economic crime, crime against property. A similar pattern can be traced in the social, political and ideological spheres of society. (Алексеева Е.А., Абдулин Р.С., Криминология: Общая часть: учебное пособие. Курган, 2019, с.57)

*Crime is a mass social phenomenon.*

Every year in the Republic of Moldova, as already noted according to official statistics, tens of thousands of crimes are committed. In Romania and even more, hundreds of thousands of crimes are committed. The real number of crimes, however, is unknown, since the facts of commission as crimes are not always known to law enforcement agencies (hidden crime). In addition, some crimes are hidden in nature (i.e., kept silent even by law enforcement agencies). Real crime can be estimated at several times higher.

Crime as a mass phenomenon is a collection of crimes and the persons who committed them within certain spatial and temporal limits on the territory of the Republic of Moldova during the year. Being a collection of individual crimes, crime is not their mechanical sum. Crime as a mass social phenomenon has its own specific characteristics (quantitative and qualitative), which are not found in single crimes. The division of crime signs into these groups is arbitrary. Crime is a holistic phenomenon and all its characteristics are interconnected. (Криминология: Учебник. Под ред. В.Н. Кудрявцева и В.Е. Эминова-3-е изд. Перераб. и доп. Москва: Юристъ, 2006, p. 76)

Thus, according to information from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, in 2020, 26.3 thousand crimes were registered on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, which is 17.0% less than in 2019 and 37.2% less than in 2016. The crime rate was 100 crimes per 10 thousand inhabitants, compared to 120 crimes in 2019 and 151 crimes in 2016. ([https://statistica.gov.md/ro/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2022-9478\\_60321.html](https://statistica.gov.md/ro/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2022-9478_60321.html))

According to data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 2021, 27.2 thousand crimes were registered on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, an increase of 3.1% compared to 2020. Analyzing this period, the indicator in question in 2021 decreased by 23.7% compared to 2017. The crime rate in 2021 was 105 crimes per 10 thousand inhabitants, compared to 101 crimes in 2020 and 130 crimes in 2017. ([https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2021-9478\\_49944.html](https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2021-9478_49944.html))

According to data from the National Bureau of Statistics, in 2021, the crime rate was higher in urban areas, being registered 59.5%. Every 3rd crime was registered in the municipality of Chisinau – 29.3%. Of the total number of crimes, 5.8% of the total crimes were registered in the municipality of Balti, 3.4% in Cahul, 2.6% in Hancesti and 2.6% in Ialoveni.

Every fifth crime was classified as exceptionally serious, particularly serious, and serious.

Of the registered crimes, 19.1% were exceptionally serious, particularly serious and serious crimes, including 2.7% for exceptionally serious and particularly serious crimes, and 16.4% for serious crimes. There was a decrease in exceptionally serious (-2.8%), particularly serious (-38.3%), serious (-32.0%), less serious (-26.2%) and minor (-0.7%) crimes. (<https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&idc=168&id=7312>)

In the structure of crimes recorded in 2021, almost every second recorded crime was against property (43.3%), followed by crimes in the field of transport (20.1%), crimes against public authorities (6.7%) and those against public security and order (4.7%). (<https://statistica.gov.md/newsview.php?l=ro&idc=168&id=7312>)

According to data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 2022, 26.8 thousand crimes were registered on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, down by 1.2% compared to 2021 and by 16.2% compared to 2018. The crime rate in 2022 was 103 crimes per 10 thousand inhabitants (at the level of the previous year), compared to 119 crimes in 2018.

Of the recorded crimes, 16.3% were exceptionally serious, particularly serious and serious crimes, including 2.7% of exceptionally serious and particularly serious crimes, and 13.6% of serious ones. In the last 5 years, there has been a decrease in particularly serious crimes (-35.2%), serious ones (-40.4%), less serious ones (-13.7%) and minor ones (-0.9%).

During the period under review, most crimes were registered in urban areas (60.8%). Every 3rd crime was registered in the municipality of Chisinau – 31.3%. Of the total number of crimes, 5.8% of all crimes were registered in the municipality of Balti, 2.9% in Cahul, 2.8% in Orhei and 2.5% in Ialoveni.

Almost every fourth recorded crime was committed in public places (27.6%).

At the same time, out of the total number of recorded crimes, 104 crimes were recorded using firearms, explosives and grenades, including: 23 cases of hooliganism, 19 cases of intentional harm and 6 cases of murder.

In the structure of crimes, every second recorded crime was against property (43.1%), followed by crimes in the field of transport (19.0%), crimes against public authorities (8.0%) and those against public security and order (5.0%).

In 2022, a greater increase was recorded in the category of computer crimes and those in the field of telecommunications (by 2.9 times). Corruption crimes in the private sector increased, compared to 2021, by 19.0%. At the same time, fewer crimes against the proper conduct of activity in the public sphere were recorded (-15.6%), environmental crimes (-2.0%), and crimes against justice (-8.7%).

In 2022, 705 crimes committed by minors or with their participation were recorded, which constituted 2.6% of the total number of registered crimes. Compared to 2021, there was a 1.4% increase in crimes committed by minors, especially crimes against property. Minors were most frequently involved in thefts - 59.9%, followed by robberies - 11.9% and hooliganism - 4.5%. There were 126 crimes committed by minors per 100 thousand children aged 0-17, compared to 118 crimes in 2018. ([https://statistica.gov.md/ro/nivelul-infracționalității-in-anul-2022-9478\\_60321.html](https://statistica.gov.md/ro/nivelul-infracționalității-in-anul-2022-9478_60321.html))

According to data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 2023, 24.0 thousand crimes were registered on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, down by 10.4% compared to 2022 and by 24.3% compared to 2019. The crime rate in 2023 was 96 crimes per 10 thousand inhabitants (at the level of the previous year), compared to 120 crimes in 2019.

Of the registered crimes, 16.0% were exceptionally serious, particularly serious and serious crimes, including 2.6% for exceptionally serious and particularly serious crimes, and 13.4% for serious crimes. In the last 5 years, there has been a decrease in particularly serious crimes (-40.5%), serious crimes (-30.5%), exceptionally serious crimes (-25.5%) and less serious crimes (-23.6%).

Most crimes were registered in urban areas (61.9%). Every 3rd crime was registered in Chisinau municipality – 31.8%. Of the total number of crimes, 5.4% of all crimes were registered in Balti municipality, 3.2% in Cahul, 2.9% in Orhei and 2.3% in Drochia.

In the structure of crimes, every second recorded crime was against property (41.7%), followed by crimes in the field of transport (17.7%), crimes against public authorities (8.3%) and those against public security and order (5.5%).

According to data from the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in 2023, about 11.2 thousand people were registered who committed crimes, 16.6% less compared to 2022. There were

44.8 criminals per 10 thousand inhabitants. There were 13.6 minor criminals per 10 thousand children aged 0-17.

The highest level of crime was recorded among men – 90.9%, with women constituting 9.1% of the number of people who committed crimes. For every 10 thousand women, there were 7.7 women who committed crimes, and for men, this indicator was 86.1 men per 10 thousand men.

In committing serious crimes, women were involved in 13.7% of all women who committed crimes, compared to 14.2% of men. Men who committed crimes were more involved in committing crimes in the field of transport, crimes against property and crimes against security and public order, and women in committing crimes against property, including theft.

According to data from the Courts Administration Agency, the number of people convicted in the first instance in 2023 amounted to 9.1 thousand people, or about 25 people were convicted every day. Compared to 2022, the number of people convicted in the first instance increased by 8.2%.

There were, on average, 36.2 first-instance convicts per 10,000 inhabitants, compared to 33.5 in 2022. There were, on average, 4.9 convicted women per 10,000 women, compared to 71.2 convicted men per 10,000 men. The rate of convicted minors was 4.4 convicted per 10,000 children aged 0-17.

In most cases, offenders were convicted of crimes in the field of transport – 38.3%, committing thefts – 11.0%, hooliganism – 7.4%, crimes against life and health of a person – 7.1%, drug-related crimes – 4.2%.

In 2023, according to data from the National Penitentiary Administration, there were 5,690 people in prisons, including 325 people (5.7%) in pretrial detention, 639 indicted people (11.2%) and 4,726 finally convicted people (83.1%). Of the total number of people in prisons, 5.3% were women and 94.7% were men. ([https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infracționalității-in-anul-2023-9478\\_60977.html](https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infracționalității-in-anul-2023-9478_60977.html))

In the Republic of Moldova, the share of all reckless crimes in the overall crime structure is approximately 15-20%. (Cananău A., *Criminological analysis and prevention of crimes in the field of road transport*, Chișinău, 2018, PhD thesis in law, available: [http://www.cnaa.md/files/theses/2018/53974/alexandru\\_cananau\\_thesis.pdf](http://www.cnaa.md/files/theses/2018/53974/alexandru_cananau_thesis.pdf))

The Police subdivisions of the Republic of Moldova during the first 6 months of 2024 recorded 9,883 crimes, thus the criminal phenomenon recorded a decrease of -5.74%, compared to the same period of 2023.

Of the total number of recorded crimes, the following types of crimes are recorded the most: thefts - 2009 crimes; drunk driving - 1663 crimes; scams - 1240 crimes; drug-related crimes - 526 crimes; hooliganism - 512 crimes.

The national crime rate during the first 6 months of 2024, according to the 2014 Population and Housing Census, was 27.8 crimes per 10 thousand inhabitants. According to the regional division criterion of crime, it is attested that the criminal phenomenon in the Republic of Moldova is concentrated in the urban environment, in a proportion of 59%. (

Raport cu privire la activitatea poliției Republicii Moldova pentru 6 luni ale anului 2024, [https://www.politia.md/sites/default/files/igp\\_raport\\_activitate\\_6\\_luni\\_2024.pdf](https://www.politia.md/sites/default/files/igp_raport_activitate_6_luni_2024.pdf))

*Crime has a legal character.*

It assumes that crimes constitute only the harmful acts provided for by criminal law, the commission of which is punishable by law. This peculiarity allows us to delimit crime from less dangerous violations, as well as from socially dangerous acts, which are not recognized by criminal law, that is, they are not criminalized.

Because the acts committed are previously criminalized by criminal law, this makes it possible for citizens to know in advance the acts that have been stopped, thus being able to refrain from committing them. (Pop O., Neagu Gh. General Criminologie generală. Chișinău, 2005, p. 26)

*Crime is socially dangerous.*

The social danger of crime is determined by:

- damage from crimes to the individual and to society – both physical and material;
- harm to the moral and ideological sphere of society (an increase in the number of crimes committed, coupled with a low level of their detection, entails a transformation of the worldview of the population and leads to the conclusion that "it is not bad to commit crimes, but it is bad to bear responsibility for them") and moral harm to the victims of crimes (each specific crime causes the victim a feeling of fear, insecurity, distrust in state institutions that do not provide the individual with adequate protection; sometimes, the moral suffering of the victims exceeds the direct physical harm from the crime).

*Criminality has a valiant character.*

The diverse nature lies in the variety of crimes, in their diversity in criminal law. Just as there are no two identical fingerprints, no two crimes, even of the same type, are the same. Crime includes a wide variety of crimes, from murder, bodily harm, to others provided for by criminal law (18 chapters of crimes provided for in the special part of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova). (Bîrgău M., Cernomoret S., Faigher A., Nastas A. Criminologie. Curs universitar. Chișinău: Pontos, 2023, p.47)

There is a dialectical unity between all the above-mentioned features of crime. A change in one aspect of crime inevitably leads to a change in its other aspects and, consequently, to crime as a whole. Between crime, its types and individual crimes, there is a dialectical connection between the general, the special and the individual.

Thus, in the Republic of Moldova, as well as in Romania, crime represents a harmful, antisocial and dangerous social legal phenomenon. It is a complex, social, systemic, varied, historically variable human phenomenon. It represents the totality of crimes committed on the territory of the country, which are characterized by qualitative and quantitative indicators.

Each of the crime indicators plays a special role in assessing crime, but, taken separately, cannot provide an objective picture of it; Only in their interrelationship with each other can

crime indicators fulfill their criminological purpose from the point of view of deepening the knowledge of its essential aspects.

The results of crime measurement, according to the author Ya.I. Gilinskii, are manifested in indices, which, theoretically, are usually grouped as follows:

- quantitative: the state and level of crime;
- qualitative: structure, share, character, geography of crime, level of latency and social consequences;
- qualitative-quantitative indicator – dynamics that reflect changes over time in the quantitative or qualitative characteristics of crime (state, level, structure, etc.) (Гилинский Я.И., Девиантология: социология преступности, наркотизма, проституции, самоубийств и других «отклонений». 2-е изд., испр. и доп. СПб., 2007. p. 199)

The division of crime indices into quantitative and qualitative is to some extent conditional, since they, in their inextricable connection, characterize the state of crime as a whole (on a certain territory for a certain period of time).

The state (volume) of crimes in the Republic of Moldova is determined by the total number of crimes committed, as well as the number of persons who committed them on the territory of our state for a given calendar year. It should be borne in mind that the number of crimes does not always coincide with the number of persons who committed them, since a crime can be committed by a group of persons, and one person often commits several crimes.

For example, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, in 2022, 26.8 thousand crimes were registered on the territory of the Republic of Moldova. At the same time, 13.5 thousand people who committed a crime were identified during the study period. ([https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2022-9478\\_60321.html](https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2022-9478_60321.html))

Estimating the prevalence of crime involves not only finding out the absolute number of crimes and criminals, but also comparing the available data with population indicators. This is done by determining the intensity (level) of crime.

The intensity of crime is its characteristic, measured by the number of crimes committed and their participants in a certain population size, for example, per 10 or per 100 thousand inhabitants.

For example, according to official data from the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova, the crime rate in 2022 was 103 crimes per 10 thousand inhabitants compared to 119 crimes in 2018. ([https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2022-9478\\_60321.html](https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2022-9478_60321.html))

The structure of crime is determined by the correlation of its individual parts - a separate type, type of crime (for example, crimes against property, economic crimes, etc.) with the total volume of all crimes committed.

The structure of crime is a qualitative indicator of crime, illustrating the internal content of the crime. It is determined by the ratio of different types and groups of crimes to the total number of committed crimes. In this case, the structural shares allocated can be distinguished on various criminal legal or criminological grounds, for example: the ratio of crimes depending on the object of the attack (Bujor V., Miron-Popa C., Bazele analizei statistice a

criminalității. Bălți, 2010, p.29 ), the ratio of crimes according to the sex of the person who committed the crime, the age of the offender, the form of guilt of the crime committed, etc.

According to official data from the National Bureau of Statistics, in 2022, on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, the highest crime rate was recorded among men - 92.1%, women represented 7.9% of the number of people who committed crimes. ([https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2022-9478\\_60321.html](https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2022-9478_60321.html))

Of particular importance is such an indicator of crime as its territorial distribution in different regions of the country (geography of crime).

Territorial differences in the volume, intensity, structure, dynamics and nature of crime are closely related to the level of socio-economic development of individual regions of the country, with national traditions, customs, the level of cultural and educational work, the organization of everyday life and leisure of the population, the quality of law enforcement and other factors. These differences are taken into account when determining the tasks of society in combating crime, the most important areas of preventive activity.

According to official data from the National Bureau of Statistics, in 2022, the highest crime rate in the Republic of Moldova was recorded in urban areas (60.8%). Every third crime was recorded in the municipality of Chisinau - 31.3%. Of the total number of crimes recorded in the Republic of Moldova during the specified period, the following indicators were recorded in individual cities: Balti municipality - 5.8%, Cahul - 2.9%, Orhei - 2.8% and Ialoveni - 2.5%. ([https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2022-9478\\_60321.html](https://statistica.gov.md/nivelul-infractionalitatii-in-anul-2022-9478_60321.html))

The dynamics of crime is a change in crime over time: an increase or decrease in the number of crimes committed or the number of persons who committed them in a certain period (per month, quarter, half a year, year, five, decade), a change in its: structure and other indicators over a certain period of time in a certain territory. Among all indicators of crime, dynamics occupies a special position. If changes over time in the state or level of crime are studied, dynamics is expressed as a quantitative indicator. In the case of determining the dynamics of the structure of crime, the share of any type of crime in it, as well as its character, geography, level of latency and social consequences, this indicator becomes qualitative. (Криминология: Общая часть: учебник. Под общей редакцией Ф.К. Зиннурова. – Казань: КЮИ МВД России, 2019, с.85)

For example, the absolute increase/decrease in crime in the Republic of Moldova for 2024 will be equal to the difference between the volume of crime in 2024 and the volume of crime in 2023. However, the above index is not very informative in itself, as it is expressed in absolute figures and reflects only the general trend of crime.

Of course, the above crime indicators do not exhaust the set of all existing ones. However, the above quantitative and qualitative indicators are generally recognized and on their basis both general social and special crime prevention measures are planned, the most effective means of combating crime, both in general and of an individual type, are identified.

Crime prevention is a priority for all subdivisions subordinate to the General Inspectorate of Police of the Republic of Moldova. The development of good practices, partnerships at the community level, the organization and coordination of projects and information

campaigns at the national level are just some of the objectives of the Police in the Republic of Moldova.

Thus, during 2022, the "School + Police = Safety" project, the "Neighborhood Watch" program, the "Safety Alley" concept were continued. 11 campaigns and awareness-raising actions were carried out, such as "I get home safely", "Stop bicycle thefts!", "To be safe, the Police informs you", "Report! Your attitude matters", "Integrity for society", "Safety Day", "Open window - danger for the child", "Avoid being part of the statistics and celebrate safely", "Family - the universe of happiness", "Donate blood, support the rhythm of life on earth", "You can change your future - don't be an aggressor". In collaboration with other institutions, the Police participated in the Campaigns: "Be careful! Use payment cards safely!", "16 days of activism against gender-based violence", "SATERNA IS COMING charity campaign", "Support in crisis conditions", "Library under the Christmas tree". At the same time, at the local level, the Territorial Police Inspectorates initiated 143 campaigns to inform the population about the security measures necessary to prevent the commission of crimes. In order to intensify the activities to prevent and combat the criminal phenomenon, the special operations "Search", "Cascada" were implemented. In order to prevent deviant/delinquent behavior of minors, as well as to prevent their victimization during the holidays, the special operation "Care" was carried out. (Raport cu privire la activitatea poliției Republicii Moldova pentru anul 2024 available at: [https://www.politia.md/sites/default/files/raport\\_activitate\\_12\\_luni\\_2022\\_.pdf](https://www.politia.md/sites/default/files/raport_activitate_12_luni_2022_.pdf))

During the 06 months of 2023, the project "School + Police = Safety", the program "Neighborhood Surveillance", the concept "Safety Alley" were continued. 5 campaigns and awareness-raising actions were carried out, such as "Avoid being part of the statistics - celebrate safely", "Educate. Provide. Raise generations!", "People have priority! Stop stigmatization and discrimination, strengthen prevention!", "An Easter for everyone". At the same time, at the local level, 33 campaigns were initiated by the Territorial Police Inspectorates to inform the population about the security measures necessary to prevent the commission of crimes. In order to intensify activities to prevent and combat the criminal phenomenon, the special operation "Search", "MAC-2023" was implemented. (Raport cu privire la activitatea poliției Republicii Moldova pentru 6 luni ale anului 2024 available at: [https://www.politia.md/sites/default/files/raportul\\_de\\_activitate\\_6\\_luni\\_final.pdf](https://www.politia.md/sites/default/files/raportul_de_activitate_6_luni_final.pdf))

During the 6 months of 2024, the Awareness Campaign was carried out as follows: "Safety through the Weapons Census: Control, Report, Protect". At the same time, at the local level, 65 campaigns were initiated by the Territorial Police Inspectorates to inform the population about the security measures necessary to prevent the commission of crimes. In order to intensify the activities to prevent and combat the criminal phenomenon, the special operation "Search" was implemented in both quarters. (Raport cu privire la activitatea poliției Republicii Moldova pentru 6 luni ale anului 2024 available at: [https://www.politia.md/sites/default/files/igp\\_raport\\_activitate\\_6\\_luni\\_2024.pdf](https://www.politia.md/sites/default/files/igp_raport_activitate_6_luni_2024.pdf))

In comparison, according to the crime index for 2023 published by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, a non-governmental organization based in Switzerland, with a score of 4.58 Romania ranks 27th out of 44 European countries, ranked 123rd out of 193 globally and 15th out of 17 states located in Central and Eastern Europe. In other words, there is high crime, even if in terms of resilience - that is, the functioning of state institutions to combat the criminal phenomenon - it is doing quite well, with a score of

6 points, which places it in 38th place in the world and 3rd place in Central and Eastern Europe.

According to data analyzed by the experts who calculated the index, Romania is one of the main countries regarding the origin and destination of human trafficking and remains among the top five in the European Union regarding crimes in this field. (<https://www.bursa.ro/index-giatoc-criminalitatea-se-mentine-la-nivel-ridicat-in-romania-60303253>)

### Conclusions.

It must be emphasized that crime in the Republic of Moldova as well as in Romania is not just an abstract criminological concept formed by the totality of its properties and characteristics, but a real negative phenomenon in the life of Moldovan society or the Romanian space, which takes place on the territory of the Republic of Moldova or Romania recorded over a certain period of time, which, according to the analysis carried out, unfortunately remains large in both states.

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