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**CRIMINOLOGICAL ANALYSIS AND THE PREVENTION OF  
CRIME IN RURAL AREAS**

**SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS IN LAW**

**Specialty: 554.02 - Criminology**

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The dissertation and the abstract can be consulted at the National Library of the Republic of Moldova, the “Tudor Roșca” General Library of the “Ștefan cel Mare” Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, on the website of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research ([www.anacec.md](http://www.anacec.md)), and on the website of the Doctoral School of Criminal Sciences and Public Law (<https://academy.police.md/scoala-doctorala/sustinere-teze-de-doctorat/teze-de-doctorat>)

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## CONCEPTUAL REFERENCES OF RESEARCH

**The actuality and importance of the problem.** In the context of the profound changes taking place worldwide, determined by globalization, regionalization, industrialization, digitalization, migration, war and other security challenges, the study of rural crime holds undeniable contemporary relevance. These transformations have affected rural environments and created the need for new interventions that would support effective public policies for the prevention and control of crime in accordance with the evolving patterns of criminal behavior. Although rural areas of the Republic of Moldova are traditionally perceived as conservative and relatively socially stable spaces, statistical data reveal an increasingly diversified criminal dynamic. Despite the community cohesion and the informal social control characteristic of the village, a significant spread of highly organized forms of crime is observed, including environmental crime, electoral corruption, smuggling, illegal border crossing, the organization of illegal migration and offences related to the transport sector. These developments demonstrate the adaptation of criminal behavior to new economic and geopolitical conditions, transforming the rural environment into a vulnerable yet highly relevant setting for the phenomenological and criminological study of contemporary crime.

Rural crime is often perceived as less relevant than urban crime, based on the assumption that rural areas are peaceful and largely free of criminality. However, this perception is contradicted by the reality that almost half of the global population, approximately 45 percent<sup>1</sup>, lives in rural environments that are undergoing profound transformations under the influence of new global economic dynamics. The myth of rural communities being “immune to crime” persists, overlooking the complexity and diversity of criminal behavior that occurs in these areas. Despite their low population density and characteristic isolation, which in theory might reduce the attractiveness of such areas for certain types of crime, there are rural communities where the risk of violent criminal victimization is comparable to, or even exceeds, that of urban environments.

The specific characteristics of the rural environment, such as considerable distances between localities, limited access to transport and communications, and the predominantly seasonal nature of economic activities, shape a distinct dynamic of criminal phenomena. These structural conditions, combined with the distance from administrative centers and the sporadic presence of law enforcement representatives, contribute to a reduction in formal social control and to the creation

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank: World Urbanization Prospects. Rural population. [cited 30.03.2025]. Available: <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.RUR.TOTL?end=2024&start=1960>.

of areas of criminogenic vulnerability. In this context, criminal behavior tends to manifest in forms adapted to local particularities, and the ability of rural communities to respond effectively to criminal threats depends directly on the level of social cohesion, civic engagement and the institutional resources available.

Moreover, factors such as poverty, alcoholism, the lack of employment opportunities and social isolation exacerbate the vulnerability of residents in rural areas to various forms of criminality. These factors highlight the need for a specialized criminological approach that recognizes and addresses the particularities of rural crime, emphasizing the necessity of developing prevention and intervention strategies that are adapted to the specific rural context.

The study aims to decode the criminological profile of the rural area, identifying not only the predominant typologies of delinquency and crime but also the specific victimological particularities, by analyzing the vulnerability of the rural population to various forms of victimization. The study also seeks to assess the effectiveness of existing crime prevention strategies and to adapt them to the rural socio-economic and cultural context, with the purpose of developing criminological intervention models that are more effective and more sensitive to the particularities of the rural environment.

A detailed criminological analysis, combined with innovative preventive approaches adapted to the particularities of the rural environment, will contribute to a better understanding of the phenomenon of rural crime and to the development of more effective prevention strategies.

**Description of the research field and identification of research problems.** In the Republic of Moldova there is no evidence of comprehensive studies on rural crime, nor of research that academically addresses the cognitive dimensions of this phenomenon. However, among the Moldovan and Romanian authors who have fully or partially engaged with this area of knowledge are the following: Bujor V., Larii Iu., Rotari O., Gladchi Gh., Ciobanu Ig., Bejan V., Cojocaru R., Ionașcu V. (Republic of Moldova), and Bădescu Il., Cucu-Oancea O., Rădulescu S. M., Dâmboeanu C., Banciu D., Balica E., Mărgineanu I., Hotca A. M. (Romania).

A more in-depth criminological approach to rural crime has been documented in the criminological doctrine of the Russian Federation, and among the authors dedicated to this subject, whose works have been examined within this framework, are the following: Бабаев М. М., Долгова А. И., Красковский Я. Э., Левашова О. В., Сорокин А. Б., Шуклина Е. А., Присяжный М. Ю., Мусейбов А. Г., Ильяшенко А. Н., and others.

In contrast, consistent scholarly efforts reflected in progressive exegetical approaches to understanding rural crime have been identified

in the specialized doctrine of Western states. Among the most prominent authors are the following: Donnermeyer J. F., DeKeseredy W. S., Weisheit R. A., Falcone D. N., Wells L. E. (United States); Marshall B., Johnson S. D., Nurse A., Lawtley A., Deane M., White R., South N., Bowden M. (United Kingdom); Ceccato V., Abraham J., Anderson J. (Sweden); Homel P., Harkness A. (Australia); Ďurkovičová J., Lazíková J., Takáč I. and Rumanovská L. (Slovakia), among others.

Essentially, these studies have shown that the rural environment is not immune to crime but, through its specific characteristics, generates a wide range of offences, some of which are unique to the context in which they are committed. According to these findings, rural crime includes both traditional offences, such as theft, domestic violence and substance abuse, and specific forms of criminality linked to the rural context, such as crimes against nature, green crime and agricultural crime.

These empirical findings highlight not only the complexity of the phenomenon but also the necessity of a consolidated theoretical foundation.

At present, in the field of rural criminology, there is a clear need to develop a unified theoretical framework for researching this phenomenon by conceptualizing it as a distinct sectoral domain of criminology. Thus, in doctrinal terms, the most frequent debates concern the identification of the socio-criminological essence of rural criminality, the elucidation of the endogenous and exogenous factors conditioning its genesis, as well as the delineation of the biopsychosocial coordinates characteristic of offenders' personalities and of the victimization particularities specific to the rural environment.

Furthermore, the specialized literature reflects numerous discussions regarding the differentiation of rural criminality from other criminogenic phenomena with similar features, given the complexity, heterogeneity, and mobility of the determining factors. Consequently, rural criminality falls within the category of criminological phenomena that generate conceptual divergences and terminological ambiguities, both in the process of definition and in the stabilization of criteria for analysis and intervention.

From the perspective of applied criminology, it becomes necessary to develop a coherent conceptual framework for the system of criminological and victimological prevention in rural areas, based on modern theoretical models and intervention algorithms adapted to different levels of prevention. Therefore, researching the phenomenon becomes imperative for a profound understanding of its constitutive mechanisms and for strengthening a comprehensive scientific approach in the field.

In order to achieve the proposed aim, the following **objectives**

have been formulated:

- the analysis of scientific materials dedicated to rural crime, for the purpose of establishing the degree to which this issue has been researched in national and international criminological literature;
- the definition and conceptualization of rural crime, which will facilitate the identification and understanding of the specific features of rural criminality in the Republic of Moldova;
- the elucidation of the quantitative and qualitative indicators of rural crime, to ensure both a cognitive and empirical understanding of its content;
- the identification and characterization of the criminogenic factors of rural crime, with a view to determining the exegetical framework of this type of criminality, which would substantiate the targeted formulation of preventive measures;
- the characterization of the personality of the rural offender by determining the biopsychosocial traits common among rural offenders;
- the victimological analysis of rural crime from the perspective of examining victimization factors and the characteristic features of crime victims;
- the identification of criminological prevention measures applicable at various preventive levels (general, special and individual), while considering the factors that determine the genesis of such offences;
- the substantiation of victimological prevention measures for rural crime by prioritizing and addressing the situational premises that generate vulnerability among potential victims;
- the development of proposals and recommendations aimed at improving the system of measures directed at preventing rural crime through the enhancement of the effectiveness of the actors involved in preventive activities.

**The research hypothesis** is that the preventive legal framework must be prospectively adapted to the specific characteristics of rural areas by prioritizing the minimization of endogenous and exogenous factors which, individually or through interaction, determine or influence the genesis of rural crime. It also assumes that developing a proactive framework of cooperation and partnership between local public authorities and institutions providing social services will support the application of innovative and sustainable solutions in preventing rural crime. Finally, it presumes that the implementation of tertiary community-based prevention strategies and programs, with the involvement of local authorities and civil society, will effectively reduce recidivism in rural areas.

**Research methodology.** A wide range of analytical scientific research methods were used in the development of this study. Among these, we highlight the comparative analysis method, which consists in

identifying the conceptual elements that define the approach to rural crime in different countries of the world; the logical analysis method, which involves the use of logical reasoning to synthesize doctrinal opinions expressed by various authors; and the prospective method, employed to determine optimal ways of improving legal norms in order to enhance the effectiveness of crime prevention activities. Other complementary analytical approaches were also applied where relevant.

In addition to the theoretical research methods mentioned above, several empirical research methods were also used. Among these, we note the following:

- Statistical analysis. This thesis uses statistical data obtained from the General Directorate for Information and Operational Records of the Information Technology Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, as well as statistical data published on the official website of the National Bureau of Statistics of the Republic of Moldova. The use of statistical data has made it possible to determine the quantitative characteristics of rural crime, allowing the identification of trends, the modelling of its geographical distribution and the assessment of the intensity of the phenomenon at national and regional levels. Statistical methods are also used to map high criminogenic risk areas and to evaluate correlations between rural crime and socio-economic, demographic and environmental variables.

- Case studies and qualitative analysis. Semi-structured interviews and focus groups with various stakeholders, including local communities, law enforcement authorities, crime victims and offenders, provide qualitative insights into the causes, consequences and perceptions related to rural crime;

- Selective opinion survey. A selective online opinion survey was conducted between 1 November 2023 and 6 November 2023, involving 84 women residing in rural areas of the Republic of Moldova, with the aim of identifying the determinants of domestic violence in the rural environment;

- Selective opinion survey. A selective online opinion survey was carried out between 15 September 2023 and 25 September 2023, involving approximately 65 police officers with special status from the Police Inspectorates of Sîngerei, Rîșcani, Ungheni, Fălești and Edineț in the Republic of Moldova, with the aim of identifying the personality traits of the rural offender;

- Selective opinion survey. A selective online opinion survey was conducted between 25 April 2022 and 9 May 2022, assessing the feeling of anxiety and criminological vulnerability in rural areas of the Republic of Moldova, on a sample of 451 respondents (213 men and 238 women), starting from the age of 25.



**The scientific novelty and originality** of the doctoral thesis derive from its multidimensional approach to an insufficiently explored field in the Republic of Moldova, offering a new and comprehensive perspective on the study of rural crime, together with practical solutions for prevention and for enhancing the security of rural communities.

The main elements of scientific novelty include the conceptualization of the phenomenon of rural crime, the mapping of rural crime in the Republic of Moldova, the analysis of criminogenic factors specific to the rural environment, and the proposal of models, algorithms and preventive measures adapted to rural settings. The most innovative elements of the study are the following:

1. the definition of rural crime as a sectoral field of criminology, consisting of a set of offences committed in the rural environment and characterized by unitary traits resulting from the specific social habitat, shaped by the main areas of labor concentration, lifestyle, traditions and community-based socio-cultural relations.

2. the identification of the structural configuration of rural crime according to the main categories of offences: transport-related offences – 23.24 percent; offences against property – 22.45 percent; offences against public authorities – 19.67 percent; offences against the family and minors – 7.57 percent; offences against public security and public order – 6.5 percent; offences against life and health – 4.25 percent; sexual offences – 4.1 percent; offences against citizens' political, labor and other constitutional rights – 3.94 percent; offences against justice – 3.50 percent; offences against public health and social coexistence – 1.49 percent; offences affecting the proper functioning of activities in the public sphere – 1.20 percent; economic offences – 1 percent; offences against personal freedom, honor and dignity – 0.64 percent; environmental offences – 0.15 percent; military offences – 0.15 percent; cyber and electronic communications offences – 0.04 percent (reference year: 2024).

3. the establishment of the geography of rural crime, showing that the central region of the country records the highest crime rate compared to the southern and northern regions. The northern region exhibits an average crime rate, while the southern region displays the lowest level of criminal incidence. This territorial distribution suggests the need for differentiated approaches in designing strategies for preventing and combating rural criminality.

4. the identification of criminogenic factors specific to rural crime, largely represented by the intrinsic challenges of rurality (unemployment, poverty, gender inequality, alcohol consumption, depopulation, infrastructural deficits and isolation), which create favorable conditions for the commission of offences and perpetuate feelings of community insecurity.

5. the finding that gender inequality, combined with various socio-economic factors, constitutes a distinct cultural factor that significantly influences the higher prevalence of domestic violence in rural areas compared with urban areas. The difficulty of preventing domestic violence in rural contexts is due primarily to the higher latency of cases, resulting from victims' reluctance to report incidents to the authorities.

6. the definition of the personality profile of the rural offender through general traits that typically characterize this category, namely: predominantly men with an average age of around 30 years, citizens of the Republic of Moldova, permanently residing in the rural localities where offences are committed, with no formal education or at most lower-secondary education, without permanent sources of income, engaged in occasional labor, with no criminal record, and prone to committing offences under the influence of alcohol.

7. the prospective development of a National Strategy for the Prevention of Rural Crime (NSPRC), which would contribute fundamentally to achieving the objectives of sustainable development related to environmental protection, by incorporating specific measures to combat environmental crime, including the conservation of local biodiversity, the protection of natural heritage, and the promotion of sustainable agricultural and forestry practices.

8. the advancement of special preventive measures to be applied, including institutional strengthening and capacity-building at the local level, the creation and development of coordination networks, community involvement in preventive activities, education and information campaigns in rural environments, interventions in the field of social assistance, the improvement of economic transparency tools, and the promotion of digitalization and information technologies.

9. the substantiation of a proactive algorithm for individual prevention of rural crime, enabling the reduction of criminal risks through personalized interventions, including the identification of individuals in rural areas with criminogenic potential, the processing and scientific examination of data through detailed assessment of risk factors, the development of an individualized prevention plan, and the implementation of that plan.

The theoretical importance and practical value of the thesis. The theoretical importance and practical value of the doctoral thesis are significant and multidimensional, reflecting the study's contribution both to the advancement of academic knowledge in the field of criminology and to the improvement of practical strategies for preventing crime in the rural context of the Republic of Moldova.

**The theoretical importance** lies in the development of the national criminological doctrine through a scientific and holistic approach to the

criminological dimensions that characterize rural crime. The thesis makes an essential contribution to extending and adapting existing criminological theories to the context of rural crime, emphasizing the particularities and inherent challenges of this environment. The study offers new perspectives on understanding the causality of crime in rural areas, considerably enriching the theoretical and cognitive arsenal of criminology.

The thesis also integrates and critically analyses national and international specialized literature on rural crime, identifying knowledge gaps and establishing new research directions. It contributes to strengthening the theoretical foundation for understanding and addressing the phenomenon of rural criminality. The thesis proposes a new conceptual model for analyzing and preventing rural crime in the Republic of Moldova, providing a theoretical framework for investigating the complex relationships between social, economic, cultural and institutional factors that influence rural criminality.

The practical value lies in the fact that the thesis provides an empirically and scientifically grounded basis for the development and implementation of prevention strategies and programs tailored to the specific characteristics of rural communities. These strategies may be implemented by local and national authorities to reduce the incidence of crime and to enhance community security.

The research results can offer useful information for formulating public policies and determining priorities for action in the field of crime prevention and the promotion of community safety in rural areas. The thesis highlights the need for an intersectoral approach and for collaboration among the various actors involved in crime prevention, fostering partnerships between the public, private and non-profit sectors. Moreover, the study may contribute to increasing awareness of rural crime, thereby promoting public sensitization regarding its criminological and victimological prevention.

The main scientific results submitted for defense are distinguished by the following: the scientific substantiation of the notion of rural crime, the delineation of its defining features, its determining particularities and the criminogenic factors specific to the rural environment of the Republic of Moldova; the comprehensive analysis of the structure and dynamics of rural crime based on statistical data for the period 2017-2024, highlighting trends of evolution and correlations between types of offences and socio-economic factors; the identification and systematization of typologies of rural offenders, taking into account criteria such as age, gender, educational level and socio-family context, which contributes to understanding the individual and social mechanisms of criminal behavior; the examination of the influence of demographic and

psychological factors on rural crime, demonstrating the impact of migration and of psychological characteristics (motivational, cognitive and conative) on the commission of offences; the development of a theoretical and methodological framework for the prevention of rural crime, integrating public policies, the roles of central and local authorities, community policing, and the involvement of educational institutions and civil society; the formulation of recommendations for improving the activity of law enforcement bodies in the field of rural crime prevention by developing operational standards for cooperation between the police and the community.

Implementation of the scientific results. The analyses, conclusions and recommendations formulated in the thesis can be applied in the development of new scientific studies, in the process of drafting legal norms, in the study programs of educational institutions, as well as in the activity of the bodies responsible for the prevention and combating of crime.

Approval of the results. The results obtained within the doctoral thesis were presented and discussed at national and international scientific conferences held both in the Republic of Moldova and abroad, where they generated constructive debates and valuable exchanges of ideas. They have also been published in specialized journals, contributing to the development of knowledge in the field and offering relevant theoretical and practical solutions for the advancement of future research.

Publications on the topic of the thesis. The results of the study have been disseminated in 20 articles published in the proceedings of international and national conferences, as well as in scientific journals in the country and abroad.

Keywords: rural crime, criminogenic factors, geography of crime, urbanization, personality, unemployment, poverty, prevention, victimization, violence, community safety.

## THE CONTENT OF THE THESIS

The main content of the thesis includes the introduction, four chapters divided into nineteen sections, the general conclusions and the recommendations.

The introduction highlights the relevance and timeliness of the chosen topic, providing a concise overview of the state of research in the field and outlining the main issues under investigation. It also formulates the scientific hypothesis, the general aim and the specific objectives of the thesis, and presents the methodology applied in the study. The elements of originality and scientific novelty of the results obtained and submitted for validation are brought to the fore. Furthermore, the current scientific problem of major interest that has been addressed in the thesis is substantiated, emphasizing the theoretical importance and the practical value of the scientific undertaking.

**Chapter 1**, entitled Analysis of the Scientific Materials Published on the Topic of the Doctoral Thesis, is dedicated to examining the most relevant scientific works (textbooks, monographs, doctoral theses, articles, studies and journals) published in the Republic of Moldova and abroad that address the research topic. The chapter undertakes an exploration of the most sensitive dimensions of the subject, including the historical, criminological, sociological and statistical aspects.

The analysis of the scientific materials published on the topic of the doctoral thesis constitutes an essential starting point in the development of comprehensive work grounded in rigorous scientific research.

From the national scientific literature dedicated to the study of rural crime, which addresses multiple dimensions of this phenomenon and has served as a doctrinal foundation for the analysis carried out in the doctoral thesis, the following works were consulted: the monographic study by Ionașcu V. entitled Domestic Violence Offence: Normative Regulations, Criminological Analysis and Prevention Measures; the study Violent Crime in the Republic of Moldova: General Trends, Causes and Conditions authored by Larii Iu., Cojocaru R., Ionașcu V. and Rotaru I.; the revised and expanded edition of the textbook Criminology by Rotari O.; the scientific article The Influence of Accelerated Urbanisation on Crime by Larii Iu. and Cojocaru R.; the article Employment in the Rural Areas of the Republic of Moldova and Destabilising Factors by Nirean E. and Bujor T.; the textbook Elements of Criminology by Bujor V. and a group of authors; the scientific paper Criminological Analysis of the Influence of Current Demographic Processes on Crime in the Republic of Moldova by Bejan O., Bujor V. and Botnaru Gh.; the textbook Fundamentals of the Statistical Analysis of Crime by Bujor V. and Miron-Popa C.; the revised

and expanded edition of the textbook *Criminology* by Larii Iu.; the works *Criminology and Victimology* by Gladchi Gh.; the textbook *Criminology* by Ciobanu Ig.; and the university course *Criminology* by Birgău M.

Regarding the national criminological literature, it should be noted that there is a lack of criminological studies devoted exclusively to rural crime.

Starting from this deficient situation and considering the potential importance of scientific research that could contribute to clarifying essential aspects of rural crime, the need for an innovative and in-depth approach to this phenomenon becomes evident. Such a perspective requires, on the one hand, a comprehensive analysis of the criminogenic factors specific to the rural environment and, on the other hand, the identification of prevention measures that are appropriate to the particularities of these communities. It should be emphasized that such an approach cannot be rigorously carried out without reference to the ideas, concepts, opinions and perspectives outlined in the seminal scientific works authored in other countries that have examined rural crime. The selection of these sources is not random, since the development of national legislation has been largely influenced by the incorporation of norms from these legal systems, and there is currently a clear tendency towards harmonization with the legal standards of the European Union.

In this context, to ensure the theoretical foundation of the investigation and to outline the main research directions, we will focus on examining and analyzing the opinions, perspectives and approaches formulated by specialists from Romania, the Russian Federation and Western states regarding the scientific issues relevant to the topic addressed in this thesis.

By studying and analyzing the Romanian specialized criminological literature, we find that the concept of rural crime is addressed only tangentially and not as frequently as topics related to urban crime or other specific areas of criminology. Although there are studies and research dealing with aspects of crime in rural environments, they are fewer in number compared with those focusing on urban crime or on phenomena such as violence, organized crime, corruption and other forms of social deviance that have a more visible presence in the public and media spheres.

By analyzing the specialized literature from Romania, we have concluded that the following are the most relevant works dedicated to rural crime: the article *Trends of Violent Crime in Rural Communities. Public Assessment and Perception* published by Banciu D. and Balica E.; the article *Violent Crime Committed in Rural Communities* published by the Romanian authors Banciu D., Rădulescu S. M. and Dâmboeanu C.; the textbook *Violent Crime. Trends and Risk Factors* and the article *Homi-*

cide Offences in the Romanian Family Environment authored by Balica E.; the article Living Conditions of the Rural Population by Mărginean I.; the textbook Dictionary of Rural Criminology by Bădescu Il. and Cucu-Oancea O.; and the textbook Protection of Victims. Elements of Victimology authored by Hotcă M. A.

Following the analysis of the specialized literature from Romania, it is observed that there are studies which specifically address crime in rural environments, including detailed statistical analyses, evaluations of criminogenic factors and proposals concerning policies for the prevention and control of criminal phenomena in rural areas. Although the Romanian doctrine in this field is more developed than that of the Republic of Moldova, even in this context we do not find comprehensive research on the concept of rural crime that would encompass all the criminological dimensions involved in understanding the phenomenon. In many Romanian studies, rural crime is associated with violent crime and is predominantly examined from this perspective.

In the development of the doctoral thesis, without diminishing the importance of the works mentioned above, the theoretical contributions of authors from the Russian Federation were also analyzed, as they offer relevant perspectives on the phenomenon of criminality, particularly through classical criminological approaches and the legislative experience of the post-Soviet space. These works complement the doctrinal outlook on the researched topic, highlighting methodological and conceptual particularities that are useful for a deeper understanding of rural crime and for formulating conclusions with practical applicability in the national context.

Among the relevant publications consulted during this research, we note the contributions of several established authors whose studies provide both theoretical support and empirical foundations for other valuable investigations. These include: the doctoral thesis Особенности преступности в сельской местности и ее предупреждения and the article Криминологическая характеристика и особенности преступности в сельской местности by Шуклина Е. А.; the doctoral thesis Криминологическая характеристика и предупреждение преступлений в сельской местности by Сорокин А. Б.; the publication Сравнительный анализ сельской и городской преступности by Левашова О. В.; the doctoral thesis Предупреждение рецидивной преступности в сельской местности and the article Некоторые особенности краж, совершаемых рецидивистами в сельской местности by Красковский Я. Э.; the study Правонарушения в городе и в деревне: социальный и психологический аспекты by Бабаев М. М.; the article Социально-географические исследования сельской местности в России by Присяж-



ный М. Ю.; the textbook *Криминология* by Долгова А. И.; the abstract of the doctoral thesis *Расследование краж, совершаемых в сельской местности* by Мусейбов А. Г.; and the doctoral thesis *Противодействие насильственной преступности в семье: уголовно-правовые и криминологические аспекты* by Ильяшенко А. Н.

An important role in the study of rural crime within this doctoral thesis was played by the scientific works produced in Western specialized literature. These criminological studies offered innovative research perspectives that contributed to a global understanding of this phenomenon. The importance of this literature lies in the diversity of methodologies used in the study of rural crime, ranging from complex quantitative analyses to case studies and qualitative approaches, which allow for a deeper understanding of specific phenomena and the dynamics of criminality in rural areas. In the same context, Western literature contributed innovative theories and conceptual findings that helped explain the causes and manifestations of rural crime in different settings.

Western studies are grounded in comparative research that explores rural crime across different countries and regions, offering the opportunity to understand how socio-cultural, economic and legal contexts influence rural criminality. Western researchers were among the first to address emerging issues in rural crime, such as the impact of climate change, digital technology, drug trafficking and the exploitation of natural resources, highlighting the need for innovative and context-adapted responses to these new challenges.

The most relevant works examined are the following: the textbook *Crime and Safety in the Rural* by Ceccato V. and Abraham J.; the textbook *Rural Crime and Community Safety* by Ceccato V.; the volume *Rural Transformations and Rural Crime. International Critical Perspectives in Rural Criminology* by Bowden M. and Harkness A.; the textbook *Crime in Rural Areas: A Review of the Literature for the Rural Evidence Research Centre* by Marshall B. and Johnson S. D.; the textbook *Rural Criminology* by Donnermeyer J. F. and DeKeseredy W. S.; the article *Rural Crime from a Global Perspective* by Weisheit R. A.; the textbook *Crime and Policing in Rural and Small-town America* by Weisheit R. A., Falcone D. N. and Wells L. E.; *Rural Crime and Policing* by Nurse A.; the volume *Reviewing the New South Wales Local Crime Prevention Planning Process* by Anderson J. and Homel P.; the study *Community Safety in Rural Areas* by Lawtey A. and Deane M.; the article *Criminality in the Rural Areas* by Ďurkovičová J., Lazíková J., Takáč I. and Rumanovská L.; the textbook *Crimes Against Nature: Environmental Criminology and Ecological Justice* by White R.; and the article *A Green Field for Criminology? A Proposal for a Perspective by South N.*



The body of scientific works examined in this chapter constitutes an epistemological foundation that has underpinned the development of the present doctoral thesis. First, the corpus of scientific literature in the field made it possible to achieve a scientific understanding of rural crime from the perspective of criminological science. Second, the examination of the materials relevant to the doctoral topic enabled the identification of issues related to rural criminality that have not been explored or have been only partially explored in criminological doctrine. In this context, the doctoral thesis contributes to enriching the body of knowledge on rural crime from the standpoint of criminological research.

**Chapter 2**, entitled Preliminary Aspects of Rural Crime, is devoted to the diachronic study of the concept of rural crime and to the identification of its fundamental characteristics. The chapter also analyses the level of rural crime in comparison with urban crime, the rate of rural crime per 10,000 inhabitants, the structure and geography of rural crime, as well as the evolution of certain offences in correlation with recent sociopolitical events, such as the presidential elections and the constitutional republican referendum held in the Republic of Moldova in 2024, and the broader context generated by the war in Ukraine.

In the first section, the conceptual framework of rural crime is examined. The analysis begins with the observation that criminological doctrine has not established a unified framework for defining this phenomenon, which highlights the need to systematize the various theoretical perspectives. Multiple doctrinal approaches are presented: most criminological works do not draw a clear distinction between rural and urban crime, treating both generically under the general concept of crime<sup>2</sup>, some define rural crime exclusively through spatial criteria such as rural territory, low population density and distance from urban centers, while others associate the phenomenon with specific socio-cultural particularities, including low levels of education, lack of infrastructure, pronounced traditionalism and social isolation. Moreover, some authors equate rural crime with agricultural<sup>3</sup> crime or with environmental offences<sup>4</sup>. In a different line of thought, it is observed that in the Ro-

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<sup>2</sup> Briddell, L.O. *Rurality and crime: identifying and explaining rural/urban differences*. A dissertation in sociology. The Pennsylvania State University 2009. p. 3. [cited 26.02.2024]. Available: [https://etda.libraries.psu.edu/files/final\\_submissions/3811](https://etda.libraries.psu.edu/files/final_submissions/3811).

<sup>3</sup> Ceccato, V. *Farm crimes and environmental and wildlife offenses*. In book: *Rural Crime and Community Safety*. 1st Edition, Routledge, 2015. pp. 165-195. [cited 17.11.2024]. Available: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349148121\\_Farm\\_crimes\\_and\\_environmental\\_and\\_wildlife\\_offenses](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349148121_Farm_crimes_and_environmental_and_wildlife_offenses).

<sup>4</sup> White, R. *Crimes against nature: Environmental criminology and ecological justice*. Devon: Willan, UK: Willan Publishing, 2008, p. 14.

manian specialized literature, rural crime is often identified with violent crime<sup>5</sup>.

It is highlighted that two major directions of interpretation of the notion of rural crime emerge in the specialized literature: one focused on the geographical and administrative character of the rural environment, understood as localities falling below a certain demographic threshold, and the other centered on the content of the social relations characteristic of this space, relations marked by community cohesion, conservatism and economic vulnerabilities.

Building on the observations formulated above, rural crime is defined as a sectoral field of criminology, consisting of the totality of offences committed in the rural environment, offences characterized by unitary features resulting from the specific social habitat determined by the main areas of labor concentration, lifestyle, traditions and particular community-based socio-cultural relations.

The chapter highlights the necessity of establishing a conceptual and methodological distinction between rural and urban crime, as an essential prerequisite for a thorough understanding of the specific characteristics of criminal phenomena in different socio-geographical contexts. This differentiation enables not only the delineation of the specific features of each environment, but also the identification of their reciprocal influences and existing interdependencies. The comparative analysis shows that the environment in which the offender lives influences both their personal characteristics and the nature of the offences they commit.

At both doctrinal and empirical levels, opinions vary. Some researchers argue that the differences between the two types of criminality are minimal<sup>6</sup>, while others emphasize distinct features depending on the types of offences<sup>7</sup>.

In urban environments, property offences predominate, such as theft, robbery, mugging and pickpocketing, facilitated by anonymity,

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<sup>5</sup> Banciu D., Balica E., *Tendințe ale criminalității violente în comunitățile rurale. Evaluare și percepție publică*. In: Revista Română de Sociologie, no. 1-2. București, 2009. pp. 153-176. [cited 12.03.2024]. Available: <https://www.revistadesociologie.ro/pdf-uri/nr.1-2-2009/07-BBalica.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Серебрякова, В.А. Некоторые вопросы изучения влияния социально-экономических процессов на изменения преступности. В: Социальная среда и преступность: Сборник научных трудов, М., 1983, pp. 26-49.

<sup>7</sup> Сорокин, А.Б. Криминологическая характеристика и предупреждение преступлений в сельской местности. Криминологическая характеристика и предупреждение преступлений в сельской местности. Диссертация на соискание ученой степени кандидата юридических наук, 12.00.08 - уголовное право и криминология; уголовно-исполнительное право. Ростов-на-Дону, 2005. p. 46-47.

mobility and population density<sup>8</sup>, while rural areas are more affected by offences against the person, including domestic violence, rape and homicide, influenced by situational factors, family conflicts and the lack of social infrastructure.

Statistical studies and victimization surveys conducted in the United States<sup>9</sup>, Australia<sup>10</sup> and Romania<sup>11</sup> confirm a lower numerical level of rural crime, but also a pronounced tendency towards the underreporting of criminal offences, particularly sexual offences. At the same time, the perception of fear of crime is often higher in rural areas due to isolation, lack of lighting and the limited presence of authorities, even when the actual crime situation does not always justify this perception<sup>12</sup>.

The phenomenon is closely correlated with structural problems of the rural environment, including poverty, migration, alcoholism, deficient infrastructure, local corruption and institutional decline. These elements generate a climate of vulnerability that favours the development of specific forms of rural delinquency<sup>13</sup>. Moreover, there are concerning trends indicating a resurgence of violent offences in villages, a phenomenon observed in both Romania and the Republic of Moldova.

At the international level, research shows that although the nature and prevalence of offences differ depending on the national context, the determining factors of rural crime often remain similar: distance from urban centers, lack of access to public services, a fragile economic structure and community vulnerability. Thus, solutions must be adapted to each specific context, ranging from strengthening community cohesion to the use of surveillance technologies.

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<sup>8</sup> Соколов, А.Ф., Особенности преступности в городах и сельской местности. автореферат Диссертации на соискание ученой степени доктора юридических наук, 12.00.08 – уголовное право и криминология; уголовно-исполнительное право, Свердловск, 1971, p. 24.

<sup>9</sup> Tapp, S.N., Coen, E.J., Criminal Victimization, 2023. In: (NCJ 309335). Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 2024. [cited 29.10.2024]. Available: <https://bjs.ojp.gov/document/cv23.pdf>.

<sup>10</sup> Cook, A., Fitzgerald, J. *Crime in Regional and Rural NSW in 2023: Trends and Patterns*. In: NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, nr. 169, 2024. pp. 18-21. [cited 11.04.2023]. Available: <https://bocsar.nsw.gov.au/documents/publications/bb/bb151-200/BB169-Report-Crime-in-Regional-and-Rural-NSW-2023.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> Banciu, D., Balica, E. *Tendințe ale criminalității violente în comunitățile rurale. Evaluare și percepție publică*. op. cit., pp. 153-176.

<sup>12</sup> Ceccato, V. *Perceived Safety in Swedish Rural Areas*. In book: *Rural Crime and Community Safety*. 1st Edition, Routledge, 2015. pp. 137-162. [cited 10.11.2024]. Available: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349151791\\_Perceived\\_safety\\_in\\_Swedish\\_rural\\_areas](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/349151791_Perceived_safety_in_Swedish_rural_areas).

<sup>13</sup> Mărginean, I. *Condițiile de viață ale populației din mediul rural*. In: *Revista Calitatea vieții*, XVII/2006, nr. 1-2. București 2006, pp. 153-170. [cited 20.06.2023]. Available: <https://www.revistacalitateavietii.ro/journal/article/view/612/521>.

The general conclusion is that the distinction between rural and urban crime cannot be reduced to a simple geographical separation; it must be analyzed through the lens of social, economic, cultural and political factors. Understanding the differences and interactions between the two forms of criminality is essential for developing effective and sustainable public policies for the prevention and control of crime.

The following section provides a comparative analysis of the levels of rural and urban crime, based on official data supplied by the General Directorate for Information and Operational Records of the Information Technology Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the period 2017–2024<sup>14</sup>. The analysis reveals a relatively constant ratio between the two forms of criminality, with an overall average of 38.07 percent for rural crime and 61.93 percent for urban crime.

The reporting of rural crime per 10,000 inhabitants highlights a clearly declining trend: from a coefficient of 36.8 in 2017 to 26.92 in 2024, with the lowest level recorded in 2023 at 24.97. Calculating the coefficient for each administrative-territorial unit made it possible to identify areas with a high criminogenic potential, thereby contributing to the development of prevention policies adapted to regional specificities.

The structure of rural crime in 2024 was dominated by transport-related offences, accounting for 23.24 percent, followed by offences against property at 22.45 percent. These were followed by offences against public authorities at 19.67 percent, offences against the family and minors at 7.57 percent, and offences against public security and public order at 6.5 percent. Sexual offences represented 4.1 percent, while offences against life and personal health accounted for 4.25 percent<sup>15</sup>.

A scientific novelty of this chapter lies in the analysis of the influence exerted by internal political factors and by the international context on the dynamics of criminal phenomena in rural areas. Two major aspects are examined: (1) crime associated with electoral processes, in the context of the 2024 presidential elections and the constitutional referendum; and (2) the indirect effects of the war in Ukraine on the rural space of the Republic of Moldova, viewed through the intensification of migration, human trafficking, and the increased illegal circulation of weapons and illicit substances in poorly controlled areas.

The analysis highlights a significant correlation between political instability and the intensification of certain forms of criminality, particularly in rural areas characterized by a reduced institutional presence.

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<sup>14</sup> Statistical data provided by the General Directorate for Internal Protection and the Operational Unit of the Internal Affairs Training Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, response no. 8/6-1-F-69/25 of 24 February 2025.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibidem*.

Cases of intimidation, voter influence and disturbances of public order are documented as occurring in village communities with a high degree of social vulnerability.

The electoral year 2024 highlighted the magnitude of the phenomenon of electoral corruption, with 39 criminal offences and 1,465 contraventions being recorded. In parallel, an exponential increase can be observed in offences committed by organized criminal groups in rural areas, rising from 25 cases in 2017 to 466 in 2024<sup>16</sup>.

Regarding cross-border offences, the period 2017–2024 shows an alarming increase in cases of illegal border crossing, rising from 126 to 756, and in cases of organizing illegal migration, rising from 2 to 583, indicating growing pressure on the security of the Republic of Moldova's borders<sup>17</sup>.

The analysis of the dynamics of rural crime, using a fixed time series with 2017 as the base year, shows a continuous decrease until 2023, reaching 67.87 percent, followed by a slight increase in 2024 to 73.15 percent. According to the moving-base method, the number of rural offences decreased progressively until 2023 and then increased in 2024 to 9,559 cases, which is 591 more than in the previous year<sup>18</sup>.

The geography of rural crime indicates that the central region of the country recorded the highest crime rates, followed by the northern region. The southern region registered the lowest level of criminality, highlighting a regional variability that requires the application of differentiated strategies for prevention and control.

**Chapter 3**, entitled *Criminological Characteristics of Rural Crime*, provides a comprehensive analysis of the impact of the criminogenic factors specific to the rural environment, which are largely determined by the structural and cultural challenges of rurality. The chapter also examines the particularities of the offender's personality in rural settings and the mechanisms of victimization characteristic of this environment, with a focus on traditionally vulnerable categories of the rural population.

The development and implementation of preventive policies in rural areas cannot be effective without a rigorous understanding of the criminogenic factors specific to this environment. Rural crime is the result of a set of criminogenic influences in which endogenous elements, such as the offender's personality, community values and the level of education, and

<sup>16</sup> Statistical data provided by the General Directorate for Internal Protection and the Operational Unit of the Internal Affairs Training Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, response no. 8/6-1-F-84/25 of 28 February 2025.

<sup>17</sup> Statistical data provided by the General Directorate for Internal Protection and the Operational Unit of the Internal Affairs Training Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, response no. 8/6-1-F-69/25 of 24 February 2025.

<sup>18</sup> Ibidem.

exogenous elements, such as poverty, lack of infrastructure, migration and the physical environment, interact within complex networks, conditioning deviant behavior in varying ways from one case to another.

An important role in this context is played by the intrinsic challenges of rurality, such as unemployment, extreme poverty, gender inequalities, abusive alcohol consumption, depopulation, geographical isolation and infrastructural deficits. These conditions give rise to a precarious social and economic climate in which legal norms are often replaced by anti-social conduct, and institutional responses are generally delayed or absent altogether, favoring the perpetuation of deviant behavior in rural settings.

The geographical factor distinctively shapes rural crime in comparison with urban crime. Although it is not a determining factor in itself, it contributes, through interaction with social, cultural and economic factors, to the formation of local typologies of criminal behavior. Thus, isolated villages that are difficult to access and lack infrastructure become fertile ground for the development of specific forms of criminality.

At the same time, extreme poverty and the absence of economic opportunities form a permanent backdrop to the daily lives of many rural families who live in unsanitary conditions with no real prospects for improvement. These social realities create a favorable context not only for the emergence of criminality but also for the consolidation of attitudes of resignation toward the criminal phenomenon.

Recent demographic changes, such as population decline, ageing and mass migration, profoundly affect the structure and dynamics of rural communities. The decrease in the active population leaves behind predominantly elderly, vulnerable individuals who are often unable to defend themselves effectively against criminal threats.

On a cultural and psychological level, gender inequality has a significant influence, particularly regarding the prevalence of domestic violence. This is exacerbated by a heightened reluctance of victims to report cases of abuse, which perpetuates a climate of silence and impunity.

At the same time, psychological factors such as the need for belonging, accumulated resentment resulting from personal failures or the feeling of isolation play an important role in motivating individuals to engage in illegal activities, including through affiliation with criminal groups.

Another concerning trend is the lack of resources for constructive leisure activities, which encourages antisocial behavior, especially among young people. Frequenting high-risk entertainment venues, participation in gambling, alcohol consumption and excessive and uncontrolled internet use are only some of the activities that fuel the criminal climate.

The interaction between socio-economic and geographical factors generates specific criminal manifestations such as smuggling in border



areas, the illegal cultivation of drug-containing plants, environmental offences including poaching and illegal logging, as well as various forms of theft or acts of violence, all adapted to the rural context.

A distinct element is the influence of the mass media which, by promoting violent behavioral models or by offering a distorted portrayal of reality, can contribute to the erosion of moral norms and to the creation of a “culture of imitation” among young people. In this sense, the media becomes an indirect but powerful channel for shaping criminal conduct.

Thus, rural crime is a complex and multidimensional phenomenon generated by the interaction of economic, demographic, political, geographical and psychological factors. A comprehensive understanding of these elements is essential for designing effective prevention and control policies that consider the specificities of rural communities and their real needs.

The chapter also highlights the particularities of the personality of offenders originating from rural areas who, according to criminological analysis, display a specific biopsychosocial profile. They are predominantly men with an average age of approximately thirty, citizens of the Republic of Moldova, permanently residing in the rural localities where the offences were committed. Their educational level is generally low, with no studies or only lower-secondary education completed, and their sources of income are unstable, based on occasional or daily labor. In most cases, these individuals have no prior criminal record, yet they show a propensity to commit offences under the influence of alcohol, which indicates weak social control and increased vulnerability to situational criminogenic factors.

Finally, the chapter emphasizes the vulnerable categories of the rural population, such as women, elderly persons, children, individuals lacking education and professional skills, and large families with low income. Although rural areas are generally perceived as safer than urban settings, the impact of crime on these groups is disproportionate and often profoundly traumatic, generating negative effects on social cohesion, the community's sense of security and the collective capacity for resilience in the face of criminal phenomena.

**Chapter 4**, entitled *The Prevention of Rural Crime*, provides a comprehensive and structured analysis of criminological measures aimed at preventing the criminal phenomenon in rural areas, emphasizing the importance of institutional and intersectoral cooperation in this process. The analysis is based on a systematic and integrative approach that seeks to establish the connection between the theoretical premises of prevention and their practical application within the specific context of rural communities in the Republic of Moldova.

The prevention of rural crime is conceptualized as a complex and multidimensional activity that requires strengthening community resilience, developing social capital and ensuring the active involvement of local institutions, public authorities and civil society. It also involves specialized interventions aimed at reducing dominant criminogenic factors and adapting preventive measures to the individual particularities of persons at risk of offending, within a logic of differentiated and sustainable prevention.

The chapter first addresses general prevention, understood as a fundamental domain of criminology, oriented toward reducing the risk of criminal behavior through the implementation of proactive, educational and normative measures, as well as through the development of sustainable strategies for strengthening the climate of social security. General prevention implies an integrated approach that combines scientific research, public policies and community engagement in order to address the root causes of criminal behavior. It may be defined as a process of influencing the behavior of rural communities by strengthening their collective capacity to react against the criminal phenomenon. This requires not only increasing civic vigilance but also creating a social environment in which legal norms naturally become an expression of community values.

General prevention measures are characterized by interventions aimed at eliminating dysfunctions within the political, social, social, moral, psychological and spiritual spheres of society. These measures are usually correlated with the improvement of citizens' material living conditions, as well as with other positive structural and cultural transformations within the community<sup>19</sup>. At the same time, such measures contribute to the elimination of negative social processes and phenomena, thereby indirectly fulfilling the function of crime prevention<sup>20</sup>.

The analysis of the specialized literature and of the opinions expressed by various researchers highlights that a key element of general prevention is the existence of a clearly defined and coherent normative framework capable of actively supporting and promoting activities aimed at preventing crime. Such a legal framework represents the institutional foundation of prevention policies, ensuring the stability, continuity and effectiveness of interventions aimed at reducing criminal risks in rural areas.

Therefore, as a *lege ferenda* initiative, it is proposed to supplement point 9, subpoint 2 of Government Decision No. 547 of 12 Novem-

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<sup>19</sup> Frunză, A. *Măsurile criminologice de prevenire a criminalității în mediul rural*. In: *Revista Legea și Viața*, nr. 2, 2020. pp. 40-42. ISSN 2587-4365. [cited 22.01.2024]. Available: [https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag\\_file/40-42\\_32.pdf](https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/40-42_32.pdf).

<sup>20</sup> Pop, O., Neagu, Gh. *Criminologie generală*, Chișinău: Î.I. „Angela Levintă”, 2005, p. 186.



ber 2019<sup>21</sup> by introducing letter p), with the following content: “Police officers who carry out their activity in rural localities may autonomously decide on the application of crime prevention measures, taking into account the specific causes and conditions that determine them”.

In the same context, the reformulation of Article 19 letter e) of Law No. 320 of 27 December 2012 on Police Activity and the Status of the Police Officer<sup>22</sup> is also required, so that it would state that, in the field of crime and contravention prevention, the Police have the responsibility to “identify the causes and conditions that may generate or contribute to the commission of offences and contraventions that fall within the competence of the Police, and to apply preventive measures, including by notifying the competent authorities, public or private institutions, or responsible officials regarding the necessity of implementing such measures”.

Another general measure aimed at preventing rural crime would be the development of a National Strategy for the Prevention of Rural Crime (NSPRC). The elaboration of such a Strategy represents an important public policy measure and aims to clearly define the objectives, priorities, instruments and actions necessary for reducing the criminal phenomenon in rural areas.

After analyzing the dimensions and mechanisms of general prevention, attention shifts to the complementary component of the preventive system, namely special prevention. This is conceived as a set of permanent institutional measures implemented by state bodies and non-governmental organizations, with the main objective of reducing and eliminating the factors that favor criminality in rural areas. These measures are carried out through the actions of legally mandated actors, particularly the police and local public authorities, whose responsibilities are directed towards maintaining the rule of law, protecting fundamental social values and strengthening community security<sup>23</sup>.

From this perspective, the special prevention of rural crime constitutes a coherent system of political, legal, socio-cultural, economic, institutional-organizational and technological measures applied systematically and continuously by central and local public institutions, as well as by civil society organizations. The purpose of these measures is to neutralize or reduce the criminogenic factors specific to the rural envi-

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<sup>21</sup> Government Decision of the Republic of Moldova No. 547 of 12 November 2019 on the organization and functioning of the General Police Inspectorate. In: Monitorul Oficial of the Republic of Moldova, 2019, No. 346-351.

<sup>22</sup> Law on Police Activity and the Status of the Police Officer, No. 320 of 27 December 2012. In: Monitorul Oficial of the Republic of Moldova, 2013, No. 42-47.

<sup>23</sup> Алауханов, Е.О., Зарипов, З.С. *Профилактика преступлений*. Учебник. Алматы: Нур-пресс, 2008. p. 119. ISBN 9965-813-55-8.

ronment, thereby contributing to the reduction of criminal risk and to the development of a safe and balanced social climate.

Among the most relevant measures are the strengthening of local public order institutions, the development of interinstitutional coordination networks, the involvement of the community in preventive activities, the legal education of the rural population, targeted social interventions and the use of information technology for preventive purposes.

In continuing the examination of special prevention measures, which focus on institutional intervention at community and structural levels, a distinct role is played by individual prevention, which generally constitutes a dimension of criminological activity oriented toward the person and their deviant behavior. This form of prevention involves the early identification of individuals who are predisposed to committing offences and the application of a set of measures that are appropriate and proportionate to their level of criminal risk.

Individual prevention focuses on the personality of the offender and its negative traits, on the micro-environment in which it has developed, as well as on the conditions and circumstances that favor or facilitate the commission of punishable acts<sup>24</sup>. The main objective of this form of prevention is the early identification of groups of people with an increased criminal risk and the acquisition of the information necessary for the application of personalized interventions, correlated with the resources and capacities of the institutions and entities involved.

Russian criminologists Мигачев Ю.И. and Дашков Г.В. argue that the objective of individual prevention of crime in rural areas is the constructive transformation of a person's character by redirecting their behavior from antisocial to socially acceptable conduct. The effectiveness of such preventive interventions at the individual level depends on adherence to several essential principles: the intervention must be timely, the measures adopted must correspond to the specific situation of the targeted person, there must be continuity and coherence in their application, and the approaches must be integrated and realistic<sup>25</sup>.

A considerable contribution to the creation and implementation of individual measures for the prevention of rural crime is made by the cooperation between the internal affairs bodies and local public author-

<sup>24</sup> Gladchi, Gh., Bîrgău, I., Stepanov Ig. *Conceptul de prevenire a criminalității – subiect al controverselor teoretice*. In: *Anale științifice ale Academiei „Ștefan cel Mare” a MAI*, no. IV, 2003, pp. 79-86. [cited 14.11.2023]. Available: [https://ibn.idsi.md/ro/vizualizare\\_articol/6127](https://ibn.idsi.md/ro/vizualizare_articol/6127).

<sup>25</sup> Мигачев, Ю.И., Дашков, Г.В. *Административно-правовые и криминологические механизмы совершенствования деятельности субъектов предупреждения правонарушений. Актуальные проблемы российского права*, № 9, 2016. pp. 50-56. [cited 19.11.2023]. Available: [https://aprp.msal.ru/jour/article/view/254?locale=ru\\_RU](https://aprp.msal.ru/jour/article/view/254?locale=ru_RU).

ities, through which it becomes possible to improve the criminogenic situation and to identify new ways of organizing civic responsibility<sup>26</sup>.

From a practical perspective, individual prevention measures consist in identifying persons who are predisposed to committing offences, studying them, and exerting a positive influence on them in order to prevent criminal acts. Individual preventive interventions, which consist of a combination of educational strategies and targeted influence aimed at discouraging citizens from engaging in criminal activities, represent individual measures for the prevention of rural crime. To achieve their intended purpose, these measures must be carried out through constructive cooperation between the police and civil associations, members of the rural community, educational institutions and other public authorities that provide services to the population.

In this context, an algorithm of individualized intervention is proposed, structured into several interdependent stages: identifying and analyzing criminogenic risks, developing a personalized prevention plan and continuously monitoring behavior, followed by the adjustment of preventive measures according to the subject's psychosocial development.

This algorithm aims to create an adaptive intervention mechanism capable of correlating the data obtained from criminological assessment with the educational, psychological and social measures necessary to reduce the risk of recidivism.

Therefore, individual prevention represents an essential link within the structure of the preventive system, as it acts directly upon the personal and situational causes of deviant behavior, contributing to the reduction of recidivism risk and to the social reintegration of persons with criminal potential. Nevertheless, an effective prevention strategy cannot be limited solely to the offender; it must also include a victimological dimension aimed at protecting potential victims and reducing their vulnerabilities.

In this regard, victimological prevention emerges as a complementary component of the general criminological system, with the objective of identifying, protecting and supporting individuals exposed to the risk of victimization, as well as ensuring early intervention in high-risk social environments. Within this chapter, the victimological dimension of rural crime prevention is analyzed as an integral element of criminological activity. This component places emphasis on identifying and safeguarding vulnerable people, reducing exposure to victimization and preventing revictimization.

Victimological prevention is oriented towards diminishing the conditions that facilitate victimization, strengthening mechanisms of social and institutional protection and fostering a community climate

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<sup>26</sup> Першуткин, Н.И. О создании государственной системы предупреждения преступлений. В: Вестник МВД России, № 3, 2006. pp. 3-8.

grounded in solidarity, responsibility and mutual support. The chapter highlights the need to identify high-risk groups, to conduct awareness campaigns within rural communities, to involve the police in proactive inspection activities and to collaborate closely with educational institutions in order to cultivate a preventive culture among young people.

This victimological perspective underlines the importance of early intervention, interinstitutional cooperation and the enhancement of community protection capacities, with a view to creating both real and perceived security within rural areas.

The victimological prevention mechanism has distinctive features, as it raises the individual's awareness regarding the possibility of becoming a victim of a crime due to their own actions or omissions, which may require adjustment in order to minimize risks. Therefore, the primary objective of victimological prevention is to deprive the offender of the "potential object" of their aggression, by reducing vulnerability and strengthening the individual's preventive self-protection capacities.

The victimological approach must be integrated both into the planning and implementation stages of preventive measures, as well as into the investigation and examination of specific criminal cases. For the effective implementation of such victimological activities, the proactive involvement of citizens is essential, requiring them to act responsibly in relation to the notifications, warnings, and recommendations issued by the police or other public authorities<sup>27</sup>.

Author Gladchi Gh. supports the thesis according to which the identification of potential victims should not be carried out separately from the identification of potential offenders<sup>28</sup>. In this regard, the registration and record-keeping resources of law enforcement agencies may be used to identify individuals whose behavior exposes them to victimization, many of whom are operationally relevant not only as potential victims but also through their possible association with criminal activities.

A particularly important aspect addressed in this chapter is the specific role of police officers operating in rural areas who, unlike their urban counterparts, often function within an informal framework and are deeply embedded in the community. This social proximity enables the application of consensus-based intervention strategies, yet at the same time carries risks related to maintaining objectivity in the enforcement of the law.

<sup>27</sup> Антонов, И.М., Бойко, Н.В. К вопросу о виктимологическом аспекте предупреждения преступности. В: Вестник Хабаровского государственного университета экономики и права, № 6 (92), 2017. pp.84-89. [cited 17.01.2024]. Available: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/k-voprosu-o-viktimologicheskom-aspekte-preduprezhdeniya-prestupnosti?ysclid=lsj4elanxv994312094>.

<sup>28</sup> Gladchi, Gh. *Victimologie: manual pentru facultățile de drept și polițienești*, Acad. „Ștefan cel Mare” a MAI al RM, CEP. USM, Chișinău, 2019. p. 336. ISBN 978-9975-149-30-3.

Within the framework of crime prevention strategies, the following victimological prevention measures in rural areas are considered useful:

- Identifying vulnerable risk factors;
- Initiating dialogues with rural community members, representatives of legal entities and non-governmental organizations to discuss the necessity of equipping homes, commercial premises, storage facilities and other locations with active and passive security systems, such as metal doors, coded lock systems, surveillance cameras and alarm systems;
- Disseminating informative materials through traditional and digital media regarding the risks associated with neglecting property security, excessive trust, and other factors that facilitate theft and other property-related offences;
- Conducting periodic inspections by the Public Order Police of the security conditions of storage facilities within organizations, educational institutions and enterprises;
- Cooperating with school and preschool institutions to implement victimological preventive measures aimed at young people, including discussions and their involvement in surveillance activities and in informing the police about potential cases of victimization;
- Developing victimological prevention strategies for different types of offences committed in rural areas.

The implementation of these directions in practice inevitably requires a preliminary approach to the challenges related to detecting, neutralizing and eliminating risk factors at the level of individuals, families, workplaces and other potential agents of victimization. This task proves to be complex, given the reluctance of some persons previously affected by criminal acts to contact the competent authorities, which necessitates the effective use of all available channels of victimological communication by public order bodies.

At the end of this chapter, the necessity of a holistic approach to preventing rural crime is emphasized, in which cooperation between the police, local public authorities, state institutions and non-governmental organizations becomes essential. Only through the efficient sharing of resources, information exchange and coordinated action can effective prevention be achieved, tailored to the specific characteristics of rural communities and capable of sustainably reducing the criminal phenomenon.

Through this analysis, the chapter provides a conceptual and operational framework for the development of public policies and local strategies for preventing crime in rural areas, highlighting the complexity of the phenomenon and the necessity of integrated intervention adapted to the realities of vulnerable communities.

## GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the final stage of this study, several results were obtained in line with the aims and tasks set out in the introductory part of the thesis, among which the following may be noted: 1) the substantiation of the concept of rural crime as a sectoral field of criminology; 2) the empirical identification of the quantitative and qualitative indicators of rural crime, reflected in its level, coefficient, structure, dynamics and geographical distribution; 3) the justification of rural crime trends in relation to new challenges to national security; 4) the identification of the endogenous and exogenous criminogenic factors specific to rural crime; 5) the explanation of the biopsychosocial traits characteristic of rural offenders; 6) the characterization of categories of persons with a heightened degree of victimization in rural areas; 7) the justification, by levels, of the system of criminological prevention of rural crime; 8) the conceptualization of a proactive model for the victimological prevention of rural crime.

Among the final outcomes of this study, the following general conclusions stand out, synthesizing the essential aspects analyzed and outlining directions relevant for the practical application of the results:

1. In the context of implementing sustainable development policies for the rural sector, which represent a priority target objective of the European Union, there is a marked need to ensure community security, including through the prevention of crimes specific to this environment.

2. Rural crime has been defined as a sectoral field of criminology, consisting of the totality of offences committed in the rural environment, characterized by unitary traits arising from the specific social habitat determined by the main areas of labor concentration, lifestyle, traditions and particular community-based socio-cultural relations.

3. The distinction between rural and urban crime is not merely a matter of geography or demography; it involves profound differences in causal factors, predominant types of offences and specialized preventive strategies.

4. The level of rural crime per 10,000 inhabitants reveals the following data: 36.8 in 2017; 32.82 in 2018; 31.91 in 2019; 29.78 in 2020; 29.95 in 2021; 28.36 in 2022; 24.97 in 2023; and 26.92 in 2024.

5. The structural configuration of rural crime was identified by offence categories as follows: transport-related offences – 23.24 percent; offences against property – 22.45 percent; offences against public authorities – 19.67 percent; offences against the family and minors – 7.57 percent; offences against public security and public order – 6.5 percent; offences against life and health – 4.25 percent; sexual offences – 4.1 percent; offences against political, labor and other constitutional rights of



citizens – 3.94 percent; offences against justice – 3.50 percent; offences against public health and social coexistence – 1.49 percent; offences affecting the proper functioning of public activities – 1.20 percent; economic offences – 1 percent; offences against personal freedom, honor and dignity – 0.64 percent; environmental offences – 0.15 percent; military offences – 0.15 percent; cyber and electronic communications offences – 0.04 percent (reference year: 2024).

6. Against the backdrop of the electoral processes represented by the presidential elections and the constitutional republican referendum held in the Republic of Moldova in 2024, a marked increase in electoral corruption and in offences committed by organized criminal groups was observed. In the context of the war in Ukraine, offences involving illegal border crossing and organizing illegal migration rose significantly.

7. The geography of rural crime in the reference years 2017–2024 leads to the conclusion that the central region of the country recorded the highest crime rate compared with the southern and northern regions. The northern region displays an average crime rate, while the southern region registers the lowest level of criminal incidence. This geographical distribution of rural crime suggests the need for differentiated approaches in prevention and control strategies.

8. The physical rural environment, with its climatic and geographical particularities, cannot in itself determine criminality, but only in interaction with socio-economic, cultural and individual factors, thus shaping the specific forms of crime in these areas.

9. The specific criminogenic factors, largely represented by the intrinsic challenges of rurality (unemployment, poverty, gender inequality, alcohol consumption, depopulation, infrastructural deficits and isolation), generate conditions conducive to the commission of offences, thereby perpetuating feelings of community insecurity.

10. Demographic changes in the Republic of Moldova, caused by population decline, ageing, massive labor migration abroad and urbanization, significantly influence crime in rural areas.

11. Gender inequality, correlated with various socio-economic factors, constitutes a distinct cultural factor that significantly influences the higher prevalence of domestic violence in rural areas compared with urban areas. The difficulty of preventing domestic violence in rural contexts is largely due to increased latency, resulting from the victims' frequent reluctance to report incidents.

12. The personality of rural offenders is characterized by the following general biopsychosocial traits: men with an average age of around 30, citizens of the Republic of Moldova, permanently residing in the rural localities where offences are committed, with no education or only

lower-secondary education, without permanent sources of income, engaged in occasional labor, without prior criminal records, and prone to committing offences under the influence of alcohol.

13. The general prevention of rural crime consists in strengthening, at a general level, the capacity of rural communities to react collectively against criminality, thereby influencing the behavior of the rural population.

14. The special prevention of rural crime represents a set of political, legal, socio-cultural, economic, organizational-institutional, technological and other measures systematically and continuously applied by central and local public institutions and non-governmental organizations with the aim of eliminating or minimizing the specific criminogenic factors that contribute to the commission of offences in the rural environment.

15. The following applicable special preventive measures were substantiated: institutional strengthening and capacity-building at the local level; the creation and development of coordination networks; community involvement in preventive actions; education and information in rural communities; interventions in the field of social assistance; the improvement of economic transparency tools; and the promotion of digitalization and information technologies.

16. An algorithm for the individual prevention of rural crime was substantiated, offering a proactive approach to reducing criminal risks through personalized interventions: identifying individuals in rural areas with criminogenic potential; processing and scientifically analyzing data through detailed assessment of risk factors; developing an individualized prevention plan; and implementing the individualized prevention plan.

17. The following victimological prevention measures in rural environments were substantiated: identifying vulnerable risk factors; initiating dialogue with members of rural communities, representatives of legal entities and non-governmental organizations; disseminating information materials in traditional and digital mass media; carrying out periodic inspections by public order police; cooperating with school and preschool educational institutions for the implementation of victimological preventive measures; and developing victimological prevention strategies for different types of offences committed in rural areas.

**The major scientific problem** addressed and solved in this thesis lies in the development of a theoretical framework for the study of rural crime, through the conceptualization of the phenomenon as a sectoral field of criminology, the identification of the endogenous and exogenous factors that determine its genesis, and the clarification of the biopsychosocial coordinates characteristic of offenders as well as the victimization



patterns present in rural environments. From the perspective of applied criminology, a conceptual framework for the criminological and victimological prevention system of rural crime has been developed, grounded in theoretical models and intervention algorithms adapted to the different levels of prevention.

To outline concrete directions for action in the field of rural crime prevention, the following proposals are advanced:

1. The prospective development of a National Strategy for the Prevention of Rural Crime (NSPRC), with a clear definition of objectives, priorities, instruments and actions necessary to reduce criminality in rural areas.

2. The NSPRC will also fundamentally contribute to achieving the objectives of sustainable development related to environmental protection, through the inclusion of specific measures aimed at combating environmental crime, such as the conservation of local biodiversity, the protection of natural heritage and the promotion of sustainable agricultural and forestry practices.

3. The Strategy will function simultaneously as a public safety instrument by reducing criminal and contravention acts, as an engine of economic development by stabilizing the rural business environment, as a social catalyst by strengthening solidarity and social inclusion, and as an environmental safeguard through the conservation and protection of natural resources.

4. It is proposed to supplement point 9, subpoint 2 of Government Decision No. 547 of 12 November 2019 on the organization and functioning of the General Inspectorate of Police, by introducing letter p), in the following wording: "Police officers who carry out their activity in rural localities may autonomously decide on the application of crime prevention measures, taking into account the specific causes and conditions that determine them."

5. The reformulation of Article 19 letter e) of Law No. 320 of 27 December 2012 on Police activity and the status of the police officer, so that it would state that, in the field of crime and contravention prevention, the Police have the responsibility to "identify the causes and conditions that may generate or contribute to the commission of offences and contraventions within the Police's competence and to apply preventive measures, including by notifying the competent authorities, public or private institutions, or responsible persons regarding the necessity of applying such measures."

6. The development of operational standards to be applied by the public security police in the field of rural crime prevention. These standards should establish, in a normative manner, the modalities of interaction between sector police officers, local authorities, educational insti-

tutions, social assistance services and the population in the field of crime prevention.

**The advantages of the recommendations** outlined above consist of the following: 1) increased efficiency in the allocation of resources through the precise identification of risk levels and types of intervention, as well as the effective direction of human, material and financial resources; 2) an enhanced degree of public safety in rural communities and strengthened public trust in the authorities through transparency; 3) the integration of governance based on sustainable development, which emphasizes the interdependence between safety, well-being and environmental protection in rural communities; 4) the development of interinstitutional cooperation between the police, local public administration, schools, churches, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

**The future research agenda includes the following directions:** 1) the criminological study and prevention of urban crime; 2) the criminological investigation of issues related to environmental crime in rural areas; 3) the psychology of crime driven by gender inequality.

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c) IONAȘCU, Vitalie; **FRUNZĂ, Alexandru**. Percepția criminalității violente de către populația din mediul rural. În: Cercetarea, dezvoltarea și inovarea din perspectiva eticii globale. Materialele Conferinței Științifice Internaționale ed. a III-a, 15 aprilie 2022, Chișinău: Tehnica-UTM, 2022. pp. 223-224. ISBN 978-9975-45-821-4. Disponibil: [https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag\\_file/223-224\\_9.pdf](https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/223-224_9.pdf).

d) RUSU, Oleg; **FRUNZĂ, Alexandru**. Prevenirea criminalității rurale în contextul unei administrații publice contemporane. În: Materialele conferinței științifico-practice internaționale din 20 mai 2022, „Teoria și practica administrării publice”, (TPAP-2022). pp. 266-270. ISBN 978-9975-3542-3-3. Disponibil: [https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag\\_file/266-270\\_17.pdf](https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/266-270_17.pdf).

e) IONAȘCU, Vitalie; **FRUNZĂ, Alexandru**. Reflecțiune privind conceptul de criminalitate rurală. În: Rolul științei în asigurarea securității naționale și a activității anticrimă. Conferință științifico-practică internațională, 21 decembrie 2021, Chișinău: S. n., 2022. pp.420-433. ISBN 978-9975-159-51-7 (PDF).

f) IONAȘCU, Vitalie; **FRUNZĂ, Alexandru**. Criminalitatea în mediul rural. În: Omul, criminologia, știința. Conferință științifică internațională, 24 martie 2023, Chișinău. pp.131-137. ISBN 978-9975-3418-5-1. Disponibil: [https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag\\_file/131-137\\_23.pdf](https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/131-137_23.pdf).



## 4.2 Articole publicate în materialele conferințelor științifice naționale cu participare internațională

a) IONAȘCU, Vitalie; **FRUNZĂ, Alexandru**. Impactul consumului de băuturi alcoolice asupra comportamentului violent. În: Materialele Conferinței științifice cu participare internațională din 09 decembrie 2021 „Protecția drepturilor și libertăților fundamentale ale omului în procesul asigurării ordinii și securității publice”. Chișinău: Departamentul Editorial-Poligrafic al Academiei „Ștefan cel Mare”, 2022, pp.321-332. ISBN 978-9975-135-53-5. [https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag\\_file/321-332\\_0.pdf](https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/321-332_0.pdf).

b) IONAȘCU, Vitalie; **FRUNZĂ, Alexandru**. Răspunderea contravențională pentru ultragiurea funcționarului publici cu statut special al poliției în timpul combaterii criminalității rurale. În: Materialele Conferinței științifice cu participare internațională din 08 decembrie 2022 „Protecția drepturilor și libertăților fundamentale ale omului în procesul asigurării ordinii și securității publice”. (Ediția a II-a). Chișinău: Departamentul Editorial-Poligrafic al Academiei „Ștefan cel Mare”, 2023, pp.243-251. ISBN 978-9975-135-66-5. [https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag\\_file/243-251\\_1.pdf](https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/243-251_1.pdf).



## ADNOTARE

**FRUNZĂ Alexandru. Analiza criminologică și prevenirea criminalității în mediul rural. Teză de doctor în drept. Chișinău, 2025.**

**Structura tezei:** introducere, patru capitole, concluzii generale și recomandări, bibliografie din 322 de titluri, 6 anexe, 211 de pagini text de bază. Rezultatele obținute sunt publicate în 20 lucrări științifice.

**Cuvinte-cheie:** criminalitate rurală, factori criminogeni, geografia criminalității, urbanizare, personalitate, șomaj, sărăcie, prevenire, victimizare, violență, siguranță comunitară.

**Scopul lucrării** constă în realizarea caracteristicii criminologice comprehensive a criminalității rurale prin relevarea dimensiunilor conceptuale, indicilor cantitativi și calitativi, explicarea genezei și a trăsăturilor caracteristice personalității infractorilor și a victimelor infracțiunilor în vederea elaborării pe această bază a unui model preventiv eficient de prevenire a criminalității rurale.

**Obiectivele lucrării:** definirea și conceptualizarea criminalității rurale; elucidarea indicilor cantitativi și calitativi ai criminalității rurale; identificarea și caracterizarea factorilor criminogeni ai criminalității rurale; caracterizarea personalității infractorului rural; analiza victimologică a criminalității rurale; identificarea măsurilor de prevenire criminologică a criminalității rurale; fundamentarea măsurilor prevenirii victimologice a criminalității rurale; elaborarea unor propuneri și recomandări în vederea perfecționării sistemului de măsuri orientat spre prevenirea fenomenului criminalității rurale.

**Noutatea științifică și originalitatea** tezei de doctorat derivă din abordarea sa unică și multidimensională asupra unui domeniu insuficient explorat în RM, oferind o perspectivă nouă și detaliată asupra criminalității rurale cu soluții practice pentru abordarea unui fenomen complex și în continuă evoluție și cu implicații importante pentru securitatea comunităților rurale.

**Rezultatele obținute contribuie la soluționarea unei probleme științifice importante:** conceptualizarea fenomenului criminalității rurale; cartografierea criminalității rurale la nivel național; analiza factorilor criminogeni specifici mediului rural; dezvoltarea unui cadru teoretic nou pentru studierea criminalității rurale; identificarea și analiza tipologiilor infractorilor din mediul rural; propunerea de strategii de prevenire și intervenție adaptate; contribuția la activitățile și practicile de prevenire a criminalității.

**Importanța teoretică** a tezei de doctorat este semnificativă și multistratificată, reflectând contribuția studiului atât la avansarea cunoștințelor academice în domeniul criminologiei, cât și la îmbunătățirea strategiilor practice de prevenire a criminalității în mediul rural.

**Valoarea aplicativă** este reflectată prin fundamentarea strategiilor și programelor de prevenire și intervenție adaptate la particularitățile comunităților rurale. Rezultatele tezei pot conduce la formularea politicilor publice și alegerea priorităților de acțiune în domeniul prevenirii criminalității și promovării siguranței comunitare în zonele rurale, stimulând parteneriate între sectoarele publice și private și contribuind la creșterea gradului de conștientizare și înțelegere a fenomenului criminalității rurale, prin sensibilizarea și prevenirea criminalității.

**Implementarea rezultatelor științifice:** analizele, concluziile și recomandările formulate își găsesc aplicabilitatea în realizarea unor noi studii științifice, în procesul de elaborare a normelor juridice, în programele de studii ale instituțiilor de învățământ, dar și în activitatea organelor abilitate cu competențe de prevenire și combatere a criminalității.

## ANNOTATION

**FRUNZĂ Alexandru. Criminological analysis and the prevention of crime in rural areas. Doctoral thesis in law. Chișinău, 2025.**

**Structure of the thesis:** introduction, four chapters, general conclusions and recommendations, bibliography consisting of 322 titles, 6 annexes, 211 pages of main text. The obtained results are published in 20 scientific papers.

**Keywords:** rural crime, criminogenic factors, geography of crime, urbanization, personality, unemployment, poverty, prevention, victimization, violence, community safety.

**Purpose of the research:** This work aims to provide a comprehensive criminological characterization of rural crime by highlighting its conceptual dimensions, quantitative and qualitative indicators, and explaining the genesis and characteristic traits of offenders and victims, with the goal of developing an effective preventive model for combating rural crime.

**Objectives of the research:** define and conceptualize rural crime; clarify its quantitative and qualitative indicators; identify and characterize its criminogenic factors; describe the personality of the rural offender; conduct a victimological analysis of rural crime; identify criminological prevention measures; substantiate victimological prevention measures; and develop proposals and recommendations to improve the system of measures aimed at preventing rural crime.

**Scientific novelty and originality** of the doctoral thesis derive from its unique and multidimensional approach to a domain insufficiently explored in the Republic of Moldova, offering a new and detailed perspective on rural crime with practical solutions for addressing a complex and continuously evolving phenomenon with important implications for the security of rural communities.

**The obtained results contribute to solving an important scientific problem:** conceptualization of the phenomenon of rural crime; mapping rural crime at the national level; analysis of criminogenic factors specific to the rural environment; development of a new theoretical framework for the study of rural crime; identification and analysis of typologies of rural offenders; proposing adapted prevention and intervention strategies; contributing to prevention activities and practices.

**Theoretical significance** of the doctoral thesis is considerable and multilayered, reflecting the study's contribution both to the advancement of academic knowledge in the field of criminology and to the improvement of practical strategies for preventing crime in rural areas.

**Practical value** is reflected in the substantiation of prevention and intervention strategies and programs adapted to the particularities of rural communities. The results of the thesis may contribute to the formulation of public policies and the setting of priorities in the field of crime prevention and community safety promotion in rural areas, fostering partnerships between public and private sectors and contributing to raising awareness and understanding of rural crime through prevention and victimization reduction.

**Implementation of the scientific results:** the analyses, conclusions, and recommendations formulated find their applicability in conducting new scientific research, in the process of drafting legal norms, in the curricula of educational institutions, as well as in the activities of bodies empowered with competences in preventing and combating crime.

## АДНОТАЦИЯ

**ФРУНЗЭ Александру. Криминологический анализ и предупреждение преступности в сельской местности. Диссертация на соискание степени доктора юридических наук. Кишинёв, 2025.**

**Структура диссертации:** введение, четыре главы, общие выводы и рекомендации, библиография из 322 наименований, 6 приложений, 211 страниц основного текста. Полученные результаты опубликованы в 20 научных работах.

**Ключевые слова:** сельская преступность, криминогенные факторы, география преступности, урбанизация, личность, безработица, бедность, профилактика, виктимизация, насилие, общественная безопасность.

**Цель работы** является всесторонняя криминологическая характеристика сельской преступности путем раскрытия её концептуальных измерений, количественных и качественных показателей, объяснения генезиса и характерных особенностей личности преступников и жертв преступлений с целью разработки на этой основе эффективной модели профилактики сельской преступности.

**Задачи работы:** определение и концептуализация сельской преступности; выявление количественных и качественных показателей сельской преступности; идентификация и характеристика криминогенных факторов сельской преступности; характеристика личности сельского преступника; виктимологический анализ сельской преступности; выявление мер криминологической профилактики сельской преступности; обоснование мер виктимологической профилактики сельской преступности; разработка предложений и рекомендаций по совершенствованию системы мер, направленных на предупреждение явления сельской преступности.

**Научная новизна и оригинальность** диссертации заключаются в её уникальном и многомерном подходе к недостаточно изученной в Республике Молдова проблеме, что позволяет предложить новое и детализированное видение сельской преступности, а также практические решения для анализа сложного и постоянно развивающегося феномена, имеющего важные последствия для безопасности сельских сообществ.

**Полученные результаты способствуют решению важной научной задачи:** концептуализации феномена сельской преступности; картографированию сельской преступности на национальном уровне; анализу криминогенных факторов, специфичных для сельской среды; разработке новой теоретической базы для изучения сельской преступности; выявлению и анализу типологий сельских преступников; предложению адаптированных стратегий профилактики и вмешательства; содействию профилактической деятельности и практике предупреждения преступности.

**Теоретическая значимость** диссертации является существенной и многослойной, отражая вклад исследования как в развитие академических знаний в области криминологии, так и в совершенствование практических стратегий предупреждения преступности в сельской местности.

**Практическая ценность** выражается в обосновании стратегий и программ профилактики и вмешательства, адаптированных к особенностям сельских сообществ. Результаты диссертации могут способствовать формированию государственной политики и определению приоритетов действий в сфере предупреждения преступности и укрепления общественной безопасности в сельской местности, стимулировать партнерство между государственным и частным секторами, а также способствовать повышению уровня осведомленности и понимания феномена сельской преступности путем её профилактики и снижения виктимизации.

**Внедрение научных результатов:** проведённые анализы, выводы и рекомендации находят своё применение в реализации новых научных исследований, в процессе разработки правовых норм, в учебных программах образовательных учреждений, а также в деятельности органов, наделённых полномочиями по предупреждению и борьбе с преступностью.

**FRUNZĂ ALEXANDRU**

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IN RURAL AREAS**

**Specialty: 554.02 - Criminology**

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