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Review of the Book by V.V. Vasilevich Criminological Policy of Ukraine Legal Analysis of Criminological Policy of Ukraine

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At the beginning of the 21st century, the globalised world underwent drastic social transformations. The systemic financial and economic crisis and the spread of COVID-19 became another challenge for Ukraine and the world community in general. Among the threats to the security of most countries, the circulation of weapons of mass destruction, international terrorism, transnational organised crime, and illegal migration have become large-scale. There is a dangerous tendency to "revise" national borders contrary to the norms of international law, which leads to a surge in manifestations of separatism and extremism as a consequence of ethnic, confessional, and civil conflicts.

The criminal situation in Ukraine has remained consistently tense over the past five years. Its complication, among other things, is caused by military operations in the East of the country, lack of control over part of the territory and the state border, activation of internal population movement processes, economic instability, and the use of inefficient methods of financial and economic activity, inconsistency in the reforms of the law enforcement and judicial systems, education and health care, rising unemployment and substantial social stratification of the population, imperfect public administration in the field of environmental protection and regulation of the use of natural resources, etc. Indicators of the crime rate now show that it is acquiring a fundamentally new quality, transforming into transnational, organised, corrupt criminal organisations.

The legal and institutional changes declared in the National Security Strategy (Presidential Decree No. 287/2015), the Law of Ukraine "On national security of Ukraine", as well as previously adopted state-wide integrated target programs (1993, 1996, 2000 and 2006), concepts (2010 and 2011) mostly remain unrealised. Despite the sufficient renewal of the criminal justice system, modernisation of law enforcement institutions, judicial proceedings, and substantial strengthening of the capacity of the bodies of the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the activities of subjects of crime prevention are negatively affected by the underestimation of criminological potential in terms of monitoring and forecasting the criminal situation both in the whole country and within individual regions, the discrepancy between the national policy of combating crime, criminological policy, threats of a criminal nature, and the low effectiveness of government programs in this area, which requires an active strategy to prevent crimes. Therewith, the state still does not have a proper system for crime prevention, its legislative principles are imperfect, and the means used are often ineffective. This confirms the need to create a reliable scientific and practical basis for improving the forms, methods, and measures of preventive activities.

Thus, today one of the priorities in the field of ensuring the country's security should be the state criminological policy as a coordinated activity of all branches of government and civil society institutions aimed at identifying and eliminating the

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causes and conditions of crimes, predicting possible changes in the criminal situation, adjusting the strategic areas of managing the criminal justice system. In addition, the uncertainty of the goals, objectives, principles, and means (in particular, legal, informational, preventive, repressive, predictive) of state influence on crime identifies existing gaps and causes new problems of a doctrinal, legal, and organisational nature, which in practice require urgent solutions.

The study of V.V. Vasilevich corresponds to modern trends, in which legal science is increasingly turning to the problems of the effectiveness of the national policy of combating crime – criminological (anti-criminogenic) policy. This is due to the high level of threats facing national security due to the genesis of crime, the manifestations of which are becoming increasingly dangerous, as well as the low effectiveness of government programs aimed at combating this illegal phenomenon. In the context of the unstable socio-political situation in the country and the deepening economic crisis, the study of these problems is undoubtedly relevant. The monograph, based on the analysis of legislation and regulations, scientific and historiographical sources, generalisation of the practice of criminal justice bodies and foreign experience, highlights the legal and organisational foundations and areas for improving law enforcement activities on crime prevention. Considering the specific features of the subject under study, the author's position on the content of a number of categories of criminological activity is justified and confirmed by procedural practice.

Monograph by V.V. Vasilevich is one of the first comprehensive scientific studies in Ukraine, which from the standpoint of a systematic approach defines the concept of criminological policy as based on the idea of humanism and the principles of the rule of law, a strategic component of the domestic and foreign anti-criminal policy of the state, the definition of which is to form doctrinal foundations in the field of combating crime and its practical implementation in the system of bodies and institutions of criminal justice in accordance with the provisions of criminal-legal, criminal-procedural, and criminal-executive policy, and legislation of Ukraine.

The optimal structure and content of the monograph allowed comprehensively covering the issue under study. The paper analyses the correlation of theoretical issues and practical tasks, the level of which mainly depends on the clarification of the concept and content, the relationship and interdependence of criminal and criminological policy of the state, the procedure for forming based on scientific provisions that are key to the epistemological process of cognition and practical implementation

of the latter. The state of scientific development, terminology, and methodology for the establishment of constituent elements of criminological policy, debatable issues of its theoretical justification and practical implementation in Ukraine and abroad are comprehensively examined. Based on the results of the analysis of Ukrainian and international scientific and regulatory sources, the author's work experience in law enforcement agencies, elements (levels), methods, and principles of the criminological policy are determined. The monograph identifies the prerequisites and main stages of the establishment and development of the latter, determines its relationship with other types of the anti-criminal policy of the state, and examines the features of its establishment, areas of improvement, and ways of implementation in the criminal, criminal-procedural and criminal-executive legislation of Ukraine; the proposals for further development of criminological theory and practice were formulated. It is emphasised that the function of protecting human and civil rights and freedoms is one of the main functions of the rule of law and reducing the crime rate primarily depends on the coordinated activities of the system of subjects of establishment and implementation of criminological policy, effective legal, organisational, and informational support for it. Attention is focused on the specific features of the establishment and implementation of criminological policy according to the criminological situation in the country.

The empirical basis of the study consists of official statistics, materials of criminal proceedings, and summary data from surveys of employees of the National Police of Ukraine and the prosecutor's office. The presented material is substantiated with a thorough systematic analysis of legislative and other regulatory acts, special scientific literature. The conclusions of the monograph are based on Ukrainian and foreign criminal legislation, criminal-legal and criminological doctrine, and judicial practice. The substantial results were obtained through the application of an integrated approach to the analysis of problems with the systematisation of relevant scientific knowledge and the identification of prospects for further scientific examination.

The complex nature of the investigation, the importance of the results of this study for improving political, legal, socio-economic, legislative, and government decisions aimed at identifying and eliminating the causes and conditions of crimes, optimising the fight against crime, enabling the classification of the monograph as an interesting study on the chosen problem, recognising it as timely and relevant. It is characterised by the thoroughness of legal analysis, the balance and correctness of scientific polemics,

and the proper material selection. The scientifically based results obtained by the author contribute to solving an important problem for legal science and law enforcement activities. The study defines, supplements, and clarifies a number of provisions of a theoretical, legal, and methodological nature. It can be

useful for researchers, teachers, postgraduates, and students of higher educational institutions of the legal profile, practitioners of law enforcement agencies, specialists of state authorities, judges, and anyone who is interested in finding effective measures to protect people, society, and the state from criminal offences.