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TÍTULO: La percepción de los efectos negativos de la migración como un riesgo de seguridad para los ciudadanos de la República Eslovaca.

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RESUMEN: El artículo presentado discutió el problema de la migración ilegal y su percepción por parte de los jóvenes con respecto a la seguridad. Este artículo describe el estudio, que tiene la ambición de contribuir a aumentar la eficiencia del efecto preventivo en la juventud y ayudar a eliminar los aspectos negativos de este problema. El objetivo del estudio fue descubrir la actitud de los jóvenes ante el problema de la migración ilegal y su opinión sobre los posibles riesgos de la migración ilegal con respecto a la actividad criminal, la seguridad y también la necesidad de ayudar a los refugiados que ingresan al área de la República Eslovaca.

PALABRAS CLAVES: migration, crime prevention, criminal offenses, security education.

TITLE: The perception of the negative effects of migration as a security risk to the citizens of the Slovak Republic.

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ABSTRACT: The submitted article discussed the problem of illegal migration and its perception by young people regarding security. This article describes the study, which has an ambition to contribute to increase the efficiency of preventive effect on youth and help eliminate the negative aspects of this problem. The aim of the study was to discover the attitude of young people to the problem of illegal migration and their opinion about possible risks of illegal migration regarding criminal activity, security and also the necessity to help refugees entering the area of Slovak Republic.

KEY WORDS: migration, crime prevention, criminal offenses, security education.

INTRODUCTION.

Nowadays, mobility of people is higher than ever. Migration trends have a rising tendency. However, we have to realize that this mobility throughout one or more continents has always been present (Hreha, 2018). There are more and more migrants in the world and their number rises annually. Migration becomes one of the most important phenomena. It has been increasing+ in Slovakia, since it became a member of the European Union (IOM, 2017).

It also becomes one of the most important phenomena worldwide. Uncontrollable immigration of people from the third world countries threatens political and economic stability as well as the democratic system (Semjan, 2017).

Organized criminality, youth criminality and link of criminal groups of foreigners with areas of criminal subculture are a high risk in the foreign community. The most common types of criminal activities in such groups are trading of narcotics, thefts, organizing prostitution and human trafficking. The topic of migrants currently resonates in Europe, being discussed by media, by politicians and church. There is also a high amount of scholarly articles discussing this topic (Alba, Foner, 2015; Bektas, 2017; Ludwig, 2016). They address not only migration itself, but also the topic of illegal migration and its link with criminal activities (Gonzalez-Sanchez, 2018; Abiuso, 2018; Ludwig, Johnson, 2017; Solivetti, 2018).

A project dealing with young people and their perception of illegal migration and its negative influence has been realized in the process of looking for adequate mean for criminality prevention. The study was processed within the so called "Creating and Testing Presentations for Crime Prevention Projects Related to Illegal Migration" project supported by Council of the Slovak Government for Crime Prevention in 2017 at The University of Security Management in Kosice. This article provides attitudes of young people towards this problem. This project brought some important findings.

DEVELOPMENT.

Realization of the project and its aims.

The main aims of the project mentioned in the introduction were to increase the efficiency of preventative influence on young people, creation of criminal prevention projects, which will address young people and help eliminate unwanted phenomena of studied issue. The study had two phases. This project was realized on The University of Security Management in Košice which is an education institution focusing on the area of security management.

This article discusses the second part of the project and its results – opinions of young people on the problem of illegal migration, obtained by a method of questionnaire (Kovacova *at al.*, 2017).

The aim of the quantitative research was to discover the attitude of young people towards the issue of illegal migration, and what are their opinions on possible risks of illegal migration regarding criminal activities. It also focused on the necessity of helping the refugees while entering the area of Slovak Republic.

Target group consisted primarily of students. Together, there were 110 students in the age range of 18 to 25 years. Questionnaire consisted of 17 items divided into four parts:

1st part – *Identification of students* – sex, age, city, county (items 1, 2, 3).

2nd part – *knowledge about the issue of illegal migration in the area of Slovak Republic* (items 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 17).

3rd part – *Perception of illegal migration as a threat for Slovakia* – information about the perception of illegal migration in young people as a threat for the inhabitants of Slovak Republic in means of criminal activities, including terrorism, religious intolerance and gradual change of cultural and social norms, health risks (items 9, 10, 11, 12, 13).

4th part – *knowledge about how to help refugees who enter the area of Slovak Republic* – do they consider this help sufficient? (Items 14, 15, 16).

Results of quantitative research.

Evaluation of the second part – knowledge of young people about the issue of illegal migration.

The findings of the second part show that the issue of illegal migration has been recently a widely discussed topic.

Almost every student encountered this issue and perceives it as a security problem for European countries as well as Slovak people. However, students are not familiar with more details of this issue.

Many students understand illegal migration only as an unauthorized entry of people to the area of other country, with help of people smugglers. Other students perceive this issue as a massive business. Illegal immigrants are perceived as people who seek social security and benefits, people who are oppressed by war, political situation, religious or racial hatred. Many young people never encounter illegal migrants. The reason for this may be low number of such people in the investigated area of Slovakia, or ignorance of young people about the emergence of immigrants. Young people consider armed conflicts, political instability, low standard of living and poverty as the main reasons for leaving countries, which migrants come from.

As we anticipated before, the major source of information for questioned young people were media, mostly internet. People also acquire information from friends. Some of them mention secondary school as a source of information. This finding can be considered significant, since only 16,2 % of respondents gained the knowledge about current affairs in the EU from school they attended recently.

3rd part - Perception of illegal migration as a threat for Slovakia.

Majority of students see the risks of illegal migration in the unbearable economic burden for the country into which migrants come. Other risks can be religious intolerance, gradual change of cultural and social norms, increase of criminal activities, health risks and risks of infectious diseases. Perception of terrorism as a serious risk of illegal migration was one of the important findings. 86,5% of students agree with this claim. 92,7% of students perceive migrants as people closely linked to terrorist organizations, which come to European countries with bad intentions. 94,5 % students believe that higher number of Islamic radicals is a result of illegal migration (Fig. 1).

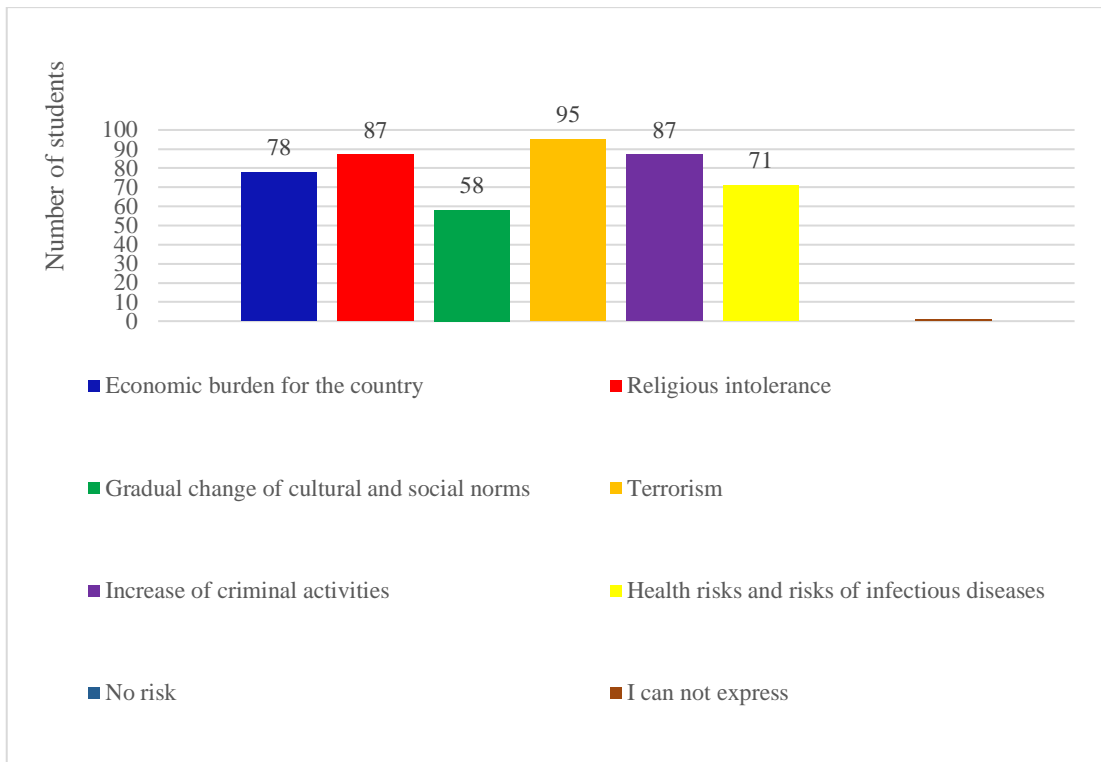


Fig. 1 Perceiving the risks of illegal migration.

In the questionnaire, students should also voice their ideas on elimination of risks. Majority of them, 85,6 % agree on increasing guarding and securing of borders; it means eliminate the risk completely and not allow migrants on the area of Slovak Republic. Many of them agreed on toughening of immigration rules in Slovak legislature and also on creation of quotas for accepting illegal immigrants. Not many of them see the solution in systematic social integration into society (Fig. 2).

4th part - *knowledge about how to help refugees who enter the area of Slovak Republic.*

Students were able to voice their own opinion on the question of how are refugees helped after they enter Slovakia. They had different opinions. Most of them believed that refugees get the basic things they need (place to sleep, food, and clothing). Approximately half of them consider this help sufficient; however the third of them has no information about this help and therefore was not able to address this question. This shows that students have low, or no knowledge about this aspect of

migration. Majority of students does not know any organization that deals with illegal migrants; only third of them knows at least one.

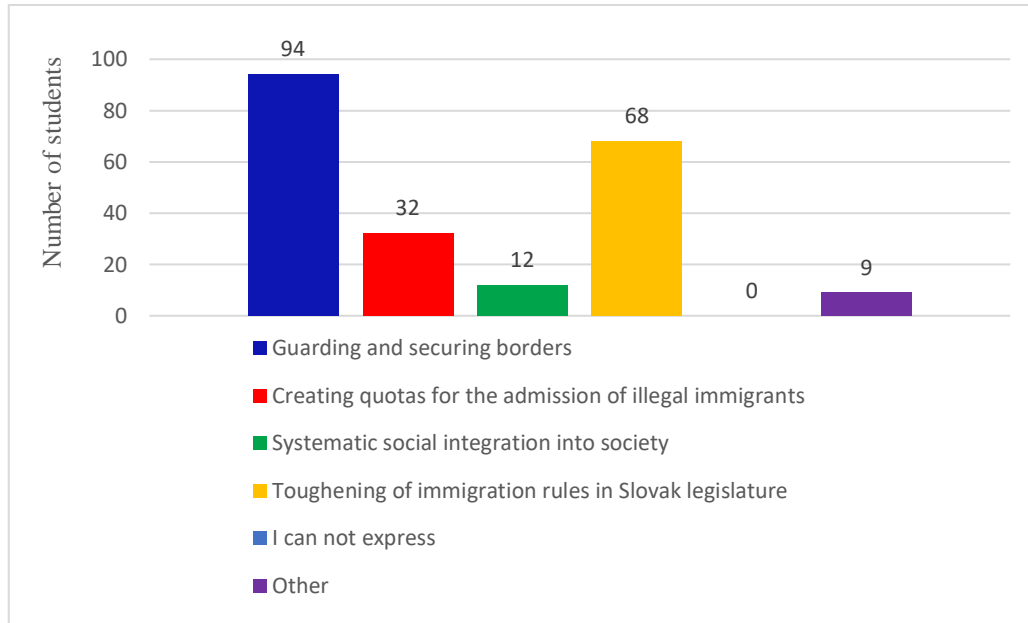


Fig. 2 Knowledge on how to eliminate the risks associated with illegal migration

4th part - knowledge about how to help refugees who enter the area of Slovak Republic.

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When evaluating some items of the quantitative research, it was discovered that almost every student encountered this issue, however closer characteristics of the issue itself as well as its specifications are not known to them. Later, we discovered that the most common source of information about

migration and criminal activities for young people is the internet. It can be concluded that the knowledge of young people is not on the sufficient level, or they are distorted by many factors influencing their thinking, opinions and attitudes. With so much negative information still appearing today, young people don't have any chance, strength or will to critically think. Nowadays, people react quickly and young people are pushed to create their opinion immediately. You must believe in one thing, or the other. And when you don't have enough time to create your own opinion, you must take it from somebody else.

Only a low percentage of asked students gained serious information about current affairs in the EU on secondary school, which they finished in recent years. That is also an interesting finding.

Few basic recommendations for secondary schools can be created from obtained results. Secondary schools significantly participate on educating and upbringing of young people and may radically contribute to lowering of criminality and security of individuals and society by:

- Gradually incorporating basic information about prevention of criminality connected with illegal migration into school curriculum.
- Collaborating with institutions which deal with solving of given issues – for example colleges providing security education and realizing scientific and research activities in this filed.
- Checking current security situation in the world, within EU but most importantly in Slovakia, subsequently inform students, discuss these issues in groups, focus on their reactions and opinions,
- Getting students involved to preventive activities, projects for criminality prevention, for example those covered by Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic.
- Looking for possibilities to get involved into projects for prevention of criminality connected with illegal migration, etc.
- Objectifying information about migrants provided to students by facts from official organizations in order to suppress arising of mistaken opinions based on distorted information in media.

- Teaching young people basic facts about media techniques of influencing and clarifying how the theory of media war works. Based on the understanding of these techniques, they will be able to objectively evaluate information provided by media.

Security education and the issue of illegal migration.

It is needed to emphasise the importance of security education in the area of illegal migration on secondary schools and to focus more on specific preparation and broadening of knowledge and skills of young people about secure behaviour.

Security education can be described as education, the content of which are theoretical and practical knowledge and skills about protection of people and property, focus on diverting or minimizing of security risks of different forms and causes as well as on solving of already present critical situations and phenomena in different areas of security (civil, environmental, economic, energetic, logistic, technical etc.) (Kovacova, Klimo, 2013).

Security education system needs to be systematically and logically set in order for it to fluently shift from secondary school to university. It needs to be set in such a way, that students on secondary schools will be able to gain knowledge of methods, by which they will be able to analyse the environment and situation that occurred. They will be able to analyse the behaviour of other people, identify and evaluate risks, threats and to predict their development. They will also be able to choose the right approach and measures for solving of critical situations.

It is not enough just to solve critical situations already present. The importance of security education lies mostly in prevention, it means getting students ready to predict risks and also prevent them.

It is necessary to focus the attention on the following: reasons for migration and its types, characterisation of illegal migration, identification of risks of illegal migration, results of migration, criminal activity connected with migration, and the possibilities of criminal activity prevention.

The main aims of security education focusing on criminality prevention should be to provide the graduate following abilities: skills, knowledge and values in the given area of security. The assumption is, that the graduates will acquire following key competences during their studies:

- They know the measures for criminality prevention.
- They acquire the tactics for behaviour in certain type of violent situations.
- They are able to react on the given type of violence accordingly.
- They acquire individual tactical approaches of criminality prevention (face, avoid, announce) and they are able to use them in a given situation.
- They know the ways of announcing such actions.
- They distinguish between opinions and facts.
- They are able to judge which information is true, trustworthy, which one is misleading, faulty, by confirming the truth from various, mutually independent sources.
- They consistently think about information and try to gain the most relevant information.
- They acquire the basics of criminal liability.
- They distinguish the signs and results of illegal actions.

From the above-mentioned competencies, we can conclude that by quality preparation and following of given curricula of security education, the graduate acquires a certain platform of knowledge and habits of security awareness and subsequently, security behaviour.

CONCLUSIONS.

This article discussed the issue of illegal migration and its perception by young people. A research was described, and based on its results, it has an ambition to contribute to increasing of efficiency of preventive influence on young people as well as eliminate unwanted phenomena of studied issues.

Based on the gained findings from the quantitative research, we can simply conclude the perception of illegal immigration by young people as a sociological, economic and security risk for member countries of the EU. The majority of young people perceive the topic of illegal migration as a potential risk of worsening their own social conditions. They believe that the quality of their life in the presence of foreigners with different cultural and religious values will be lower. They see the risks in unbearable economic burden for the country, into which migrants come, in religious intolerance and gradual change of cultural and social norms. Young people see the risks also in the increase of criminal activities, health risks, and links of migrants to terrorist organizations, which come to European countries with bad intentions and in the higher number of terrorist attacks.

These opinions gained from young people in this research make us think. They are in many cases shocking. However, there is a question that needs to be asked: Should we really be shocked? Every day, we hear about criminal attacks connected with illegal migration and we just watch them with a feeling of helplessness, weakness, without any warranty of ensuring security, without the possibility to protect ourselves and those close to us against the consequences of security threats arising from this phenomenon.

It is alarming that almost all of the participants got acquainted with this issue and they really consider it as a security problem for the European countries, more specifically, Slovak Republic. The closer characteristics of this phenomenon are, however not known to our participants. Therefore, we can say that young people have just a small, basic knowledge about the issue of illegal migration and its negative impact on the modern society. Their knowledge is not only basic, but sometimes also distorted by various factors that influence their thinking, opinions and attitudes. Therefore, it is needed to focus on security education on secondary schools and pay higher attention to specific preparation and broadening of knowledge and skills about security behaviour in common life situations (Kovacova, Vackova, 2015).

It is necessary for secondary schools to reflect the current security situation within EU, but also the whole world. Secondary schools should work with basic information about criminality prevention linked to illegal migration in their curricula. Furthermore, the laws should be updated. People should be educated about migration and risks that it brings. Legal knowledge about acts connected with migration should also be widened.

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