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ONE APPROACH TO DETERMINING THE DANGERS TO THE SECURITY-INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

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Abstract: *Contemporary challenges, risks and threats to the security of the Republic of Serbia are defined in strategic documents. Challenges, risks and threats are a manifestation of danger. The security-intelligence system of the Republic of Serbia is intended to protect national security from the perpetrators of illegal activities aimed at undermining or destroying the social order established by the Constitution. The aim of the paper is to determine the danger of the security-intelligence system of the Republic of Serbia from the point of view of the risk level. The list of dangers has been made based on the results of the research. Due to the length of the paper, only a brief overview of the methodology and results of the research is given.*

Keywords: *danger, challenges, risks, threats, security*

1. INTRODUCTION

Contemporary times are marked by conflicts that are a real threat to global security, as they produce a large number of civilian casualties and force millions to leave their homes. The modern era brings with it many unpredictable news that testify that the intervals between world crises are getting shorter, the scope and complexity of modern crises are increasing rapidly, leaving little or no time for planning. We are witnessing a very dynamic multidimensional and asymmetric process because globalization takes place unevenly in different dimensions, i.e. It is a complex process that covers equally economic, military, legal, ecological, cultural and social aspects.

In such security conditions, many countries have decided to build their national security on the "wagon" principle – tying their national security to one of the world powers or military-political alliances. The Republic of Serbia is a militarily and political neutral state. Therefore,

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preserving the national security of the Republic of Serbia is a very complex task that has been entrusted to us security-intelligence system of the Republic of Serbia.

The main focus of the paper is the determination of dangers per the security-intelligence system of the Republic of Serbia from the point of view of the probability of their occurrence and the severity of the consequences, that is, through risk assessment. The above is important primarily because it represents a guideline for further dealing with dangers according to priorities. The paper presents the results of the research conducted with the aim of obtaining the answer to the research question: "Defining the dangers of the security-intelligence system of the Republic of Serbia according to the risk level?" The dangers that was used for the purposes of the research are actually the challenges, risks and security threats defined in the National Security Strategy of the Republic of Serbia (hereinafter: The Strategy). The paper consists of three parts, the first part of the paper is dedicated to the security-intelligence system of the Republic of Serbia; the second part of the paper presents the conceptual definition of danger, challenges, risks and security threats, while the research protocol and results are presented in the third part of the paper.

2. SECURITY-INTELLIGENCE SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

The historical development and shaping of the security system in various periods undoubtedly indicates its dependence on political structures and the state. It is an apparatus of government that has always been under the scrutiny of politics. It can be said that every government is the foundation of a political system that represents an essential component of political processes in society. The security system is a complex, dynamic and specific subsystem in the development of every society (Dragisic, 2020).

The security-intelligence of the Republic of Serbia is intended to protect national security from the perpetrators of illegal activities aimed at undermining or destroying the social order established by the Constitution. For that purpose, multiple intertwined preventive and reactive measures and activities are undertaken. In cooperation with the bodies of the executive and judicial authorities, internal and external carriers who are thus prevented (disabled) from threatening the security of vital state values, that is, national security, are discovered and monitored.

The security-intelligence system is a constituent of the national security system of the Republic of Serbia. The security-intelligence system, according to the Law on the Basics of the Organization of the Security Services of the Republic of Serbia, consists of the following organizational structures: National Security Council, Bureau for the Coordination of Security Services, Security Services and Committee of the National Assembly for Supervision of the Work of Security Services. (Zakon o osnovama uredjenja sluZbi bezbednosti Republike Srbije, 2012) Connections and relationships between system elements are shown in Figure 1, solid lines indicate subordination, and dashed lines indicate information flow.

The *National Security Council* consists of the following members: the President of the Republic, the Prime Minister, the Minister, the Minister of Internal Affairs and Justice, the Chief of the General Staff of the Serbian Armed Forces and the directors of the security services. On the basis of the Law on the Basics of Organization of Security Services, the Council has a clear scope. The method of work is specified by certain internal acts – the Rules of Procedure of the Council (Kovacevic et al., 2018).

The *Bureau for the Coordination of Security Services* (hereinafter: the Bureau) is an operational body that coordinates the work of the security services and executes the conclusions of the Council within its jurisdiction. This implies that the Bureau: determines the method of operational harmonization in individual cases; determines the tasks that are

performed by operationally coordinating the activities of the security services and other state bodies; establishes mixed working groups for operational tasks; analyzes the results of operational alignment and reports to the Council. The bureau consists of the directors of the security services and the secretary of the Council by position, but without decision-making rights. Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the director of the police and heads of police departments, the Republic Public Prosecutor, the director of the Customs Administration and managers of other state bodies, institutions and organizations can participate in the work of the Bureau by invitation (Kovacevic et al., 2018).

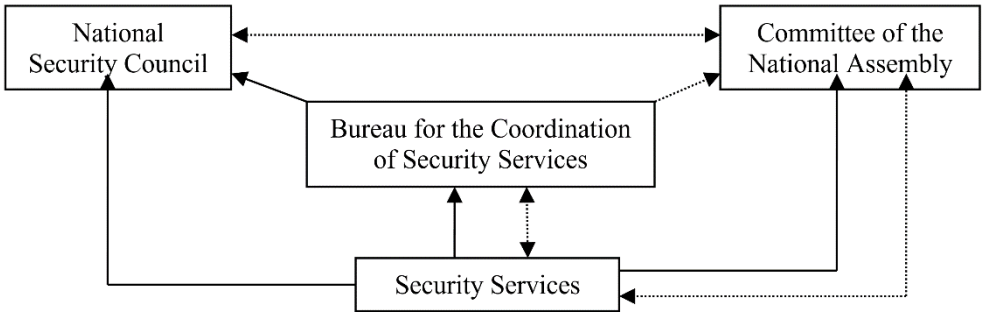

Figure 1. Schematic representation of the security-intelligence of the Republic of Serbia
Source: Author

The *security services f the Republic of Serbia* represent a specialized, relatively independent institution of the state apparatus authorized to collect security data and information about other countries and its institutions, as well as about possible enemies, by legal, public, but also secret ways and means, for the purpose of conducting state policy. The security services have a long tradition, and under the influence of social and political changes in the country, they underwent a certain degree of reorganization. They act on the basis of and within the framework of the Constitution, laws, other regulations and general acts, the national security strategy, the defense strategy and the established security and intelligence policy. All members of the security service must act in accordance with the above, according to the rules of the profession, politically neutral and impartial (Zakon o osnovama uredjenja sluZbi bezbednosti Republike Srbije, 2012).

The *Committee of the National Assembly for Supervision of the Work of Security Services* is the highest legislative body for democratic and civilian control of the security services. The constituents of the security system are the state and its citizens, while the subjects are the following: professional subjects of the security system; political subjects of the security system; and supplementary subjects of the security system (Kovacevic et al., 2018).

The work of the security services in the Republic of Serbia is under the democratic and civilian control of the National Assembly, the President of the Republic, the Government, the National Security Council, as well as other state bodies and the public, i.e. citizens. The supervision of the work of the security services is based on the following principles: political, ideological and interest neutrality of the security services; subordination and responsibility of the security services to the elected authorities of the Republic of Serbia; duties of supervisors to inform the public about their results; obligations of the security services to inform the public about the performance of their tasks in accordance with the law; professional responsibilities and operational independence of members of the security services in the execution of assigned tasks and the responsibilities of managers for the work of the services (Zakon o osnovama uredjenja sluZbi bezbednosti Republike Srbije, 2012).

3. CHALLENGES, RISKS AND THREATS TO THE SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

The basic terms of security grammar are: danger (what threatens), reference object of security (what is threatened) and means and measures of security (the way to protect) (Ejdus, 2012). "Danger is a potentially harmful physical event, phenomenon or human activity that can cause endangerment of human life and health, damage to material and cultural assets and the environment, or social and economic disturbances." (Zakon o smanjenju rizika od katastrofa i upravljanju vanrednim situacijama, 2018). The probability of occurrence and the severity of the consequences of danger to the safety reference object represent a risk, that is, the uncertainty of achieving the goals. This term should not be confused with the term used in the Strategy.

Danger can manifest as a challenge, risk or threat. Although these three types of dangers are often spoken together without making a clear conceptual distinction between them, these terms do not have the same meaning (Ejdus, 2012).

A challenge is a situation that puts someone or something to the test. This situation can have a negative or positive outcome (Ejdus, 2012). It represents the least harmful form of danger in terms of content and consequences, and in terms of time it is the farthest danger from the protected value. It is about the apparent phase of the danger which may or may not be realised and which is incorporated in the possible intention of its bearer (Bajagic, 2007).

Risk is defined as possibility of loss, injury, inconvenience or destruction. Unlike challenges, risk generally has a negative meaning (Ejdus, 2012). Security risk can be viewed as: "a specific form of danger since it is inherent to both the subject of security and the subject of danger. The two-sidedness of a security risk is that both subjects exist in an uncertain security environment and continuously make decisions about their own engagement, and each decision is accompanied by a certain risk." (Mijalkovski & DJordjevic, 2007).

A threat is a conscious intention to cause harm to a person, property or right in order to force the object of the threat to comply with the imposed behaviour. A more concrete phenomenon is the one whose occurrence is the least uncertain, while the harmful effects are the greatest and indisputable (Lazic, 2014).

The Strategy contains the list of the most significant challenges, risks and threats to the security of the Republic of Serbia: armed aggression, separatist aspirations, illegally unilaterally declared independence of the territory administratively included in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija, armed rebellion, terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, ethnic and religious extremism, intelligence activities, organised crime, drug addiction, mass illegal migrations, problems of economic development, problems of demographic development, epidemics and pandemics of infectious diseases, energy security, the unfinished process of demarcation of the countries of the former SFRY, natural disasters and technical and technological accidents, climate change, and the rise of high-tech crime and threats to information and communication systems (Strategija nacionalne bezbednosti Republike Srbije, 2020). The stated security challenges, risks and threats were used for the purposes of research, as threats to the security-intelligence system of the Republic of Serbia for which a risk assessment is carried out.

It is important to point out here, the Strategy recognises other challenges, risks and security threats, such as: "corruption, misuse of new technologies and scientific achievements, genetic engineering, medicine, meteorology and other scientific fields. They often do not exert an open influence on the security of the Republic of Serbia, so it is difficult to detect them and recognise the patterns of their activity." (Strategija nacionalne bezbednosti Republike Srbije, 2020).

4. REVIEW OF RESEARCH

The research method used in the paper is a combination of several methods, namely the method interview, matrix and the statistical method, even though it was inevitable to implement the methods of expert evaluations, analysis and synthesis, and induction and deduction in the research process. The entire research process is intertwined with these five methods, and the basic question is defining the dangers of the security-intelligence system of the Republic of Serbia according to the risk level. The goal of applying the interview method, matrix method and the statistical method is to determine the dominant views on the subject of the research paper, as well as to summarise the existing information on the subject of the research, while at the same time avoiding discrepancies in the opinions of experts. The research approach applied in the paper includes three phases: (1) research planning, (2) research implementation and (3) analysis of research results. The following stages of the research process are elaborated on in the remainder of the paper.

4.1. Research planning

In order to implement research planning, a research protocol has been defined, and it contains the following elements: research aim; research question; formation of an expert group; defining the research tool – survey questionnaire; data extraction and the synthesis of the extracted data.

The aim of the research has been to perform, at the level of scientific description, an analysis of the opinions received by experts concerning the defining dangers of the of the security-intelligence system of the Republic of Serbia according to the probability of their occurrence and the severity of the consequences. The realisation of the defined research aim is achieved by answering the research question:

RQ: *"Defining the dangers of the security-intelligence system of the Republic of Serbia according to the risk level?"*

The formation of the expert group was carried out through several stages: determination of the size of the expert group, selection and assessment of the competence of experts and definition of agreement of expert evaluations. Due to the extensiveness of the procedure for the formation of the expert group, only a brief overview of the implementation of the previously mentioned phases will be presented here. For the purposes of the research, the following experts were selected: retired and active members of the security agencies, as well as the members of the academic community whose sphere of interest is national security. Since this is the population of unknown size, the size of the expert group was determined according to the previously published model (Kovacevic, 2021). According to the aforesaid model, the minimum size of the expert group is 16. The selection of experts was made using the "snow avalanche" method. By applying this method, a potential group of 34 experts was determined. The assessment of experts' competence was carried out using the Dobrov's method and the Russian method. (Kovacevic, 2021) By applying the aforementioned methods, out of 34 potential experts, 18 people were selected as experts by competence assessment.

The survey questionnaire consisted of two parts, in the first part the experts entered their personal data, which were necessary for evaluating their competence (according to the combined method that includes the Poland method and the Dobrov's method); while in the second part the questions related to the probability of occurrence and severity of the consequences of certain dangers of the security-intelligence of the Republic of Serbia were formulated.

Data extraction was performed on the basis of the answers to the questions from the survey questionnaire, and *the synthesis of the extracted data* was performed using the statistical method, more specifically positional average values, with a previous analysis of the agreement of expert evaluations (opinions).

4.2. Research implementation

After defining the expert group (size and competence) and creating the survey questionnaire, the survey was conducted. The survey was conducted electronically in such a way that the experts received the questionnaire via e-mail and returned it to the researcher. After receiving expert evaluations, their agreement was analysed using the concordance test (W), Concordance test is, the correlation coefficient of the ranks for the expert group, as a measure of the agreement of the experts. The concordance coefficient tests the relationship between the actual and the maximum possible agreement of the experts, and varies within [0,1], where a value of 1 means that all experts gave the same ratings, and a value of 0 means that there is no relationship between the expert ratings. After processing the answers of the experts, the concordance coefficient was calculated W=0,395 which, according to the table values, proves that the deviations are minimal in relation to the sample size (Petz, 1997) Since it was established that there is a correlation of expert evaluations, there was no need to conduct interviews with individual experts, that is, there were no drastic deviations of experts' opinions (differences in expert evaluations) within the group. The above represents a quantitative processing of expert evaluations. After receiving the expert evaluations, their analysis was performed using the positional average value - mode, and then a conclusion was drawn, which is a qualitative analysis of the expert evaluations. (Kovacevic et al., 2022)

4.3. Analysis of the research results

After the quantitative, a qualitative analysis of the research results was performed. A matrix method was used for risk assessment, specifically the 5x5 risk matrix (MIL-STD-882B) with five levels of risk. In the survey questionnaire itself, the experts were first offered nineteen dangers taken from the Strategy, then to rate the probability of occurrence of each danger on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 – Very Unlikely, 2 – Unlikely, 3 – Possible, 4 – Likely and 5 – Very Likely, then to rate the severity of the consequences of each danger on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 – Negligible, 2 – Minor, 3 – Moderate, 4 – Significant and 5 – Severe. (Kovacevic et al., 2019) Results of expert evaluation are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Results of expert evaluations

Name of the danger	Probability	Consequences	Risk	Level
Armed aggression	3,94	4,44	17,50	High
Separatist aspirations	3,11	3,61	11,23	Medium
Illegally unilaterally declared independence of the territory administratively included in the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija	3,11	2,72	8,47	Medium
Armed rebellion	2,72	3,05	8,31	Medium
Terrorism	3,22	3,44	11,09	Medium
Proliferation of weapons of mass destruction	2,55	3,50	8,92	Medium
Ethnic and religious extremism	3,72	3,94	14,67	Medium High
Intelligence activities	3,61	4,50	16,24	High

Name of the danger	Probability	Consequences	Risk	Level
Organised crime	4,06	4,28	17,37	High
Drug addiction	2,39	2,28	5,44	Low Medium
Mass illegal migrations	3,72	4,33	16,11	High
Problems of economic development	4,22	4,28	18,05	High
Problems of demographic development	3,00	3,33	9,99	Medium
Epidemics and pandemics of infectious diseases	4,39	4,44	19,51	High
Energy security	4,50	4,33	19,50	High
The unfinished process of demarcation of the countries of the former SFRY	1,67	2,00	3,34	Low
Natural disasters and technical and technological accidents	3,11	3,33	10,37	Medium
Climate change	2,78	2,72	7,57	Low Medium
The rise of high-tech crime and threats to information and communication systems	3,89	4,22	16,42	High

The values in the "Probability" column were obtained by multiplying the number of experts who agreed with the value of the division of the scale, adding them and dividing by the number 18. The same principle is applied to get the values in column "Consequences". Values in the column "Risk" are obtained by multiplying the values from the columns "Probability" and "Consequences". The level of risk is determined according to the following from 0 to 4,00 Low; from 4,01 to 8,00 Low Medium; from 8,01 do 12,00 Medium; from 12,01 to 16,00 Medium High and from 16,01 to 25,00 High. Risk is considered to be unacceptable, if it is estimated to be Very High and High, and acceptable, if it belongs to the field of secondary (Medium, Low Medium) or Low risk.

5. CONCLUSION

The paper presents the results of research aimed at answering the research question: "*Defining the dangers of the security-intelligence system of the Republic of Serbia according to the risk level?"* The research results are significant in three aspects. Firstly, dangers to the security-intelligence system of the Republic of Serbia were evaluated according to probability of occurrence and severity of consequences for the system. Secondly, the research results provide guidelines for further treatment of dangers, depending on whether they are in the field of acceptable or unacceptable risk. Thirdly, the research results from the point of view of the consequences of certain danger show which parts of the security-intelligence system are particularly threatened.

Based on the research results, it can be concluded that the following threats to the security-intelligence system fall into the field of unacceptable risk: epidemics and pandemics of infectious diseases, energy security, problems of economic development, armed aggression, organised crime, intelligence activities, mass illegal migrations and ethnic and religious extremism. The paper presents one of the approaches to determining the dangers to the security-intelligence system of the Republic of Serbia.

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