



Modern Issues of Determining Object of Criminological Activity of Forensic Science Institutions: Interdisciplinary Analysis and Preventive Potential

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The paper examines contemporary issues in defining the object of criminological activity of expert institutions in the context of current challenges in law enforcement and interdisciplinary analysis. The author focuses on the transformation of ideas about the object of criminological influence from material carriers to information traces, factual data, and circumstances revealed in the process of expert research. The preventive value of such elements, which allow the identification of criminogenic factors, systemic vulnerabilities, and typical scenarios of offenses, is substantiated. Within the framework of an interdisciplinary approach, the role of specialized knowledge in the formation of strategic prevention, which combines criminological diagnostics with the development of effective prevention measures, is considered. The article proposes a conceptual update of approaches to expert prevention as an important tool for legal security and analytical response to crime.

Keywords: expert prevention; criminological activity; preventive policy; criminogenic factors; forensic science; interdisciplinary analysis; offenses; analytical expert function.

Сучасні проблеми визначення об'єкта кримінологічної діяльності експертних установ: міждисциплінарний аналіз і превентивний потенціал

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Досліджено сучасні проблеми визначення об'єкта кримінологічної діяльності експертних установ у контексті актуальних викликів правозастосування та міждисциплінарного аналізу. Увагу акцентовано на трансформації уявлень про об'єкт кримінологічного впливу — від матеріальних носіїв до інформаційних слідів, фактичних даних та обставин, виявлених у процесі експертного дослідження. Обґрунтовано превентивну цінність елементів, які дають змогу виявити криміногенні чинники, системні вразливості й типові сценарії правопорушень. У межах міждисциплінарного підходу розглянуто роль спеціальних знань у формуванні стратегічної профілактики, що поєднує кримінологічну діагностику з розробленням ефективних заходів запобігання. Запропоновано концептуальне оновлення підходів до експертної профілактики як важливого інструмента правової безпеки й аналітичного реагування на злочинність.



Ключові слова: експертна профілактика; кримінологічна діяльність; превентивна політика; криміногенні чинники; судова експертиза; міждисциплінарний аналіз; правопорушення; аналітична функція експерта.

Research Problem Formulation. Taking into account modern theoretical approaches, crime prevention practices, and the provisions of current Ukrainian legislation, the object of criminological activity should be considered a complex of socio-legal phenomena, processes, and factors targeted by the system of prevention, detection, neutralization, and elimination of the causes and conditions of crime. This concept covers not only crime as a mass social phenomenon, but also individual criminal behavior, crime-prone situations, social risk groups, and legal regulation mechanisms that shape the security environment. Within the framework of criminological analysis, the object also includes entities involved in combating crime, law enforcement agencies, courts, local government bodies, public institutions, and educational institutions that perform preventive, control and rehabilitation functions.

Analysis of Essential Researches and Publications. Analysis of the issues of modern problems of determining the object of criminological activity of expert institutions in the context of current challenges of law enforcement and interdisciplinary analysis attracted the attention of a wide range of Ukrainian researchers, including: M. Iu. Valuis-ka, V. V. Holina, V. H. Honcharenko, I. M. Danshyn, I. V. Pyrih, M. Ya. Sehai, E. B. Simakova-Yefremian, H. O. Spitsyna, N. Ye. Filipenko, V. Yu. Shepitko, M. H. Shcherbakovskyi et al.

Scientific research by Ukrainian specialists in the field of forensic expertise

laid the foundation for the formation of conceptual models for its organization, which contributed to the development of management mechanisms in relevant institutions. However, the current social reality, marked by profound internal political transformations, threats to national security, and changes in the structure of offenses, has significantly influenced the nature and dynamics of crime. Reform of key State institutions, in particular the judicial system, highlights the need to update management approaches to forensic support for justice. In this context, the modernization of the criminological component of the activities of expert institutions, which involves expanding their analytical potential, introducing innovative research methods, and strengthening inter-institutional cooperation with the judiciary, is of particular importance. Ensuring effective management in the field of expert activity is a strategic task that requires the creation of an effective system of coordination between state and non-state expert structures, the improvement of professional training, the intensification of information exchange, and the integration of international experience. All this is a necessary condition for ensuring high-quality expert support for law enforcement practice in Ukraine and the formation of a sustainable preventive policy in the context of modern challenges.

Main Content Presentation. Modern Ukrainian legislation, in particular the draft of the new Criminal Code of



Ukraine, provides for an expanded interpretation of prevention, integration of international human rights standards, adaptation to martial law, cyber threats and information warfare. In this context, criminological activity acquires a systemic nature, including scientifically based diagnostics of criminogenic processes, forecasting trends, developing security strategies and forming a legal culture. Thus, the object of criminological activity is a multi-level, dynamic system that covers both the phenomena of crime and social mechanisms for its prevention, taking into account the legal, ethical, informational and humanitarian requirements of modern society.

Ukrainian researchers, in particular I. M. Danshyn, V. V. Holina, M. Iu. Valuiska, include the following: flawed social relations in the system of human development; negative social traditions (of various origins), behavioral stereotypes, and the most common negative habits of people; individuals, groups, and contingents of individuals who exhibit signs of unlawful behavior; a set of specific negative phenomena, processes, and shortcomings in various spheres of life that determine criminal behavior and the commission of a specific crime; specific negative personal characteristics of an individual that provoke a crime or contribute to its commission [1, p. 58–59].

Taking into account the content, tasks, specifics, and peculiarities of criminological activity, the object of preventive influence is individual or a combination of negative phenomena and processes of a material or spiritual nature, which, by their origin, scope,

forms, and intensity of manifestation, are capable of generating causes and conditions that contribute to the commission of crimes. Within the framework of current Ukrainian legislation, in particular taking into account the provisions of the draft new Criminal Code, criminological activity considers such objects as dynamic, multilevel systems that include social deviations, criminogenic environments, institutional dysfunctions, distortions of legal consciousness, as well as latent risks associated with informational, economic, and military instability. Preventive influence in criminology is aimed not only at neutralizing existing threats, but also at forecasting, diagnosing, and systematically modeling conditions that could transform into criminal behavior. This approach involves the integration of interdisciplinary knowledge, legal mechanisms, international standards, and preventive strategies that ensure the formation of a safe social environment and a legal culture capable of countering crime at its source.

At the same time, based on the analysis of the theory of criminalistics and forensic examination, the objects of criminalistic activity have been identified. experts note that the objects of expert criminological (preventive) activity are material evidence, samples, protocols of investigative and judicial actions, and other materials that have been submitted for examination or are additionally used in its conduct [2, p. 76]. Thus, the objects of expert prevention directly coincide with the objects of the corresponding types of forensic examinations carried out within framework



of criminal proceedings. For example, the object of handwriting examination is handwriting material in which the individual characteristics of a particular person's writing are recorded; the object of technical examination of documents is original or forged documents, forms, stamps, seals, printing forms; the object of examination of weapons, explosive devices, substances, and products of explosion is firearms and cold weapons, ammunition, explosive substances, devices, as well as traces and circumstances of their use. All these material carriers of information are sources of evidence of a crime, which allows not only to establish the actual circumstances of the offense, but also to identify preventative signs that can be used to prevent similar acts in the future.

At the same time, criminological activity has a broader socio-legal vector and is aimed at identifying, eliminating, neutralizing, or mitigating the causes and conditions of crime as a general phenomenon, as well as its individual types or specific criminal offenses. It covers the development of systemic measures to prevent and eliminate shortcomings in the formation and functioning of social relations, predict the development of the criminogenic situation, stop its escalation, and ensure the resocialization of persons prone to primary, repeated, or recidivist crimes. In this context, the objects of criminological activity of expert services are not the material carriers themselves that are subject to investigation, but the information, factual data, circumstances, and signs that remain on these objects

and testify to the mechanism, dynamics, and social nature of the development of a criminal offense.

In order to clearly distinguish between the subjects of criminological and forensic prevention, it should be noted that criminology examines the general patterns that determine the state, forms, causes, dynamics of crime, conditions for its spread, features of the offender's personality and general social preventive measures. Instead, forensic prevention focuses on the study of the patterns of specific criminal acts, the mechanisms of their trace reflection in sources of a prophylactically significant nature, as well as on the analysis of typical investigative situations that arise during the investigation and allow to determine the directions of preventive activities and objects of appropriate influence for making effective preventive decisions.

Thus, direct objects of expert prevention are a variety of organizational and technical circumstances that directly or indirectly contribute to the commission or concealment of crimes and other offenses. These can be both typical, common circumstances repeated in the study of similar objects in different regions and departments, and private, individualized conditions related to a particular case. In some cases, such circumstances are established on the basis of a comprehensive analysis of the materials of criminal proceedings as factors that contributed to the realization of the criminal intention, in others, although their influence is not directly proven, they have the potential to contribute to the commission of similar or other offenses in the future.



These circumstances may relate to the mechanism of the event when certain technical elements identified by the experts facilitated the use of specific tools or means, or were associated with the relevant skills that ensured the achievement of a criminal result. They may also include the characteristics of the materials, means or conditions that contributed to the onset of criminal consequences, as well as the causal relationships that led to the development of the event. In this context, expert prevention performs not only a diagnostic, but also a prognostic function, allowing to identify hidden risks, systemic vulnerabilities and potential points of criminogenic tension.

According to current Ukrainian legislation, in particular the provisions of Criminal Procedural Code and the draft new Criminal Code, expert prevention is part of an integrated system for combating crime. It is implemented through the identification of circumstances of preventive significance in the course of expert investigations, the formulation of recommendations for eliminating identified shortcomings, participation in the development of preventive measures, and the formulation of legal policy aimed at reducing criminal risks. Unlike criminological prevention, which studies the general patterns of crime, its causes, dynamics, social conditions, and characteristics of the offender, criminalistic prevention focuses on specific mechanisms of criminal activity, trace evidence, typical investigative situations, and sources of information that are of preventive significance. Therefore, expert prevention is an important

tool for interdisciplinary interaction, combining scientific analysis, legal assessment, and practical prevention within criminal proceedings [3].

Conclusion. Within the analytical and preventive activities of expert services, the objects of criminological influence are not so much the material carriers to be studied as those information traces, factual data, structural features and contextual circumstances that are revealed in the process of expert analysis. It is these elements: residual markers of the event, technical characteristics, trace manifestations, as well as logical connections between them that allow reconstructing the nature, dynamics and mechanism of the development of a criminal offense. They not only record the fact of a criminal act, but also open access to the deeper layers of causality that underlie criminal process.

Such data have a high preventive value, as they allow to identify hidden risks, systemic vulnerabilities, recurring scenarios and typical conditions that may contribute to the occurrence of similar offenses in the future. It is a kind of “technical memory” of the object, which retains traces not only of the action, but of the conditions of its possibility from shortcomings in the design or organization to the specifics of the means, skills or technologies used.

Specific expertise uses in interpretation of such data: forensic, technical, legal, psychological ones open up opportunities for the development of targeted measures aimed at neutralizing criminogenic factors. This includes the improvement of organizational procedures, technical regulations, regu-



lations, as well as the formation of a stable security environment capable of resisting both individual manifestations of crime and its systemic forms.

Thus, expert criminological activity performs not only a diagnostic function related to recording and analysis of facts, but a strategic one; it is able to influence the formation of preventive policy aimed at preventing new offenses, strengthening the legal order and maintaining a balance between freedom and security in society. In this context, the expert acts not only as a technical specialist, but as an analyst, forecaster and

participant in the systemic process of legal renewal.

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