





# Economic Security in Russia: Does Criminal Repression Play a Role?

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**Keywords:** Criminal law, criminology, crime prevention, globalization, national economy, economic security, corruption, crime counteraction, economic growth.


**Abstract:** The first step in systematically combatting economic crime is to understand its scale and nature. The processes associated with the globalization of the economy seem to be irreversible natural evolutionary processes of the development of modern society. Therefore, any of the economic systems of individual states in the third decade of the 21st century becomes more dependent on foreign economies. Countering economic crime is the most important component in ensuring the economic security of Russia. The purpose of the study is to present the Strategy for Economic Security until 2030 and to study modern problems of combating crime in the economic sphere. The methodological basis of the work was a systematic review of literature and content analysis of documents of international organizations. The authors found that the growth of threats to economic security in Russia is exacerbated by the continuous increase in the number of new ways of committing economic crime and corruption. The most in demand is the prevention of such crimes and the intensification of international cooperation in the field of their prevention. In the course of the research, the authors come to the conclusion that, without denying serious successes in the study of crime prevention in the economic sphere, the processes of scientific study of the problem in question are far from complete.


## 1 INTRODUCTION


At the beginning of the third decade of the 21st century, the problem of crime prevention in the sphere of the Russian economy has become especially acute. For a long time, the state paid too little attention to the legal aspects of economic security. Only in 2017, the President of the Russian Federation approved a new Strategy for Economic Security of the Russian Federation until 2030 (hereinafter referred to as the 2017 Strategy), replacing the State Strategy for Economic Security of the Russian Federation of 29 April 1996. The 1996 Strategy did


not correspond to the economic realities of the second decade of the 21st century after the turbulent transformations of the economy, economic activity and property, which lasted more than two decades after the collapse of the USSR. The 2017 Strategy identifies 8 priority areas of government policy. The mission of the state in the field of ensuring economic security is, in particular, to increase the economy's resilience to the effects of external and internal challenges and threats.

The persisting external threats to economic security are due to the involvement of the Russian economy in international economic relations

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(Fishman, 2016; Nasreen, Mahalik, Shahbaz & Abbas, 2020). Any of the economic systems of individual states in the third decade of the 21st century is increasingly dependent on foreign economies. Researchers from Iran conclude: «Globalization and the expansion of foreign economic relations along with the intervention of each of the states through exercising their national economic policies within the framework of economic rules have led to serious complexities, both for states and the private sector involved in the international economic relations» (Adibi & Habibi, 2017). From the experience of Russia, we see that integration into the global economy, in the event of the introduction of economic sanctions against certain Russian companies and sectors of the national economy, has become a serious risk to the country's economic security (Krasnova, 2019).

The 2017 Strategy classifies a high level of criminalization in the economic sphere and corruption as internal threats to economic security. This problem has been widely studied by now, both in domestic and international literature. Many previous studies (1995-2020) emphasize the relationship between economic crime and state institutions, as a result of which "some elite actors accept the use of violence as a tool in political and economic competition" (Belokurova, 2018). Studies of the economic security of the subsequent period of the country's economic development reveal the general issues of combating economic crime (Suhodolov & others, 2017) and corruption (Iliy, 2016; Suhodolov and others, 2018; Bytko, 2019), give various definitions of the concept of "economic security" (Klimonova, 2014). In particular, they define economic security as the basis for ensuring national security and its other constituent elements (Hoffman, 2021). Economic security can be characterized as an activity to protect state economic interests (Venkatachalam & Kumar, 2021).

Criminologists note the emergence of new forms of illegal activity carried out using information, communication and other advanced technologies (Sukhodolov, Ivantsov, Borisov & Spasennikov, 2017; Kobets & Krasnova, 2018). Although in recent years a sufficient number of studies have been published on the legal regulation of the fight against certain economic crimes (Ponomareva, 2019; Markuntsov & Wassmer, 2020), it should be recognized that there is insufficient coverage of the specifics of preventing crimes of this type.

In this article, we will consider in detail a set of measures to prevent economic crime and corruption. The purpose of our research is to present the 2017

Strategy and explore the possibilities of criminal law and codes of business ethics in the fight against economic crime.

## 2 MATERIALS AND METHODS

We present a systematic review of the literature that investigates economic crime and criminal law measures to combat it, identifying the factors of economic crime. To search for relevant studies, published literature was identified from Scimagojr, Research Gate, Science Direct, Google Scholar, Sage Open. A content analysis of the content of documents of international organizations was also carried out in order to identify various facts and trends in ensuring economic security and combating corruption.

## 3 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Analysis of scientific literature and content analysis of documents of international organizations, allowed to establish an effective measure of countering economic crime and corruption in the private sector. The review shows that anti-corruption compliance programs are universal and can be part of any national strategy to combat economic crime. Experts argue that the inclusion in company policy of a ban prohibiting employees or agents from participating in any act of corruption, with strict sanctions up to and including termination of employment for various violations, including non-compliance with anti-corruption behavior, will help close the supply side of the corruption equation (Ferris & others, 2021). We have established that multinational companies are guided by the Anti-Bribery Business Principles (Business Principles for Countering Bribery, 2021). For example, ENKA's Code of Corporate Conduct states that the company follows the principle of "zero tolerance for bribery" and is committed to abide by the relevant laws, rules and principles (Combating Bribery and Corruption, 2021). However, the inclusion of anti-corruption provisions in local acts of companies does not remove the issue of measuring the changes that occur as a result of the introduction of anti-corruption rules into business practice. Research on various indicators of economic security becomes the basis for the preparation and implementation of various strategies for economic security (Shafieva, 2019).

The system of indicators of economic security is based on measuring: the effectiveness of the country's

international economic policy; gold and foreign exchange reserve of the country; shadow economy; environmental and other problems. Economic security indicators identify its main threats. Currently, experts are discussing a variety of indicators. The most complete is the system of 19 indicators proposed by V. Plotnikov, reflecting the financial sector of the economy, the real estate sector and the social sphere (Plotnikov, 2018).

## 4 CONCLUSIONS

Without denying serious successes in the study of economic security, we argue that the processes of scientific research of the problems under consideration are still far from complete. Such studies do not lose their relevance due to the growing globalization, world, economic problems and their complications by the COVID-19 pandemic. The priority direction of ensuring the country's economic security is the creation of all the necessary conditions for the prevention of crimes in the economic sphere. It is advised to continue the work of all interested international organizations to develop threshold values for the main indicators of economic security.

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