

SUMMARY

The dissertation entitled *The impact of new psychoactive substances on societal safety in the European Union* was an attempt to assess the risks associated with the use of new psychoactive substances (NPS) in the context of societal safety in Poland, France, and the Netherlands. Nowadays, we are hearing about the development of the NPS market on a regular basis, and the approach to the problem varies from one Member State of the European Union to another. The growing number of such substances available on the internal market, their diversity and the speed with which they appear and spread, the social, health, economic and forensic risks that arise from this problem, as well as the increasing number of people using these substances - all pose a huge challenge for public authorities and medical services.

The main motive for writing this dissertation was the lack of an assessment of the impact of NPS on societal safety in EU countries, which would concretely identify the sources of threats and outline strategies and ways to implement changes in the research area.

This dissertation belongs in the field of security sciences primarily because it contains, and at the same time indicates new cognitive horizons based on the considerations of the author, who conducted a thorough analysis of the literature on the subject and empirical material, but also because it attempts to show the concept of change in the area of drug prevention. The dissertation extensively discusses the economic, health, social, and criminal threats, which, despite being largely recognized, still do not deter people from using new psychoactive substances - even those aware of their harmfulness and destructive effects on the body.

The experience of knowing the environment of the European institutions from the inside allowed the author to define the problem areas, which contributed to the assessment of the level of societal safety in the drug prevention field.

The structure of the dissertation includes theoretical and empirical elements. It consists of an introduction, four chapters, a conclusion, a bibliography, a list of figures, tables, and appendices. To verify the hypotheses in the second, third, and fourth chapters, the primary test used in the statistical analyses is Pearson's Chi-square test for independent variables. It was mainly used for questions built on nominal scales. Coefficients based on the aforementioned test, Phi and Kramer's V, were used to determine the strength of the relationship.

The first chapter, entitled *Methodology of own research*, addresses the subject matter and purpose of the research. The research problem, as well as the main and detailed hypotheses, are presented. Empirical and theoretical methods, research techniques, and tools are described. The research area is outlined and the research sample is characterized.

The main research problem of the dissertation included the following question: *What is the impact of new psychoactive substances on societal safety in the European Union?*

For the dissertation and research problems based on the state of knowledge and analysis of the literature on the subject, as well as projected changes, the main hypothesis was adopted: *new psychoactive substances have a negative impact on societal safety in the European Union. They threaten psychophysical health and human life, leading to addictions, overdoses, and even death. In the long term, it has a destructive effect on relationships with the environment and leads to an increase in juvenile crime, aggression, moral desensitization, manipulation, terrorism, or serial murders. NPS use also affects the economies of EU countries, putting the most strain on their health systems - including health centers - generating high treatment costs for addicts. In addition, the lack of preventive measures on the part of public institutions, such as support for NPS users and their families, the introduction of substitution treatment, health harm reduction, or overdose prevention programs, also has a negative impact on reducing the sense of societal safety.*

The second chapter, entitled *Societal Safety in the European Union*, focuses on legal and organizational measures implemented by institutions at the EU and national levels towards improving societal safety. In the legal aspect, since 1993, normative acts and activities of the European Union in the field of drug policy, brought closer together. It also examines the creation of societal safety through the prism of drug crime prevention policy, with examples from selected countries: Poland, France, and the Netherlands. Finally, drug prevention activities are also outlined.

The third chapter, entitled *New Psychoactive Substances as the Multidimensional Threats to the European Union*, identifies the dangers of NPS use and the most significant economic, social, health, and criminal harms. The role of the Internet as the dominant form of selling this type of substance is portrayed.

The fourth chapter, entitled *Improvements to the concept of a prevention program to combat new psychoactive substances in order to improve societal safety*, develops the concept of a modern prevention program to combat new psychoactive substances. Furthermore, it outlines directions for change to improve societal safety among Europeans. These changes include, for example, improving the exchange of information between

institutions on NPS, relying on evidence, making reliable data available to the public on the harmfulness of new psychoactive substances, combining services at multiple levels (medical, legal, etc.) and much more.

The dissertation exhausts the main research issues supported by a thorough analysis of the literature, empirical material, the case, and the selection and application of appropriate research methods. In the content of the dissertation, the author discusses the full range of issues around societal safety in selected countries of the European Union: Poland, France, and the Netherlands.

Keywords: new psychoactive substances, societal safety, drug prevention, prevention program, multidimensional threats