



BALKAN CRIMINOLOGY

Trafficking in and through the Balkans

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PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

- Legal and policy framework
- Overview of human trafficking research
- Purpose of the THB research
- Research methodology
 - Quantitative research
 - Qualitative research
 - Regional approach





Illegal markets in the Balkans

- Favourable conditions
 - Political and economic transition
 - War
 - Weak states
 - New allocation of state wealth
 - Corrupt justice systems





Legal and policy framework

- Directive on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Human Beings
- EU Strategy towards the Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings 2012-2016
- Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings
- UN Palermo Protocol on Trafficking in Persons and Convention on Action against Trafficking





Legal and policy framework

- Significant issue for the EU
- Influence on non-member states
- Need for coherence between different instruments
- Need for cooperation





Human Trafficking Research

- Increased attention by governments, NGOs and media
- A considerable growth in the number of scholarly books and articles
- Significant lack of reliable data on trafficking
- Challenges in interpreting and comparing the statistics





Human Trafficking Research

- Performance of countries in dealing with trafficking is almost impossible to compare
- Various counting methodologies
- 'New directions in research on human trafficking'
- Increased media attention and the methodological challenges are present in the Balkans as well





Purpose of THB research

- Shedding light on the process of human trafficking – **what does it mean?**
- Identify the main trafficking routes?
- Present the traffickers' and victims' backgrounds and analyse the factors that influence their behavior?
- Identify the root causes?
- Determine the exact number of victims?





Purpose of THB research

- Numerous directions for human trafficking research
- Interdependence of research purpose and methodology
- Is a method fit to answer the particular form of the question?





Purpose of THB research

- Increase the understanding of human trafficking in the region
- Especially to illustrate why and how human trafficking happens
- Evaluate:
 - The Act
 - The Means
 - The Purpose





Research methodology

- It seems that neither qualitative nor quantitative methods can suffice by themselves.
- Combining various methods can give best results
- Different quantitative measures of human trafficking






Quantitative research

- Illustrate the dimensions of the issue
- Determine the number of identified or self-identified victims and prosecuted and convicted traffickers
- Necessary to assess the real scope of the trafficking business
- Compare the performance over time and across the region





Quantitative research - limitations

- Small sample size of most of the statistics
- Considerable differences in reporting, counting and processing methodologies
- The existing data is often either created on the basis of unclear methodologies
- Quantitative methods cannot comprehensively depict the problem solely





Qualitative research

- Qualitative measures might usefully supplement and extend the quantitative analysis
- Bring us closer to answers on how and why human trafficking occurs
- Quite often, these questions are neglected





Qualitative research

- Advantages
 - General benefits of utilizing qualitative methods in criminological research
 - Benefits in the study of human trafficking
 - Advantages in Balkan-focused research





Qualitative research

- Case studies
- Interviews with identified and presumed victims
- Interviews with prosecuted traffickers
- Interviews with other stakeholders
- The semi-structured interview





Regional approach

- Southeast Europe – The Balkans
 - Seems optimal for the human trafficking analysis
1. It is easier to compare data coming from countries which are relatively similar
 - geographical similarities
 - institutional similarities






Regional approach

2. It could give a more complete picture of the phenomenon because organized multi-ethnic and cross border crime groups in the region efficiently cooperate
3. It is more likely that it would include all parts of the trafficking network





Close link with THB research in the EU

- Combating THB in the Balkans is closely linked to combating trafficking within the EU
- Similarly, data collection and study of the crime in the Balkans is inevitably inseparable from the THB research in the EU.





Research Challenges

- Sampling
- Access
- Operational definition of THB
- Risk of revictimisation
- ...



Thank you for
your attention!



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