

THE „ȘTEFAN CEL MARE” ACADEMY OF THE MINISTRY OF INTER-
NAL AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
DOCTORAL SCHOOL „CRIMINAL SCIENCES AND PUBLIC LAW”

With the title of the manuscript
U.D.C:343.62:004(043.2)=111

POPA LILIA

**THE METHODOLOGY FOR INVESTIGATING CHILD
SEXUAL ABUSE THROUGH THE USE OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES**

SUMMARY OF THE PHD THESIS IN LAW

**Specialty: 554.04 – Criminalistics, judicial expertise,
operational investigations**

PhD supervisor:

OSTAVCIUC Dinu
PhD hab.,
associate professor

Guidance commission:

ODAGIU Iurie
PhD,
associate professor
COJOCARU Radion
PhD,
university professor
RUSNAC Constantin
PhD,
associate professor

CHIȘINĂU, 2024

The thesis was developed within the Doctoral School „Criminal Sciences and Public Law” of the „Ștefan cel Mare” Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova.

Author:

POPA Lilia

PhD supervisor:

OSTAVCIUC Dinu, PhD hab., associate professor, the „Ștefan cel Mare” Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova.

Public defence commission:

OSOIANU Tudor,	The Chairperson of the Commission , PhD, university professor, The „Ștefan cel Mare” Academy of the MIA
OSTAVCIUC Dinu,	Official Reviewer , PhD hab., associate professor The „Ștefan cel Mare” Academy of the MIA
ODAGIU Iurie	Official Reviewer , PhD, associate professor, The „Ștefan cel Mare” Academy of the MIA
PISARENCO Constantin	Official Reviewer , PhD, associate professor, The Free International University of Moldova
RUSU Vitalie	The secretary of the Commission , PhD, associate professor, The „Alecu Russo” State University from Bălți

The secretary of the Commission:

RUSNAC Constantin, PhD, associate professor
The „Ștefan cel Mare” Academy of the MIA

The defense will take place on 18.01.2025, at 10:00 AM, in the premises of the Academy „Ștefan cel Mare” of the MIA of the Republic of Moldova (address: Chișinău, Gh. Asachi Street, no. 21, administrative building, 2nd floor, The Council Chamber).

The abstract and the doctoral thesis can be consulted at the library of the „Ștefan cel Mare” Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova, on the website of the Doctoral School of Criminal Sciences and Public Law (<https://www.academy.police.md/scoala-doctorala/sustinere-teze-de-doctorat/teze-de-doctorat>) and on the website of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research (www.cnaa.md).

Author:

_____ **POPA Lilia**

The secretary of the Commission:

_____ **RUSNAC Constantin**,
PhD, associate professor
The „Ștefan cel Mare” Academy of the MIA

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

CONCEPTUAL MARKINGS OF THE RESEARCH.....	4
SYNTHESIS OF CHAPTERS.....	10
GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	18
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	25
LIST OF THE AUTHOR'S PUBLICATIONS.....	31
ANNOTATION (in Romanian, Russian and English).....	33-35

CONCEPTUAL MARKINGS OF THE RESEARCH

Actuality and importance of the topic addressed. In the current context of society's rapid development, the Internet has become an indispensable element in education, work, and communication. This digital medium, encompassing various facets such as email addresses, social networks, and online meeting platforms, occupies a significant part of daily life. However, alongside this technological advancement, there has been a notable increase in criminal activities carried out through computers and information networks, commonly referred to as cybercrime.

The issue of sexual offenses against minors continues to attract public attention, profoundly impacting society and being regarded as one of the gravest forms of criminality. These offenses target the most vulnerable segment of the population—children. At the international level, the protection of children's rights and the assurance of their health and well-being remain major priorities, underscoring the global importance of this subject.

The rapid development of information technologies and the easy access to the Internet have created new opportunities for offenders to exploit children's vulnerabilities. Traditional investigative methods have often proven inadequate in addressing this complex and dynamic phenomenon. As the age of digital technology users decreases, an increasing number of children and adolescents engage in online interactions without knowing the real identities of those they communicate with. Consequently, international statistics indicate an alarming rise in sexual offenses against children committed via the Internet, a phenomenon that also affects the Republic of Moldova.

Given this reality, it becomes essential to develop and refine investigative methodologies tailored to the specific nature of crimes committed through digital technologies. This research focuses on the development of advanced techniques for detecting, documenting, collecting, and examining electronic evidence, identifying legislative vulnerabilities, and strengthening the international cooperation necessary to combat such crimes.

The effective protection of minors and the delivery of justice to victims require a continuous adaptation of investigative methodologies to keep pace with the evolving methods employed by offenders. This research contributes to the enhancement of the theoretical and practical framework essential for effective intervention in the prevention and investigation of child abuse and sexual exploitation in the online environment.

The relevance and significance of this thesis lie in identifying solutions to various tactical and organizational issues related to investigating sexual abuse and exploitation offenses against children through the use of information technologies. In the context of a lack of detailed theoretical and practical studies in domestic research and the pressing need to develop a specific algorithm for ap-

plying the tactics and methodologies of investigating such offenses, this research aims to fill this gap by providing a methodological framework to support the investigation of these crimes in the virtual space.

Although certain works address aspects of cybercrime, domestic literature does not delve deeply into the forensic tactics and methodologies necessary for the effective combat of child sexual abuse and exploitation in the online environment, nor into methodologies for overcoming obstacles that hinder the conduct of criminal proceedings in such cases.

Description of the situation in the research field and identification of research problems. The research undertaken is grounded in the analysis of doctrine, legislation, and criminal investigation practices relevant to the addressed field. Given that the investigation of sexual abuse and exploitation of minors through information technologies represents a relatively new area for the Republic of Moldova, at the time of drafting this thesis, a robust and established theoretical foundation was not identified. For this reason, the study relied on the contributions of domestic forensic experts concerning general forensic concepts and aspects, as well as research on forensic principles in investigating similar crimes, such as child trafficking, human trafficking, sexual harassment, and procuring.

A central aspect of the research is the technological complexity of these offenses, reflected in the use of advanced communication and data storage tools that complicate the process of identifying and prosecuting the perpetrators. Additionally, the rapid pace of technological evolution necessitates the constant updating of investigative methods, which raises challenges regarding the adaptability and efficiency of law enforcement agencies. Furthermore, safeguarding the rights of minor victims in investigations involving digital technology adds another layer of difficulty, requiring a sensitive and balanced approach that reconciles the need to collect evidence with respect for the privacy and dignity of children.

The significant scientific issue addressed by this research consists of developing a forensic investigation methodology for offenses involving the sexual abuse of children through the use of information technologies. This contribution led to the identification and development of methods and tools that facilitate their effective application in investigating these specific crimes while ensuring the appropriate protection of victims.

The purpose of the thesis. The purpose of this thesis is the comprehensive research of forensic methodologies for investigating offenses involving the sexual abuse of children through the use of information technologies. The study aims to assess the need for improving the relevant legal framework, propose solutions for its enhancement, promote best practices, and optimize the investigation process. Ultimately, the objective is to address the challenges posed by new forms of criminality effectively.

The objectives of the research. To achieve this goal, both from a theoretical and practical perspective, the following *objectives* have been outlined::

- evaluating research and specialized literature concerning the methodology for investigating offenses related to the sexual abuse and exploitation of minors committed through information technologies;
- examining the investigative practices of offenses involving the sexual abuse and exploitation of children committed through the use of information technologies;
- developing the structure and content of the forensic profile of offenses involving the sexual abuse and exploitation of children through information technologies, identifying correlations among its elements, and demonstrating its practical significance;
- establishing the specificities of identifying signs of the offense and initiating criminal proceedings in cases involving the sexual abuse and exploitation of children committed through information technologies;
- identifying the circumstances that must be established in investigating the sexual abuse of children through information technologies;
- identifying typical scenarios of criminal prosecution that arise during the initial and subsequent stages of investigating the analyzed category of offenses, and developing a system of actions for investigators in each situation;
- analyzing aspects related to the effective cooperation of investigators with national and international bodies in investigating criminal cases within the analyzed category;
- identifying the particularities of investigative tactics for conducting specific actions in investigating the analyzed category of offenses and formulating appropriate recommendations for criminal prosecution bodies;
- proposing recommendations aimed at improving the effectiveness of detecting, identifying, and investigating offenses within the analyzed category.

Methodology of scientific research. To conduct an objective and comprehensive study on the investigation of offenses involving the sexual abuse and exploitation of children through the use of information technologies, this thesis employed a series of research methods, including:

- the logical method (based on inductive and deductive analysis);
- the comparative method (used to study scientific materials related to the methodology and tactics of investigating the analyzed offenses, published both in the Republic of Moldova and other countries);
- the systemic method (applied to examine national and international legal acts);
- the empirical method (involving the analysis of national investigative practices related to the offenses in question, conducted by the author during the

development of the thesis).

Scientific novelty and originality. The novelty and scientific originality of the results obtained in this thesis stem from the fact that it represents the first comprehensive scientific research on offenses involving the sexual abuse of children committed through information technologies within the context of the Republic of Moldova. This research makes a significant contribution to the field through a detailed analysis and critical evaluation of the existing doctrinal perspective, providing a valuable theoretical and practical foundation for both practitioners and theorists. The study advances the field by developing and proposing innovative methodologies for investigating offenses involving the sexual abuse of minors. These methodologies are specifically adapted to the digital technologies employed in committing such offenses, addressing the complexity and challenges faced by law enforcement authorities. The research findings contribute to the improvement of the existing theoretical and methodological framework by offering concrete solutions to the gaps identified in the relevant legislation and practice. Through this integrated approach, the thesis not only identifies and analyzes current issues but also proposes viable solutions to optimize the investigation process, emphasizing the importance of continuously updating investigative methods and techniques in line with the rapid evolution of information technologies. This research constitutes an essential endeavor for developing an adequate methodological framework, contributing to the efficiency of preventing and investigating sexual abuse offenses against minors in the online environment, thereby reflecting its relevance and originality in the current context.

Theoretical significance of the thesis. The theoretical significance of this research lies in the deepening and development of investigative methods for offenses involving the sexual abuse and exploitation of children committed through information technologies, a subject of major relevance in the field of forensic science. The work contributes to the development of forensic theory through a comprehensive synthesis of advancements in investigative techniques, tactics, and methodologies, integrating essential aspects of criminal procedure, special investigative activities, and national and international cooperation.

The study clarifies and structures existing tactics and methodologies, adapting them to new technological realities and identifying innovative procedures necessary for the effective investigation of such offenses. This approach enriches the specialized literature with new concepts and techniques, offering value to both theorists and practitioners.

Through a detailed analysis of how digital technologies are used to commit sexual abuse offenses, the work highlights the specificities and challenges associated with these crimes. It enables the formulation of clear positions and the identification of concrete tactics and methods that are adaptable to the investi-

gation of these complex offenses. Additionally, the research proposes solutions to issues arising from normative inconsistencies or ambiguities, thus contributing to the efficiency of the investigative process.

The importance of this research is also reflected in its direct impact on public and legal policies, offering solid theoretical arguments that may influence the revision and updating of the normative framework. Consequently, the study facilitates better alignment of legislation with contemporary realities and the need to protect children from abuses perpetrated through technology.

Through these contributions, the research significantly enhances the theoretical and practical framework for investigating cybercrimes involving sexual abuse, with a notable impact on the efficiency and adaptability of legal and protective measures.

Applied value of the thesis: The results of the research and the author's conclusions will be promoted and disseminated through various methods, to be utilized and applied both in research activities and in the practical work of judicial bodies. The findings have been published in various scientific journals and presented at national and international conferences.

The obtained results are materialized in the main scientific theses submitted for defense and in the significant scientific problem addressed, which consists of outlining the forensic framework for cases involving the sexual abuse of children through the use of information technologies. This includes designing an algorithm for criminal prosecution actions, special investigative measures, and other relevant activities, all based on legislation, doctrine, and jurisprudence, as well as forensic tactics and methodology. These contributions are intended to enhance the efficiency of this process within the broader framework of preventing and combating the targeted offenses.

Implementation of scientific results: The conclusions formulated within this doctoral thesis can be of significant use in the process of drafting and refining regulations concerning the criminal prosecution of cases involving the sexual abuse and exploitation of children through the use of information technologies. Additionally, they serve as practical tools for legal professionals in the investigation and detection of such offenses.

The implementation of the scientific findings from this research on the methodology and tactics for investigating offenses of sexual abuse and exploitation of minors committed through information technologies holds substantial importance from both theoretical and practical perspectives. These findings contribute significantly to the development of an appropriate methodological and tactical framework necessary for addressing the specific complexities of these offenses, which profoundly impact both victims and society.

The theoretical foundation and conclusions developed in this thesis can be integrated into initial and continuing education programs for students, mas-

ter's candidates, and doctoral candidates in law faculties, offering a comprehensive and updated perspective on cybercrime related to the sexual abuse of minors. These insights are crucial for training professionals capable of effectively addressing the challenges posed by new technologies and correctly applying legal and investigative procedures.

At the same time, the results of this research are highly valuable for the continuing education programs of prosecutors, judges, and other legal specialists directly involved in the investigation and resolution of such offenses. By including these findings in training programs, practitioners' ability to correctly identify and interpret electronic evidence, use appropriate techniques for interviewing victims and suspects, and apply special investigative measures in an efficient and lawful manner can be enhanced.

Furthermore, the research findings have been reflected in scientific articles published in specialized journals, thus contributing to the expansion of knowledge in the field and providing a solid foundation for future studies and research. Presentations and communications delivered at national and international scientific conferences have allowed for the dissemination of these results to a broad audience of specialists and researchers, facilitating the exchange of ideas and best practices in investigating online child sexual abuse committed through information technologies.

The implementation of these results in the practical work of criminal investigation bodies, prosecution offices, and courts is essential for improving the quality of justice. Integrating the proposed methodologies and tactics into the investigation process will enhance procedural actions' efficiency and protect victims' rights while ensuring the fair and proportional application of the law.

Given the complexity and importance of the addressed topic, the dissemination and application of the research conclusions are priorities for the author. These efforts are carried out through various methods and channels, both in academia and in practice, aiming to continuously improve investigative methodologies and contribute to the development of a legislative and procedural framework capable of addressing the challenges posed by cybercrimes.

Approval of results. The results obtained during the development of the thesis were presented and subjected to detailed analysis at prestigious national and international scientific forums, where they generated constructive discussions and exchanges of opinions. Additionally, these findings were published in accredited specialized journals, contributing to the enrichment of the professional literature and offering valuable practical and theoretical solutions for the researched field.

Publications on the thesis topic: 12 publications.

Key words: sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of minors, information technologies, online crime, forensic investigation, digital evidence, child trafficking, criminal prosecution, investigation methods, international cooperation, etc.

SYNTHESIS OF CHAPTERS

The thesis has the following structure: annotations in Romanian, English, and Russian; a list of abbreviations; an introduction; four chapters divided into sections; general conclusions and recommendations; followed by a bibliography comprising 222 titles; a statement of responsibility; and the author's CV.

In *Chapter I*, entitled „*Analysis of the Situation in Forensic Research on Sexual Abuse of Children through the Use of Information Technologies*” an analysis is conducted of international scientific materials and those published in the Republic of Moldova that are relevant to addressing and elucidating the methodology for investigating sexual abuse of children through the use of information technologies. Special attention is given to recent research in the analyzed field. The works of the following authors were examined: Russu Sergiu, Botezatu Elena, Osoianu Tudor, Ostavciuc Dinu, Odagiu Iurie, Rusnac Constantin, Covalciuc Ion, Pântea Andrei, Sorin Rădulescu, Kemal Veli Açar, Cârjan Lazăr, Carp Simion, Osadicii Cornel, Dolea Igor, Dongoroz Vintilă, Purici Svetlana, Vizdoga Ion, Roman Dumitru, Donciu Anatolie, Abramova Svetlana, Zaharov Nicolai, Lomakina Alla, Haliullina Aiguli, Iablokov Nicolai, Vitalie Jitariuc, Nicolae Sfetcu, among others..

Thus, the chapter analyzes national and international scientific materials addressing the topic of child sexual abuse through the use of information technologies, highlighting their contributions to a broader understanding of the phenomenon. It emphasizes that, while there are relatively few studies specifically dedicated to this subject, some general research provides valuable theoretical and methodological frameworks for further exploration.

The scientific opinions of researchers from the Republic of Moldova and other countries were examined, revealing that domestic studies are limited in number and often address related topics such as human trafficking, cybercrime, or child protection. Although not exclusively focused on the investigation of online sexual abuse, these works have contributed to understanding the complexity of offenses facilitated by the digital environment. Analyzing these resources allowed the author to broaden their perspective and adapt theoretical concepts and investigative practices to the specificities of this research.

On the international level, specialized literature shows greater attention to child sexual abuse in the digital environment, although most works still focus on general aspects of cybercrime or related offenses. Studies conducted by organizations such as UNODC, INTERPOL, and EUROPOL provide relevant examples of best practices and investigative strategies, which were utilized in this research to adapt international models to the national context.

The chapter underscores the role of electronic evidence in investigating these offenses, highlighting the need for well-structured methodologies for iden-

tifying, collecting, and utilizing such evidence. It also discusses challenges, such as the anonymity offered by the online environment, the use of encryption, and the transnational nature of these offenses, which complicate investigative processes.

Another essential aspect addressed in the chapter is victim protection, particularly for minors. The author emphasizes the need for special procedural measures to prevent the retraumatization of victims and ensure a safe environment during investigations and hearings. Best international practices in interviewing minors, using expert psychologists, and providing post-traumatic psychological assistance are highlighted.

Although the scientific materials analyzed originate from diverse fields such as forensic science, criminal procedure law, and sociology, they enabled the author to formulate conclusions and recommendations tailored to the research topic. The integration of scientific opinions from these works contributed to the development of a proprietary investigative methodology capable of addressing the challenges posed by new forms of criminality facilitated by information technologies.

Thus, the chapter reflects a comprehensive analysis of relevant specialized literature, highlighting each study's contribution to advancing the research. Despite the limited available materials, the author successfully outlined a solid theoretical framework and identified practical solutions for effectively investigating child sexual abuse offenses in the digital environment. This analysis significantly contributes to filling existing gaps in both national and international doctrines, serving as a foundation for future research.

Chapter II, entitled „The Organization of Investigating Sexual Abuse of Children Through the Use of Information Technologies” provides a comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the forensic and methodological aspects associated with investigating this severe form of criminality. The author emphasizes the importance of a multidisciplinary approach tailored to the specificities of these offenses, combining elements of forensic science, criminal procedure law, psychology, and information technology to ensure effective investigation and adequate victim protection.

A central theme of the chapter is the forensic profile, defined as a complex system of information about offenders' behavioral patterns, their personalities, victims' vulnerabilities, and the traces left by the crime. This concept is essential for effective investigation, as it allows for the reconstruction of the criminal mechanism and the identification of perpetrators. In analyzing the forensic profile, the author highlights the following essential elements: 1) *Modus operandi of cyber offenders*: Offenders use advanced manipulation techniques such as grooming, sexual extortion (sextortion), or the exploitation of pornographic materials. Their actions are meticulously planned, leveraging the anonymity and

global reach of the internet to avoid detection. Specific cases are analyzed to illustrate the methods used to gain victims' trust and exploit them; 2) *Circumstances of the offense*: The chapter emphasizes the importance of documenting the location and time of the acts, as well as the relationships between the victim and the offender. For example, many offenses occur during times when children are unsupervised, such as after school or at night. Additionally, the complexities of cross-border cases, where offenders and victims are in different countries, are discussed, highlighting the need for effective international cooperation; 3) *Digital traces*: In the online environment, criminal traces are predominantly virtual, consisting of data such as IP addresses, chat histories, multimedia files, and metadata. The chapter details the importance of collecting and analyzing these traces, as well as the challenges encountered, such as encryption or the use of darknet networks. Digital evidence is presented as indispensable for investigations, though the author emphasizes that law enforcement agencies must be technologically proficient to identify and effectively use such evidence; 4) *Profiles of offenders and victims*: The chapter provides a detailed analysis of offender and victim profiles, underlining the necessity of a profound understanding of these to guide investigations and protect affected minors. The offender profile reveals manipulative behavior and a tendency to exploit victims' emotional and social vulnerabilities. Three main categories of offenders are described: those seeking intimacy and romantic relationships with victims; offenders who believe children are capable of consenting to sexual acts; and hypersexual abusers who collect and distribute large amounts of illegal materials. The psychological impact of the offenders' actions is also analyzed, including their use of threats or manipulation to control victims and prevent disclosure.

The chapter also examines the challenges related to detecting offenders who use advanced technologies to conceal their identities. The vulnerability of minors, their lack of experience, and their innocence are key elements that facilitate abuse. Victims are often manipulated or blackmailed, and the chapter underscores the importance of documenting their behavior, their relationship with the offender, and the psychological impact of the abuse. Difficulties in identifying victims are also discussed, especially in cases where there is no direct contact between them and the aggressor.

A major subject of the chapter is the analysis of legislative gaps and technical limitations that hinder effective investigation. The author emphasizes that national legislation must be harmonized with international standards to address the complexity of these offenses. Additionally, the continuous updating of law enforcement agencies' technical skills is necessary to keep pace with the new technologies used by offenders.

The importance of international cooperation is emphasized, considering

the transnational nature of these offenses. Mechanisms for the rapid exchange of information, such as those regulated by the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, are essential for effective investigation.

The chapter places particular focus on victim protection and the involvement of specialists from various fields in the investigative process. The author highlights that the psychological impact of sexual abuse on children is profound, and psychological and social support measures are essential for their recovery. Collaboration between psychologists, social workers, and law enforcement agencies is vital to prevent retraumatization and provide adequate assistance to victims.

The chapter concludes that investigating sexual abuse of minors through the use of information technologies requires a combination of technical, legislative, and organizational solutions. Measures proposed include the development of standardized methodologies for investigating digital evidence; harmonizing national legislation with international standards; expanding professional training for law enforcement in the field of information technologies; and creating support programs for victims tailored to the specific needs of minors. The chapter demonstrates that only a coordinated approach, integrating forensic, legal, and psychological aspects, can address the complexity of these offenses and ensure the adequate protection of victims. Thus, this analysis contributes to the development of an innovative perspective on combating child sexual abuse using information technologies.

Chapter III of the thesis, entitled „*Methods for Detecting Sexual Abuse of Children Through the Use of Information Technologies*” presents a comprehensive study of the process of identifying criminal signs and investigating sexual abuse offenses against minors in the online environment, offering methodological and practical solutions to enhance its efficiency. The chapter examines the critical stages of criminal prosecution, the relevance of digital evidence, the use of advanced technologies, and the importance of inter-institutional and international cooperation, while also highlighting major challenges and existing gaps in this field.

The author emphasizes that the initial stages of criminal prosecution are crucial for identifying signs of criminal activity and establishing a clear direction for the investigation. The chapter details the process of evaluating complaints and reports from various sources, including direct complaints, anonymous reports, and international notifications. In this context, the necessity of promptly establishing reasonable suspicion based on preliminary evidence, which supports the formal initiation of criminal proceedings, is analyzed.

Investigation is viewed as a series of well-planned actions that begin with verifying complaints and analyzing initial evidence. The chapter highlights the importance of methodical planning of investigative activities to avoid the loss

of critical time and information. A corresponding methodological algorithm is recommended for verifying complaints, which includes standardized steps for analyzing electronic devices, correlating data, and obtaining judicial authorizations for additional actions.

A central element of the chapter is the analysis of electronic evidence, considered fundamental in the investigation of online sexual abuse offenses. The chapter provides a detailed description of the process of identifying, collecting, preserving, and utilizing such evidence, emphasizing adherence to legal and procedural norms to ensure its admissibility in court.

The author highlights that digital evidence includes a wide range of information, such as: 1) metadata of electronic files, which can reveal the time of creation and distribution of illegal materials; 2) IP addresses and geolocation data, essential for identifying the physical location of suspects; 3) browsing history and electronic communications, which can provide clues about criminal activities and the relationship between the offender and the victim.

The role of advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence and big data analysis tools, in processing large volumes of digital data quickly and efficiently is analyzed. For instance, specialized software can automatically detect child pornography materials using image recognition algorithms. However, the chapter also highlights the limitations of these technologies, such as difficulties in interpreting deleted or encrypted data.

Another critical aspect examined is the challenges of collecting evidence in an international context. The author emphasizes that, in many cases, the servers and devices involved are located in other jurisdictions, necessitating international authorizations and collaboration with authorities from other states. Examples from ECtHR practice are cited, highlighting the importance of adhering to the principle of proportionality in using surveillance and communication interception technologies.

The chapter underscores the importance of inter-institutional and international cooperation, considering the transnational nature of online sexual abuse offenses against minors. Mechanisms for institutional collaboration to ensure efficient information exchange, coordination of operations, and shared resource utilization are analyzed.

The relevance of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, which establishes a legal framework for international cooperation in investigating cybercrimes, is discussed in detail. The chapter explains how platforms such as INTERPOL, ICSE, Database, and NCMEC facilitate the identification and tracking of illegally distributed materials globally. The importance of public-private partnerships, such as collaboration with social media platforms and internet service providers to detect and remove illegal content, is also emphasized.

A relevant example is the use of national platforms such as www.siguronline.md, which facilitates anonymous reporting of abuse cases, thus supporting the initiation of investigations. The chapter suggests expanding such initiatives by implementing verification mechanisms and automatic forwarding to competent authorities.

The chapter analyzes various typical situations encountered in investigating online sexual abuse offenses. Procedural tactics for each stage, from identifying the suspect to gathering evidence, are presented. For instance, when the offender uses advanced anonymization methods, it is recommended to employ techniques of infiltration into suspect networks and conduct undercover actions. Conversely, if a victim is identified, the process must focus on obtaining a detailed testimony using interviewing methods tailored to the child's age and psychological state.

The author stresses that each stage of the investigation must be rigorously planned to maximize the effectiveness of evidence collection and ensure compliance with the procedural rights of all parties involved. The importance of coordination with experts in psychology, IT, and social work, who can clarify the circumstances of the offenses, is also emphasized.

The chapter concludes that methods for detecting and investigating sexual abuse offenses against minors in the online environment must integrate advanced technologies, international cooperation, and adherence to criminal procedural norms. Continuous updates to the tools and methods used are necessary to keep up with rapid developments in the cyber environment.

Recommendations include creating interdisciplinary teams for investigating complex cases, implementing a unified framework for analyzing and utilizing digital evidence, and developing specialized training programs for law enforcement agencies.

The chapter provides a broad and well-founded perspective on the investigation process, contributing significantly to strengthening authorities' capacity to combat these crimes and protect victims' rights.

Chapter IV of the thesis, entitled „*Specificities of Procedural Actions and Special Investigative Measures in Cases of Sexual Abuse of Children Through the Use of Information Technologies*” delves into the challenges and solutions related to investigating cyber offenses of sexual abuse against minors. The chapter emphasizes the adaptation of procedural actions and special investigative measures to the complexity of offenses committed in the online environment, highlighting the need for modern legislation, efficient procedures, and psychological protection for victims.

An essential aspect of this chapter is the analysis of how the main criminal prosecution actions are adapted to address the specifics of cybercrimes involv-

ing minor victims. Victim interviews, for example, are presented as a highly sensitive stage. The chapter emphasizes the importance of using special techniques to reduce psychological trauma and protect the child's interests. Interviews must take place in a safe environment, and the participation of psychologists, social workers, and other specialists is considered essential. The chapter also recommends using specially equipped interview rooms located in child-friendly spaces that comply with international standards for child protection.

Regarding recognition procedures, the chapter highlights the necessity of thorough preparation and strict adherence to procedural norms. This process is essential for investigating cybercrimes but involves specific challenges. Psychological factors such as memory and the ability to identify individuals play a crucial role in the validity of recognition. Standardizing the selection of individuals presented for recognition, utilizing modern technologies (photo and video), and training involved personnel are recommended to ensure the process's accuracy. The chapter stresses that any error at this stage could severely impact the investigation's outcome and compromise the integrity of the evidence.

Another central focus of the chapter is the analysis of handling physical evidence, with an emphasis on the specifics of electronic evidence. The chapter details the complexity of collecting and processing digital evidence, which is often manipulated, encrypted, or disseminated through complex networks. The importance of involving IT experts to ensure the authenticity and integrity of such evidence is underscored. The chapter argues that the current legislation is insufficiently adapted to the challenges of investigating digital evidence, which can result in its inadmissibility in court. In this regard, legislative measures are proposed to clarify the norms governing the handling, storage, and use of digital evidence.

Another important element discussed in the chapter is the use of special investigative measures, such as communication interception, online activity monitoring, and subscriber identification. These measures are essential for gathering evidence in cases of sexual abuse against minors but pose significant legal and ethical challenges. The chapter emphasizes that these measures must be applied with strict adherence to legal norms and only when justified by the severity of the offense. The need to balance individuals' right to privacy with the state's obligation to protect victims and prevent criminality is also detailed.

A central aspect of the chapter is the involvement of specialized knowledge in investigating these offenses. The chapter argues that technological expertise is indispensable for reconstructing offenders' modus operandi, especially in cases involving anonymous networks, data encryption, or other sophisticated methods. The chapter highlights the importance of training law enforcement and judicial personnel to ensure a proper understanding of digital evidence and

the methods used to collect it. Additionally, the crucial role of IT experts in providing technical support throughout the criminal process is emphasized.

The chapter also addresses the legislative gaps and deficiencies that hinder efficient investigations. It identifies significant shortcomings in existing regulations, such as: the lack of clear norms for conducting interviews with minor victims, which can lead to delays or the use of inappropriate methods; the absence of regulations specifying in detail how digital evidence should be managed and presented; and the lack of a modernized legislative framework for using special investigative measures.

To address these challenges, the chapter proposes several legislative and administrative recommendations, such as: establishing strict timelines for conducting interviews with minor victims to prevent the loss of relevant information and minimize stress on the child; introducing clear regulations into legislation regarding the collection, storage, and presentation of digital evidence; creating a professional directory to include IT experts and establishing remuneration criteria for them; and revising criminal procedure norms to account for the specifics of cybercrimes and the measures needed to investigate them.

The chapter provides a detailed and practical analysis of the investigative tactics used in cases of sexual abuse against minors committed through information technologies. The formulated recommendations underline the need for modern legislation, continuous training of judicial personnel, and the creation of standardized protocols for investigating cybercrimes. These measures are essential to protect victims' rights and ensure efficient and fair investigations. The chapter stresses that, given the rise in cybercrime, it is imperative for legislation and judicial practices to evolve to meet new challenges. This integrated approach can ensure a balance between protecting fundamental rights and addressing serious offenses that affect children.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The scientific results obtained from this study consist of: 1) determining the quality of investigations into offenses related to the sexual abuse of children committed through the use of information technologies; 2) providing a scientific basis for the content of the forensic profile for investigating the targeted offenses; 3) establishing the circumstances that form the basis for reasonable suspicion of the commission of the referenced offenses; 4) identifying the specific circumstances that must be established during the investigation of these offenses; 5) justifying forensic investigation algorithms applicable to typical scenarios of criminal prosecution; 6) prospectively enhancing the mechanisms of judicial cooperation in investigating these offenses; 7) formulating recommendations aimed at improving the effectiveness of investigating the sexual abuse of children through information technologies.

Following the conducted research, the following general conclusions and recommendations are formulated, aimed at improving the methodology for investigating the sexual abuse of children through the use of information technologies.

The general conclusions of this doctoral thesis are as follows:

1. The study of offenses involving the sexual abuse of minors through information technologies highlights a relatively new and insufficiently explored domain, both in the Republic of Moldova and internationally. Although cybercrime has risen alarmingly with the advancement of digital technologies, the specialized literature and doctrinal solutions dedicated to investigating these offenses remain limited. In the absence of established methodologies in the field, the study relied on general works in forensic science, criminal procedure, and related offenses such as human trafficking, child trafficking, and cybercrime, which exhibit methodological similarities.

2. The analysis of investigative practices for offenses involving the sexual abuse of children committed through information technologies concludes that these investigations face specific challenges, such as the difficulty of identifying perpetrators, the volatility of electronic evidence, and the need for innovative tactics to ensure the protection of minor victims. The rapid evolution of technology deepens the complexity of these offenses, and traditional investigative methods are not always effective. Furthermore, the transnational nature of these crimes requires intensified cooperation between international agencies.

3. The forensic profile of these offenses is essential for streamlining the investigative process and involves identifying key elements such as the crime environment (place, time, and circumstances of commission), the modus operandi of offenders, digital traces left behind, the profiles of offenders and victims,

and the types of technology used to commit the offense. These elements, correlated with the evidentiary circumstances necessary to substantiate charges, provide a solid foundation for formulating prosecution hypotheses and facilitating the identification and apprehension of offenders.

The interdependence between the elements of the forensic profile and the circumstances to be proven contributes to a systematic and coherent approach to investigating online offenses. This integrated approach enables a more accurate assessment of electronic evidence and a better understanding of offenders' modus operandi, ensuring an adequate response from law enforcement agencies. A detailed and applicable forensic profile for these offenses represents a fundamental tool for criminal prosecution bodies and prosecutors. Through its extensive use in correlation with evidentiary circumstances and the integration of new technologies into the investigative process, quicker and more efficient investigations of online child sexual abuse cases can be ensured, adequately protecting victims and facilitating the identification and prosecution of perpetrators.

4. The analysis of investigative practices for online sexual abuse of minors reveals a prompt response by judicial bodies to complaints received, with criminal proceedings generally initiated quickly. This is a positive approach, as delayed intervention can result in the loss of critical evidence, especially when the offense was recently committed. However, a problematic aspect noted is the significant delay with which individuals file complaints, complicating the investigation and prompt detection of criminal signs. Key aspects that must be verified to establish reasonable suspicion for initiating criminal proceedings include the presence of the online platform used, the identity of the minor victim, the behavior and intent of the offender, the impact on the victim, and the detailed analysis of electronic evidence.

5. Investigating the sexual abuse of children through information technologies, in addition to those established by criminal procedural law, requires establishing distinct and essential circumstances, including the victim's identity and age, the offender's identity, the nature and severity of the act, the duration and frequency of the abuse, the victim's health and psychological support, and the electronic evidence obtained. These elements contribute to building a solid criminal case, providing context and relevant details for law enforcement representatives.

6. In investigating online sexual abuse of minors, correctly identifying criminal prosecution scenarios is essential for determining an effective investigative strategy. These typical scenarios, which arise during both the initial and subsequent stages of investigation, provide an operational framework that allows law enforcement to respond promptly and effectively to case developments.

The research identified the following typical scenarios of criminal prosecution:

- parents of a minor discover explicit sexual messages and content on the child's electronic device (sexting);
- an international organization identifies a social network account with an IP address in the Republic of Moldova involved in distributing sexual materials featuring minors and notifies the national authorities;
- a child helpline or an online anonymous reporting platform receives a call or report from a minor being blackmailed and threatened with the publication of intimate images on the internet, forced to send sexual photos;
- during an investigation into online sexual exploitation, law enforcement discovers communications suggesting an adult's involvement in recruiting and sexually exploiting minors through promises of material rewards and invitations for meetings with sexual intentions;
- an international anti-human trafficking organization provides information about a group operating on the dark web offering sexual services with minors. Local authorities are notified and begin investigating the group's activities, which involve coercing minors in exchange for rewards;
- a minor reports to authorities after observing behavioral changes in a friend, suspecting the friend is a victim of online sexual abuse, signaling inappropriate messages and requests received on social networks;
- a child recently recruited into a private online group receives promises of financial rewards for sending sexual content. Upon realizing they are being exploited and threatened with the publication of this content, the child decides to report it to authorities.

7. The research underscores that the efficiency of international cooperation heavily depends on the correct and detailed formulation of requests for legal assistance, particularly rogatory commissions. Vague or insufficiently specific formulations of such requests can significantly delay responses from foreign authorities, requiring additional clarification.

8. The research highlights the necessity of conducting criminal prosecution actions in investigating the sexual abuse of children through information technologies, which, in addition to general forensic tactics, acquire specific particularities as follows:

Interrogation tactics:

- interviewing child victims must take place in a supportive and sensitive environment, involving specialized personnel (interviewers, psychologists) to minimize trauma. The interviews should be carefully planned, using strategies tailored to the child's age and psychological state. This approach not only protects the child's mental health but also helps obtain credible information essential for the investigation. The child should be asked about: the technol-

ogy used; a description of the perpetrator and their actions; the applications through which communication occurred; the location and type of relationship with the child; how the offender coerced/manipulated the child into performing or submitting to such acts; whether sexual or pornographic images were used/present/recorded, and if so, how; the involvement or presence of other children and their identification; whether the child knows other individuals who participated in or are aware of these acts, or who know the perpetrator; the names of people the child told about the incident; whether the child has been victimized by multiple individuals, including their names or descriptions; and whether the child knows of other children subjected to similar acts of violence, among other details;

- interviewing experts and specialists, in addition to general theoretical, informational, and methodological questions, should include specific inquiries such as: How was the authenticity of video or audio files containing explicit materials with minors verified? Are there technical indications that the files were altered or modified before being analyzed? Is it possible that another individual acted on the network using the accused's Wi-Fi connection? What methods were used to identify individuals who accessed or distributed the materials online? Were encryption measures or other security techniques detected to conceal the suspect's online activity? How were deleted or encrypted information retrieved from the devices analyzed during the investigation? Can the digital trail of the incriminating files and how they were discovered on the suspect's devices be explained?, etc.;

- interviewing the suspect/accused should involve the following specific questions: How did you use the technologies or online platforms mentioned in this investigation? Can you explain their functionality and role in your activities? What do you know about terms such as encryption, specific software, or VPN usage? If you are not familiar with them, how did you come to use them in your activities? What is the purpose of the electronic devices, applications, or online accounts identified in the investigation? Can you justify the presence of the files, images, or conversations found on your devices? In what context were these created, received, or distributed? Were you aware that the activities carried out were illegal? What motivated you to continue engaging in them? Were you aware that the individuals involved were minors? If so, did you attempt to exploit this knowledge in any way? What were your intentions and purposes in these online activities? How do you explain any discrepancies between the statements you provided and the identified digital evidence?, etc.

Tactics for recognition procedures. To ensure the efficiency and legality of the recognition procedure, it is imperative to rely on an objective evaluation of the conditions under which the distinctive characteristics of the person or

object in question were initially memorized. Moreover, the success of this procedure depends on the cognitive and perceptual abilities of the subject, as well as their psychophysical state at the time of the initial perception. This includes assessing whether the child is psychologically prepared to participate in the recognition process.

Search tactics. During the preparation phase, the prosecutor's request must be supported by clear, relevant, and conclusive evidence, such as records of online criminal activities, sexually explicit conversations, or exchanges of pornographic materials involving minors. The search primarily targets electronic devices with internet access and data storage media, with precise localization and documentation of these items through photography and video recording being essential. The participation of specialists with technical expertise ensures the correct collection and analysis of electronic traces. To preserve the integrity of the evidence, it is imperative to disconnect devices from communication networks and restrict access to them by individuals present during the search.

Based on the conclusions drawn, the following recommendations and *de lege ferenda* proposals are put forward to improve the methodology for investigating the sexual abuse of children through the use of information technologies:

1. Amend and supplement Article 110¹ (1) of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) to establish an express deadline for filing a motion for the special hearing of a child and for its examination by the investigating judge. The lack of a precise timeframe creates uncertainty and may affect the predictability of the criminal process. Regulation is needed to ensure a balance between prompt measures and the procedural rights of the parties involved;

2. Amend the procedural legislation to confer the right to conduct special hearings on criminal investigation officers or prosecutors, thereby reducing exclusive reliance on the investigating judge and ensuring greater procedural efficiency;

3. Ensure that child hearing facilities are located in isolated areas, separate from spaces where arrested persons or other trial participants are held, either through designated entrances in courthouses or within Regional Assistance Centers for child victims and witnesses. This measure aims to guarantee a safe and child-friendly environment;

4. Take urgent measures to bring child hearing facilities into compliance with applicable legal, technical, and international standards. The absence of such compliance risks compromising the integrity of the justice process and the credibility of the information obtained from minor victims;

5. Incorporate into legislation a regulated procedure for the selection and summoning of interviewers for criminal investigation actions, including criteria for evaluating their qualifications and participation in mandatory professional

training programs in the field of child protection and forensic interviewing;

6. Amend Article 123 of the CPC by replacing the term “criminal procedure experiment” with “procedural experiment” to better reflect the forensic purpose and legal scope of this measure;

7. Ensure that criminal investigation bodies conduct procedural experiments during the investigation, particularly when suspects or defendants deny their culpability and provide alternative explanations;

8. In cases involving offenses of sexual abuse through the use of information technologies, searches should be conducted between 06:00 and 08:00, a timeframe when information systems are typically inactive, minimizing the risk of data destruction. Searches at legal entities should be conducted at the start of the workday to ensure access to relevant evidence;

9. Require that, when technical-scientific findings or judicial expertise on informational means and technologies are ordered, and data storage devices are analyzed, the criminal investigation body submits a motion to the prosecutor to obtain authorization from the investigating judge to examine or investigate the informational content of such devices;

10. Authorize the collection of biological samples from both the suspect and the injured party in cases where it is necessary to establish the source of biological traces or identify potential accomplices, ensuring procedural precision and evidentiary reliability;

11. Amend Article 143 of the CPC to mandate judicial expertise in cases of sexual abuse committed using information technologies. Given the virtual nature of these offenses, such expertise is essential to establish the evidentiary foundation of the case;

12. Supplement the CPC to include provisions allowing for the conduct of special investigative measures in cases involving sexual abuse of children through information technologies. Measures such as domicile searches, technical surveillance, monitoring of financial transactions, and undercover operations are crucial for dismantling criminal networks, protecting victims, and preventing the proliferation of illegal content, thereby upholding the paramount interests of children and public security;

13. Implement and develop technologies that enable the real-time storage and retrieval of relevant information in cases of online child sexual abuse, thereby facilitating the evidentiary process and ensuring the prosecution’s ability to substantiate the culpability of the perpetrator;

14. Enact legal obligations requiring online service providers to report instances of child sexual abuse, including live-streamed offenses. The failure of providers to report such cases renders them complicit and necessitates state intervention to uphold child protection and combat online criminality effectively;

15. Amend Article 132/2 paragraph (2) of the CPC to regulate the institution of data preservation, considering the specific nature of offenses committed in the virtual environment. Establish conditions under which the prosecutor may immediately order the preservation of data, including specific timeframes for such preservation. This measure will safeguard volatile electronic evidence and facilitate its subsequent seizure by the criminal investigation body;

16. Strengthen the proactive role of investigative bodies and officers in identifying cases and promptly intervening to establish reasonable suspicion. A lack of proactive measures diminishes the effectiveness of investigations and perpetuates the occurrence of these offenses. Additionally, shorten the time-frame under Article 11 paragraph (2) of Law No. 216/2003 to no more than 45 days to ensure a swift response to reported cases;

17. Delegate the investigation of severe and cyber-related offenses to central structures within the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MAI). Establish a specialized Cybercrime Investigation and Intelligence (CIII) unit within the National Investigation Inspectorate of the General Police Inspectorate (IGP) to address cyber offenses comprehensively. Notifications of criminal activity may be submitted through international databases such as NCMEC, ICCACOPS, and ICSI, facilitating the establishment of reasonable suspicion;

18. Align international assistance requests with international standards and negotiate collaboration agreements with internet service providers. The criminal investigation body must ensure the accurate drafting of rogatory commission requests and prepare representatives adequately for international cooperation. Strengthen relationships with INTERPOL and Europol and establish an efficient international cooperation system to expedite access to crucial information in cybercrime cases.

The main scientific results submitted for support which consists in outlining the forensic framework for cases involving the sexual abuse of children through the use of information technologies, providing a scientific foundation for the algorithm of criminal prosecution actions and special investigative measures, thereby contributing to the efficiency of this process within the overall framework of combating the targeted offenses.

Suggestions on potential future research directions: 1) the use of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies in the investigation of online child sexual abuse; 2) the psychological impact on victims and its management during the investigation process; 3) the role of international cooperation in combating child sexual abuse through information technologies; 4) the methodology for investigating online child sexual abuse perpetrated by criminal organizations.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. Agreement on the Prevention and Combating of Cross-Border Crime, signed in Bucharest on 26 May 1999 within the framework of the South-East Cooperation Initiative (SECI) Program, which entered into force for the Republic of Moldova on 1 February 2000. Available at: <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliuDocumentAfis/20483> [accessed on: 12.02.2022];
2. Ce este exploatarea sexuală online a copiilor? Ghid pentru profesioniști. Centrul Internațional „La Strada Moldova”, p.11. Available at: [COSESA_ghid_pentru_profesionisti.pdf](#) (lastrada.md) [accessed on: 07.06.2023].
3. Child Sexual Abuse: Guidelines on Prosecuting Cases of Child Sexual Abuse. Available at: <http://bit.ly/3rbebsV> [accessed on: 07.06.2023].
4. Criminal Procedure Code of the Republic of Moldova, adopted on 14 March 2003. Published in the Official Monitor No. 248-251, Art. 699;
5. Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova No. 985 of 18 April 2022. Published on 14 April 2009 in the Official Gazette No. 72-74, Art. 195. Republished pursuant to Article III(c) of Law No. 277-XVI of 18 December 2008, Official Monitor of the Republic of Moldova, 2009, No. 41-44, Art. 120;
6. Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, concluded in Warsaw on 16 May 2005. Available at: https://www.antitrafic.gov.md/public/files/Convenia_CoE_ROM.pdf [accessed on: 13.04.2022];
7. Convention on Cybercrime, Budapest, 23 November 2001. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/RO/legal-content/summary/convention-on-cybercrime.html#:~:text=Conven%C8%9Bia%20%C3%AE%C8%99i%20propune%20s%C4%83%20contribuie,pentru%20a%20intensifica%20o%20alt%C4%83> [accessed on: 15.07.2022];
8. United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, New York, 15 November 2000. Ratified by the Republic of Moldova through Law No. 15-XV of 17 February 2005. Published in the official edition “International Treaties,” 2006, Volume 35, p. 333. In force for the Republic of Moldova since 16 October 2005. Available at: https://www.antitrafic.gov.md/public/files/Conventia_ONU_crima_transdroguri.pdf [accessed on: 17.07.2022];
9. Convention on the Protection of Children against Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, signed in Lanzarote on 25 October 2007. Available at: <https://rm.coe.int/168046e1d9> [accessed on: 16.07.2022];
10. Cryer Robert, Friman Hakan, Robinson Darryl, Wilmschurst Elizabeth. An introduction to international criminal law and procedure. 2-nd edition. Cambridge University Press, 2010
11. Decision of the Supreme Court of Justice of 13 March 2019, issued in Case

- No. 1ra-702/2019. Available at: https://jurisprudenta.csj.md/search_col_penal.php?id=13227 [accessed on: 28.09.2022];
12. Decision of the Plenum of the Criminal Panel of the Supreme Court of Justice of 7 May 2013 on the appeal in the interest of the law filed by the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Moldova concerning the interpretation and application of Article 270(9) of the Criminal Procedure Code in Case No. 4-1ril-1/213.;
 13. Directive 2011/93/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on combating the sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children and child pornography, and replacing Council Framework Decision 2004/68/JHA. Available at: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/RO/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32011L0093> [accessed on:22.07.2022];
 14. Online Sexual Exploitation as a Form of Child Abuse. International Center “La Strada.” Available at: http://lastrada.md/pic/uploaded/Infografic_La%20Strada.pdf [accessed on: 15.04.2023].
 15. FactSheet: SigurOnline. Available at: https://lastrada.md/pic/uploaded/SigurOnline_Factsheet_2022.pdf [accessed on:25.07.2023];
 16. Fighting malware and cyber criminality. Available at: <http://www.malwareurl.com/> [accessed on: 23.04.2024].
 17. Gainelzyanova V.R., Possibilities of forensic computer-technical expertise in the investigation of crimes in the field of computer information (Возможности судебной компьютерно-технической экспертизы при расследовании преступлений в сфере компьютерной информации), în Криминалистика. Судебная-экспертная деятельность. Оперативно-розыскная деятельность. УДК 343.985.7:[343.72:004]:343.983. 25 p. 144-149. Available at: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/vozmozhnosti-sudebnoy-kompyuterno-tehnicheskoy-ekspertizy-pri-rassledovanii-prestupleniy-v-sfere-kompyuterno-informatsii> [accessed on: 12.02.2023];
 18. Guide on International and National Legal Norms/Tools for Combating Sexual Abuse and Exploitation of Children Using Information and Communication Technologies, Annex to the Order of the General Prosecutor No. 80/15 of 15 October 2020;
 19. Methodological Guide on Handling Cases Involving Child Victims/Witnesses of Crimes, approved by the Order of the General Prosecutor No. 25/25 of 3 August 2015;
 20. Jitariuc Vitalie. Urmărirea penală în cazurile privind traficul de ființe umane. PhD in law thesis. Chișinău, 2021
 21. Kemal Veli Açar. International Cooperation Mechanisms for Online Child Sexual Abuse Investigations. În: Journal of Cyber Policy, february 2023. Available at: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/367992189_Inter

- national_Cooperation_Mechanisms_for_Online_Child_Sexual_Abuse_Investigations. [accessed on: 15.08.2023];
22. Law No. 20-XVI of 3 February 2009 on the Prevention and Combating of Cybercrime. Published on 26 January 2010 in the Official Gazette No. 11-12, Art. 17. Version in force as of 1 October 2012, based on amendments introduced by Law No. 120 of 25 May 2012, Official Monitor No. 103/29.05.12, Art. 353.;
 23. NCMEC. 2022 CyberTipline Reports by Country. Available at: <https://bit.ly/3ONnl79>. [accessed on:15.08.2023];
 24. Osoianu Tudor, Ostavciuc Dinu, Odagiu Iurie, Rusnac Constantin, *Tactica și procedura de realizare a procedeeleor probatorii în cadrul urmării penale*, Chișinău, 2020;
 25. Ostavciuc Dinu, *Aspecte procesual-penale și tactici criminalistice privind cercetarea traficului de copii*. PhD in law thesis. Chișinău, 2015, p. 42-49. Available at: http://www.cnaa.md/files/theses/2015/22551/dinu_ostavciuc_thesis.pdf [accessed on: 04.12.2023].
 26. Ostavciuc Dinu, *Sesizarea organului de urmărire penală*, Editura Cartea Militară, Chișinău, 2020, 206 p. ISBN: 978-9975-3366-5-9;
 27. Pântea Andrei, *Bănuiala rezonabilă: cadrul procesual penal național și jurisprudența curții europene pentru drepturile omului*, PhD in law thesis. Available at: http://www.cnaa.md/files/theses/2018/53656/pantea_thesis.pdf [accessed on: 08.12.2023];
 28. Popa Lilia, *Situații de urmărire penală în investigarea infracțiunilor de abuz sexual și exploatare sexuală a copiilor prin utilizarea tehnologiilor informaționale (Criminal prosecution situations in the investigation of crimes of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children through the use of information technologies)*. In: *Legea și Viața a Academiei „Ștefan cel Mare” a M.A.I. al Republicii Moldova*, nr. 2, Chișinău, 2024, p. 35-43. 158 p. ISSN 2587-4365; E-ISSN 2587-4373. Available at: https://academy.police.md/legea_si_viata/legea-si-viata-nr-2-2024;
 29. Popa Lilia, *Metode de comitere a infracțiunilor cu caracter sexual online în privința copiilor în Republica Moldova (Methods of online sexual offenses committing regarding children in the Republic of Moldova)*. In: *Analele științifice ale Academiei „Ștefan cel Mare” a M.A.I. al Republicii Moldova*, nr. 15, Chișinău, 2022, p. 266-275. 368 p. ISBN 978-9975-930-24-6. – ISSN 1857-0976. Available at: https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/266-275.pdf;
 30. Popa Lilia, *National and international cooperation in investigating crimes of child sexual abuse or sexual exploitation committed by using information technologies*. In: *Agora International Journal of Juridical Sciences*, Vol. 18

- No. 1 (2024), pp.102-111. Available at: <https://univagora.ro/jour/index.php/aijs/article/view/6747/2142>;
31. Popa Lilia, Unele considerente privind abuzul sexual și exploatare sexuală a copiilor în mediul online; In: „Interesul superior al copilului: abordare socio-culturală, normativă și jurisprudențială”. Culegere de comunicări. Vol. II. Materialele conferinței științifico-practice internaționale 30 septembrie – 1 octombrie 2022, Chișinău, 2023, p. 349-356. (467 p.). ISBN 978-9975-62-504-3. Available at: https://conferinte.stiu.md/search_events?value=interesul+superior;
 32. Popa Lilia, Tactica audierii victimei minore în cazul abuzului sexual online. In: Protecția drepturilor și libertăților fundamentale ale omului în procesul asigurării ordinii și securității publice, Ed. Editia II-a, 8 decembrie 2022, Chișinău. Chișinău: Departamentul Editorial-Poligrafic al Academiei „Ștefan cel Mare” al MAI, 2022, Ediția II-a, pp. 482-492. Available at: https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/482-492.pdf;
 33. Popa Lilia, Efectuarea prezentării spre recunoaștere în cazul abuzurilor sexuale online în privința copiilor. In: Probleme actuale privind respectarea drepturilor omului în procesul penal și activitatea specială de investigații, 10 noiembrie 2022, Chișinău. Chișinău: Departamentul Editorial-Poligrafic al Academiei „Ștefan cel Mare” al MAI, 2022, pp. 70-77. Available at: https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/70-77_22.pdf;
 34. Popa Lilia, Particularitățile efectuării măsurilor speciale de investigații în cazurile infracțiunilor de abuz sexual online. In: Prevenirea și combaterea criminalității: probleme, soluții și perspective , Ed. 5, 18 mai 2023, Chișinău. Chișinău: 2023, Ediția 5, pp. 260-267. Available at: https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/260-267_3.pdf;
 35. Popa Lilia, International cooperation in the investigation of online child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation crimes. In: Prevenirea și combaterea criminalității: probleme, soluții și perspective , Ed. 6, 25 aprilie 2024, Chișinău. Chișinău: 2024, Ediția 6, pp. 309-316. Available at: https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/309-316_6.pdf;
 36. ПОПА Л. Формы сексуального насилия и сексуальной эксплуатации несовершеннолетних в сети интернет. In: Материалы Международной научно-практической интернет-конференции «Тенденции и перспективы развития науки и образования в условиях глобализации»: Сб. науч. трудов. Переяслав, 2022. Вып. 86, pp.30-32 Available at: <https://0a30397da1.clvawcdnwnd.com/12ac69b5c0bec343f11779551473023e/2000004972a7312a733/%D0%97%D0%B1%D1%96%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA%2086-6.pdf?ph=0a30397da1>;
 37. Popa Lilia, Unele aspecte privind abuzul sexual și exploatare sexuală asupra

- copiilor în mediul online. In: Conferința științifică internațională „Prevenirea și combaterea violenței în familie”, 1-2 decembrie 2022: Culegere de comunicări, Volumul II, Chișinău 2023, pp.349-356. Available at:https://conferinte.stiu.md/sites/default/files/evenimente/Conferinta_30%20sept._1%20oct._Vol%20II.pdf;
38. Popa Lilia, Particularities of carrying out searches in cases of online child sexual abuse offences. In: Протидія кіберзлочинності та торгівлі людьми : зб. матеріалів Міжнарод. наук.-практ. конф. (м. Кам'янець-Подільський, 23 трав. 2024 п.), pp.134- 138. Available at: <https://dspace.univd.edu.ua/server/api/core/bitstreams/231e54c1-2c28-4c8a-befa-38c79967ff10/content>;
39. Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution, and Child Pornography, United Nations, 6 September 2000. Ratified by the Republic of Moldova through Law No. 29 of 22 February 2007. Published on 16 March 2007 in the Official Monitor No. 36, Art. 153. Available at: <https://www.hotararicedo.ro/files/files/CONVENTIA%20CU%20PRIVIRE%20LA%20DREPTURILE%20COPIIUI%20-%20PROTOCOL%20FACULTATIV.pdf> [accessed on: 16.07.2022];
40. Purici Svetlana. Metodica cercetării infracțiunilor din domeniul informaticii. PhD in law thesis, Chișinău, 2018;
41. Rădulescu Sorin, Abuzul sexual asupra copiilor, Editura Lumina Lex, București, 2003.
42. Russu Sergiu, Botezatu Elena. Abuzul și exploatarea sexuală a copiilor cu utilizarea tehnologiilor informaționale și de comunicare. Compendiu de norme juridice și bune practici. Chișinău, 2021;
43. Judgment of the Bălți Court, Central Office, of 25 August 2023, issued in Case No. 1-730/2022. Available at: https://jbl.instante.justice.md/ro/pigd_integration/pdf/02cb2dd6-bad7-453e-83e2-d950d06b49af
44. Judgment of the Chisinau Court, Buiucani office, of 01.04.2022, issued in Case no. 1-269/2022. Available at: https://jc.instante.justice.md/ro/pigd_integration/pdf/fc4c9a3f-6178-4c7a-9f5d-451a96ca2068 [accessed on: 14.06.2023].
45. Judgment of the Chisinau Court, Buiucani office, of 06.06.2023, issued on File no. 1-1742/2021. Available at: https://jc.instante.justice.md/ro/pigd_integration/pdf/00f61f47-6084-40c6-ae70-fc79322eaff2
46. Judgment of the Chisinau District Court, Buiucani office, dated 11.03.2021, issued on File no. 1-20132921-12-1-1-26102020. Available at: https://jc.instante.justice.md/ro/pigd_integration/pdf/f3c1e641-9320-4a96-82bd-44b159b4b0e2
47. Judgment of the Chisinau Court, Buiucani office, dated 11.07.2023, issued in Case no. 1-14/2023. Available at: https://jc.instante.justice.md/ro/pigd_

- integration/pdf/5b8ad03b-c9f9-4f8b-9bcd-181cfb979f0c [accessed on: 17.11.2023].
48. Judgment of the Chisinau Court, Buiucucani office, of 11.09.2023, issued in Case no. 1-171/2023. Available at: https://jc.instante.justice.md/ro/pigd_integration/pdf/58b0a942-d0c9-47e7-9e1d-3f52db7d7c70 [accessed on: 22.11.2023];
 49. Judgment of the Chisinau Court, Buiucucani office, issued in Case no. 1-1753/2021. Available at: https://jc.instante.justice.md/ro/pigd_integration/pdf/618ab73c-109f-4fe6-8bf6-5a2a6a31f981 [accessed on: 02.04.2023].
 50. Judgment of the Chisinau District Court, Central Office, dated 23.07.2021, issued in Case no. 1-446/2018. Available at: https://jc.instante.justice.md/ro/pigd_integration/pdf/7fa8be2b-cb31-4dca-9ab2-855b6fb3d92b [accessed on: 23.04.2023].
 51. Judgment no.1-3405/19 of December 2, 2020, by which the defendant D.C. was sentenced for committing the offense provided for in Article 208/1 of the Criminal Code;
 52. Sfetcu Nicolae, Manualul investigatorului în criminalitatea informatică, Ghid introductiv pentru aplicarea dispozițiilor legale referitoare la criminalitatea informatică, București, 2004. Available at: http://uploads.world-library.net/uploads/pdf/20140512112438manualul_investigatorului_in_criminalitatea_informatica.pdf [accessed on: 14.03.2022].
 53. Study on the Effects of New Information and Technologies on the Abuse and Exploitation of Children, UNODC. Available at: https://www.unodc.org/documents/Cybercrime/Study_on_the_Effects.pdf [accessed on: 15.04.2023].
 54. Абрамова С., Методика расследования торговли несовершеннолетними, подмены ребенка и незаконного усыновления, Москва, 2009;
 55. Халиуллина А. Ф. Криминалистическая характеристика насильственных действий сексуального характера, совершенных в отношении малолетних и несовершеннолетних. In: Правовое государство: теория и практика, no. 1 (47), 2017, pp. 161-167.
 56. Халиуллина А.Ф. Характеристика личности несовершеннолетней потерпевшей по делам о насильственных действиях сексуального характера как элемент криминалистической характеристики преступления. In: Вестник Волгоградского государственного университета. Серия 5: Юриспруденция, no. 2, 2016;
 57. Халиуллина Айг. Ф. Особенности расследования насильственных действий сексуального характера, совершенных в отношении несовершеннолетних. Диссертация на соискание ученой степени кандидата юридических наук. Уфа, 2018;

LIST OF THE AUTHOR'S PUBLICATIONS

Articles in scientific journals authorized by ANACIP

1) Popa L., Situații de urmărire penală în investigarea infracțiunilor de abuz sexual și exploatare sexuală a copiilor prin utilizarea tehnologiilor informaționale *Criminal prosecution situations in the investigation of crimes of sexual abuse and sexual exploitation of children through the use of information technologies.....266*). În: *Legea și Viața a Academiei „Ștefan cel Mare” a M.A.I. al Republicii Moldova*, nr. 2, Chișinău, 2024, p. 35-43. 158 p. ISSN 2587-4365; E-ISSN 2587-4373. Available at: https://academy.police.md/legea_si_viata/legea-si-viata-nr-2-2024;

2) Popa L., Metode de comitere a infracțiunilor cu caracter sexual online în privința copiilor în Republica Moldova *Methods of online sexual offenses committing regarding children in the Republic of Moldova.....266*). În: *Analele științifice ale Academiei „Ștefan cel Mare” a M.A.I. al Republicii Moldova*, nr. 15, Chișinău, 2022, p. 266-275. 368 p. ISBN 978-9975-930-24-6. – ISSN 1857-0976.

Available at: https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/266-275.pdf;

3) Popa L. National and international cooperation in investigating crimes of child sexual abuse or sexual exploitation committed by using information technologies. In: *Agora International Journal of Juridical Sciences*, Vol. 18 No. 1 (2024), pp.102-111. Available at: <https://univagora.ro/jour/index.php/aijjs/article/view/6747/2142>;

4) Popa. L. Precedentele Curții Europene a Drepturilor Omului privind calificarea traficului de ființe umane, pag.77-85, 99 p. CZU 341.231.14:343.54, Chișinău, *Legea și Viața*, 2021, ISSN 1810-309X.

Articles published in national scientific conferences

5) Popa L. *Unele considerente privind abuzul sexual și exploatare sexuală a copiilor în mediul online*; În: „Interesul superior al copilului: abordare socio-culturală, normativă și jurisprudențială”. Culegere de comunicări. Vol. II. Materialele conferinței științifico-practice internaționale 30 septembrie – 1 octombrie 2022, Chișinău, 2023, p. 349-356. (467 p.). ISBN 978-9975-62-504-3. Available at: https://conferinte.stiu.md/search_events?value=interesul+superior;

6) Popa L. *Tactica audierii victimei minore în cazul abuzului sexual online*. În: *Protecția drepturilor și libertăților fundamentale ale omului în procesul asigurării ordinii și securității publice*, Ed. Ediția II-a, 8 decembrie 2022, Chișinău. Chișinău: Departamentul Editorial-Poligrafic al Academiei „Ștefan cel Mare” al MAI, 2022, Ediția II-a, pp. 482-492. Available at: https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/482-492.pdf;

1) Popa L. Efectuarea prezentării spre recunoaștere în cazul abuzurilor sexuale online în privința copiilor. In: Probleme actuale privind respectarea drepturilor omului în procesul penal și activitatea specială de investigații, 10 noiembrie 2022, Chișinău. Chișinău: Departamentul Editorial-Poligrafic al Academiei „Ștefan cel Mare” al MAI, 2022, pp. 70-77. Available at: https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/70-77_22.pdf;

2) Popa L. Particularitățile efectuării măsurilor speciale de investigații în cazurile infracțiunilor de abuz sexual online. In: Prevenirea și combaterea criminalității: probleme, soluții și perspective , Ed. 5, 18 mai 2023, Chișinău. Chișinău: 2023, Ediția 5, pp. 260-267. Available at: https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/260-267_3.pdf;

3) Popa L. International cooperation in the investigation of online child sexual abuse and sexual exploitation crimes. In: Prevenirea și combaterea criminalității: probleme, soluții și perspective , Ed. 6, 25 aprilie 2024, Chișinău. Chișinău: 2024, Ediția 6, pp. 309-316. Available at: https://ibn.idsi.md/sites/default/files/imag_file/309-316_6.pdf

Articles published in international scientific conferences

4) ПОПА Л. Формы сексуального насилия и сексуальной эксплуатации несовершеннолетних в сети интернет. In: Материалы Международной научно-практической интернет-конференции «Тенденции и перспективы развития науки и образования в условиях глобализации»: Сб. науч. трудов. Переяслав, 2022. Вып. 86, pp.30-32 Available at: <https://0a30397da1.clvawcdnwnd.com/12ac69b5c0bec343f11779551473023e/2000004972a7312a733/%D0%97%D0%B1%D1%96%D1%80%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BA%2086-6.pdf?ph=0a30397da1>;

5) Popa L. Unele aspecte privind abuzul sexual și exploatare sexuală asupra copiilor în mediul online. In: Conferința științifică internațională „Prevenirea și combaterea violenței în familie”, 1-2 decembrie 2022: Culegere de comunicări, Volumul II, Chișinău 2023, pp.349-356. Available at: https://conferinte.stiu.md/sites/default/files/evenimente/Conferinta_30%20sept._1%20oct._Vol%20II.pdf;

6) Popa L. Particularities of carrying out searches in cases of online child sexual abuse offences. In: Протидія кіберзлочинності та торгівлі людьми : зб. матеріалів Міжнарод. наук.-практ. конф. (м. Кам'янець-Подільський, 23 трав. 2024 р.), pp.134- 138. Available at: <https://dspace.univd.edu.ua/server/api/core/bitstreams/231e54c1-2c28-4c8a-befa-38c79967ff10/content>.

ADNOTARE

POPA Lilia. „Metodica cercetării abuzului sexual în privința copiilor prin utilizarea tehnologiilor informaționale”. Teză de doctor în drept. Școala Doctorală Științe penale și Drept public a Academiei „Ștefan cel Mare” a MAI al Republicii Moldova. Chișinău. 2024

Structura tezei: text de bază 211 pagini, adnotare în limbile română, engleză și rusă, lista abrevierilor, introducere, patru capitole divizate în paragrafe, concluzii generale și recomandări, bibliografia din 227 surse, 4 anexe. Rezultatele obținute sunt publicate în 12 lucrări științifice.

Cuvinte-cheie: abuz sexual, exploatare sexuală a minorilor, tehnologii informaționale, criminalitate online, investigare criminalistică, probe digitale, trafic de copii, urmărire penală, metode de investigare, cooperare internațională etc.

Domeniul cercetării: criminalistică, expertiză judiciară, investigații operative.

Scopul și obiectivele lucrării: Scopul tezei îl constituie investigarea complexă a metodicii criminalistice privind cercetarea infracțiunilor de abuz sexual față de copii prin utilizarea tehnologiilor informaționale în vederea fundamentării unor practici inovatorii corespunzătoare noilor provocări de manifestare a criminalității. **Obiective:** studierea practicii de investigare a infracțiunilor legate de abuz sexual și exploatare sexuală a copiilor comise prin utilizarea tehnologiilor informaționale; elaborarea structurii și conținutului caracteristicii criminalistice a infracțiunilor legate de abuz sexual și exploatare sexuală a copiilor prin utilizarea tehnologiilor informaționale, identificarea circumstanțelor care urmează a fi stabilite la cercetarea abuzului sexual în privința copiilor prin utilizarea tehnologiilor informaționale; identificarea particularităților tacticii de efectuare a acțiunilor concrete de investigare; formularea recomandărilor menite să îmbunătățească eficacitatea detectării, depistării și investigării infracțiunilor din categoria analizată, etc.

Noutatea și originalitatea științifică: Noutatea științifică a prezentei cercetării derivă din faptul că reprezintă prima cercetare exhaustivă a infracțiunilor de abuz sexual față de copii prin intermediul tehnologiilor informaționale. Teza contribuie la analiza critică dintr-o nouă perspectivă doctrinară, oferind suport teoretic și aplicativ pentru domeniul de referință.

Rezultatele obținute se concretizează în tezele științifice principale promovate spre susținere și în **problema științifică importantă soluționată** care constă în conturarea cadrului criminalistic în cauzele privind abuzul sexual față de copii prin utilizarea tehnologiilor informaționale, fundamentarea științifică a algoritmului acțiunilor de urmărire penală și a măsurilor speciale de investigații, fapt de natură să contribuie la eficientizarea acestui proces în ansamblul general de combatere a infracțiunilor vizate.

Semnificația teoretică a tezei: Cercetarea contribuie semnificativ la dezvoltarea teoriei criminalistice prin aprofundarea metodelor de investigare a infracțiunilor de abuz și exploatare sexuală a copiilor comise prin intermediul tehnologiilor informaționale. Lucrarea clarifică și structurează tacticile și metodologiile existente, adaptându-le la noile realități tehnologice și propunând proceduri inovatoare pentru investigarea eficientă a acestor infracțiuni.

Valoarea aplicativă a tezei: Rezultatele cercetării și concluziile autorului vor fi promovate și diseminate prin diverse metode, care vor fi folosite și aplicate atât în activitatea de cercetare, precum și în activitatea practică a organelor judiciare. Rezultatele cercetărilor obținute au fost publicate în diverse reviste științifice, precum și în cadrul conferințelor naționale și internaționale.

Implementarea rezultatelor științifice: Concluziile formulate în cadrul tezei de doctorat pot fi de un real folos în procesul de elaborare și perfecționare a reglementărilor cu privire la subiectul urmăririi penale în cazurile privind abuzul sexual a copiilor prin utilizarea tehnologiilor informaționale și ca instrumentar pentru lucrătorii practicieni în domeniul dreptului în latura cercetării și descoperirii infracțiunilor de acest gen.

ANNOTATION

POPA Lilia. „The Methodology for Investigating Child Sexual Abuse through the Use of Information Technologies”. PhD thesis in law. Doctoral School of Criminal Sciences and Public Law of the Academy “Ștefan cel Mare” of the MIA of the Republic of Moldova. Chișinău. 2024

Structure of the Thesis: The thesis comprises 211 pages of main text, annotations in Romanian, English, and Russian, a list of abbreviations, an introduction, four chapters divided into paragraphs, general conclusions and recommendations, a bibliography of 227 sources, and four annexes. The results of the research have been published in 12 scientific works.

Keywords: sexual abuse, sexual exploitation of minors, informational technologies, on-line crime, forensic investigation, digital evidence, child trafficking, criminal investigation, investigative methods, international cooperation, etc.

Field of Research: Forensics, judicial expertise, and operative investigations.

Purpose and Objectives of the Thesis: The purpose of the thesis is to conduct a comprehensive investigation of the forensic methodology for examining sexual abuse offenses against children perpetrated through the use of informational technologies, with the aim of developing innovative practices tailored to the new challenges posed by criminal behavior. The objectives include: analyzing the investigative practices regarding offenses involving sexual abuse and exploitation of children committed using informational technologies; developing the structure and content of the forensic profile of offenses involving sexual abuse and exploitation of children through informational technologies; identifying the circumstances to be established during the investigation of child sexual abuse committed using informational technologies; determining the tactical particularities of specific investigative actions; formulating recommendations aimed at improving the effectiveness of detecting, addressing, and investigating offenses of this nature, among others.

Scientific Novelty and Originality: The scientific novelty of this research lies in its status as the first comprehensive study of child sexual abuse offenses committed through informational technologies. The thesis offers critical analysis from a new doctrinal perspective, providing theoretical and practical support for the field of reference. **The results** are reflected in the main scientific theses submitted for defense and the important scientific problem addressed, which is the delineation of the forensic framework for cases of child sexual abuse committed through informational technologies, along with the scientific foundation of the algorithm for criminal investigation actions and special investigative measures, thereby contributing to the overall efficiency of combating these offenses.

Theoretical Significance of the Thesis: The research significantly contributes to the development of forensic theory by deepening the methods for investigating child sexual abuse and exploitation offenses perpetrated through informational technologies. The work clarifies and structures existing tactics and methodologies, adapting them to the new technological realities while proposing innovative procedures for effectively investigating these offenses.

Applied Value of the Thesis: The research results and the author's conclusions will be promoted and disseminated through various methods and applied in both research activities and the practical work of judicial bodies. The research findings have been published in various scientific journals and presented at national and international conferences.

Implementation of Scientific Results: The conclusions formulated in the doctoral thesis can provide substantial support in drafting and refining regulations on the subject of criminal investigation in cases of child sexual abuse committed through informational technologies. They also serve as a practical toolkit for professionals in the field of law, particularly in investigating and uncovering such offenses.

АННОТАЦИЯ

ПОПА Лилия. «Методика расследования сексуального насилия в отношении детей с использованием информационных технологий». Диссертация доктора юридических наук. Докторская школа уголовных наук и публичного права Академии «Штефан чел Маре» МВД Республики Молдова. Кишинэу, 2024

Структура диссертации: Диссертация состоит из 211 страниц основного текста, аннотации на румынском, английском и русском языках, списка сокращений, введения, четырёх глав, разделённых на параграфы, общих выводов и рекомендаций, библиографии из 227 источников и четырёх приложений. Результаты исследования опубликованы в 12 научных работах.

Ключевые слова: сексуальное насилие, сексуальная эксплуатация несовершеннолетних, информационные технологии, интернет-преступления, судебное расследование, цифровые доказательства, торговля детьми, уголовное преследование, методы расследования, международное сотрудничество и др.

Область исследования: криминалистика, судебная экспертиза, оперативно-розыскная деятельность.

Цель и задачи диссертации: Целью диссертации является комплексное исследование криминалистической методики расследования преступлений, связанных с сексуальным насилием над детьми, совершённых с использованием информационных технологий, а также разработка инновационных практик, соответствующих новым вызовам в области преступности. Основные задачи включают: изучение практики расследования преступлений, связанных с сексуальным насилием и эксплуатацией детей, совершённых с использованием информационных технологий; разработка структуры и содержания криминалистической характеристики преступлений, связанных с сексуальным насилием и эксплуатацией детей с использованием информационных технологий; определение обстоятельств, подлежащих установлению при расследовании преступлений, связанных с сексуальным насилием над детьми, совершённых с использованием информационных технологий; определение тактических особенностей проведения конкретных следственных действий; формулирование рекомендаций, направленных на повышение эффективности выявления, расследования и раскрытия преступлений данной категории и др.

Научная новизна и оригинальность: Научная новизна данного исследования заключается в том, что оно представляет собой первое исчерпывающее исследование преступлений, связанных с сексуальным насилием над детьми, совершённых с использованием информационных технологий. Диссертация предлагает критический анализ с новой доктринальной точки зрения, предоставляя теоретическую и практическую базу для соответствующей области. Результаты отражены в основных научных тезисах, выдвинутых на защиту, и в решении важной научной проблемы, заключающейся в формировании криминалистической основы для дел, связанных с сексуальным насилием над детьми, совершённым с использованием информационных технологий, а также в научном обосновании алгоритма следственных действий и специальных мер расследования, что способствует повышению эффективности противодействия этим преступлениям.

Теоретическая значимость диссертации: Исследование вносит значительный вклад в развитие криминалистической теории, углубляя методы расследования преступлений, связанных с сексуальным насилием и эксплуатацией детей, совершённых с использованием информационных технологий. Работа уточняет и структурирует существующие тактики и методологии, адаптируя их к новым технологическим реалиям, а также предлагает инновационные процедуры для эффективного расследования таких преступлений.

Практическая ценность диссертации: Результаты исследования и выводы автора будут продвигаться и распространяться различными методами, применяться как в научно-исследовательской деятельности, так и в практической работе судебных органов. Результаты исследования опубликованы в различных научных журналах, а также представлены на национальных и международных конференциях.

Внедрение научных результатов: Выводы, сформулированные в рамках докторской диссертации, могут быть использованы в процессе разработки и совершенствования нормативных актов, касающихся уголовного преследования в случаях сексуального насилия над детьми, совершённого с использованием информационных технологий. Они также могут служить инструментом для практиков в области права в части расследования и раскрытия таких преступлений.

POPA LILIA

**THE METHODOLOGY FOR INVESTIGATING CHILD
SEXUAL ABUSE THROUGH THE USE OF INFORMATION
TECHNOLOGIES**

**Specialty: 554.04 – Criminalistics, judicial expertise, operational
investigations**

SUMMARY OF THE PHD THESIS IN LAW

Approved for printing:: 02.12.2024
Offset paper. Type offset.
Print sheets: 2,42

Paper size: 60x90/16
Drawing 20 ex.
Order no. 172

„UNIVERSUL” Printing office
Vlaicu Pârcălab street, no. 45 Chişinău, MD-2012
Republic of Moldova