

Forecasts of Long-term Progress in the Socio-cultural Sphere in the Context of Combating Economic Crime

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Abstract

The relevance of the study is stipulated by the need to revise the strategy of combating economic crime in Latvia in the context of sustainable development of the socio-cultural environment. The study is aimed at revealing specific aspects of crime in the Latvian economy, identifying its main causes and mechanisms of functioning. The article uses methods of statistical analysis, analogy and generalization, as well as formal legal and formal logical approaches. The study shows that the development of cultural space is a key aspect of the strategy for sustainable development of the socio-cultural environment in Latvia. It is concluded that the development of cultural space and the fight against economic crime in Latvia require an integrated approach, including the preservation and development of cultural values, sustainable attention to environmental aspects with the use of modern technologies to improve law enforcement.

Keywords: Cultural Heritage, Socio-Economic Development, Security Culture, Corruption, Artificial Intelligence.

Introduction

Economic crime, which is a serious social problem, threatens sustainable development and socio-economic well-being. Corruption and the shadow economy are manifested in different countries, especially during periods of crisis and transformation in society. In today's environment, economic crimes have a real negative impact on the production sector, the ability to attract investment and the normal functioning of financial and business structures.

For a deeper understanding of organized crime, it is necessary to take into account the multifactorial nature of its origin and impact on the socio-cultural environment. It is important to bear in mind that ignoring these aspects may simplify the analysis of the problem and lead to an underestimation of the scale of the problem. The situation in Latvia serves as an example of the fact that traditional economic standards are not effective, and a new economic culture has not yet been formed. All this is accompanied by a lack of sufficient practical experience to

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implement new approaches and a lack of clarity about stereotypes of market behaviour (Shipanga et al., 2022; Nurgaliyeva et al., 2017). Changes in thinking related to the economy have two main forms: adaptation to new stereotypes of economic behaviour and violation of laws and regulations (Barlybayev and Sharipbay, 2015). The latter refers to the reaction to objective conditions arising from policy. Conflicts between new standards and traditional models require scientific study to better understand the nature of this phenomenon and its determining factors. In this context, the use of an institutional approach to the analysis of the phenomenon of economic crime and its impact on the socio-cultural environment is necessary in view of its importance.

M. Kacare et al. (2022) consider the improvement of the environmental situation as a factor contributing to the sustainable development of the economy and the socio-cultural environment in general. In particular, they believe that factors such as initial capital, transaction costs, economic conditions and availability of financial resources can determine the pace of introduction of new technologies.

A. Kairiss et al. (2023) investigate the relationship between individual socio-economic preferences and the benefits of developing cultural heritage sites in localities and aspects of sustainability of cultural heritage development projects. This demonstrates the relevance of this issue not only for Latvia but also for other countries. The use of socio-economic indicators in practice is an important step forward. However, it is important to emphasize that the effectiveness of the use of these indicators can be increased through the implementation of a methodology for managing immovable cultural heritage and socio-economic development. Socio-economic indicators play an important role in this methodology at the national and regional/local levels (Barlybayev et al., 2017).

In another study, I. Olevska-Kairisa and A. Kairiss (2023) draw attention to the limited access of most stakeholders to justice and the right to an effective remedy in the traditional criminal law system. It is emphasized that the low level of social awareness of the socio-economic benefits and rights arising from the preservation, development, and use of archaeological sites, together with the existing legal restrictions, can lead to insufficient self-determination of individuals and groups affected by heritage crimes.

O. Hynek (2020) notes that the crime rate in Russian-speaking regions does not show higher trends than in non-Russian-speaking regions. At the same time, unemployment and wages have improved, which indicates positive changes in this direction.

Therefore, the purpose of the study is to investigate and establish the prospects for the development of the socio-cultural environment in Latvia, taking into account active measures to combat economic crime.

Materials and Methods

The study is based on a variety of methods, including philosophical, general scientific and special scientific approaches. In determining the prospects for sustainable development of the socio-cultural environment of Latvia in the context of combating economic crime, a variety of philosophical methods are used. One of them is a dialectical approach, which allows for a deeper understanding of the essence of sustainable development of the socio-cultural environment of Latvia in the context of combating economic crime, as well as a more meaningful assessment of the existing shortcomings of the existing system. In addition, the systematic method is applicable for a comprehensive study. It allows considering this problem in the context of the overall provision of the fight against economic crime in Latvia, identifying the interrelationships and influence of various factors on its formation and development.

The methods of classification and grouping were used to analyse the main areas of activity of the states in the direction of forming the prospects for sustainable development of the socio-cultural environment in the context of combating economic crime. The methods of specification and generalization were used to identify the main problems and gaps in ensuring the fight against economic crime with a socio-cultural aspect. The combination of these methods allows for a more complete and comprehensive understanding of the issues related to the current state of sustainable development of the socio-cultural environment of Latvia in the context of combating economic crime. This approach allows for a deeper study of the peculiarities of the functioning of the socio-cultural environment, as well as identifying potential problems and ways to solve them.

In the course of the research and in order to fully understand and substantiate the issue, the norms of various legal sources were used, including both national and foreign or international law, in particular: Indicators of sustainable development: framework and methodologies made by Commission on Sustainable Development (2001), A sustainable Europe for a better world: A European Union strategy for sustainable development (2001), The “Earth Summit” on Population (Population Council, 1992), Latvia 2030 – sustainable development strategy of Latvia (2010), Evaluation of the judicial systems (2020-2022) Latvia (2022). Normative legal research focuses on the systematic analysis of positive law, principles, and doctrines of law, analysis of legal cases, systematization of legal norms and establishment of the level of legal coherence. They also include comparative law and legal history.

Results

Economic crime, which is aimed at infiltrating all spheres of public life, interferes with the natural course of social processes and disrupts the natural development of society. This leads to benefits for individuals, but in reality, society as a whole suffers significant losses. In extreme cases, this situation can lead to the loss of the independence of an ethnic group, especially if there are favourable conditions on the part of strong and hostile neighbours. Thus, economic crime has a significant impact on the economic security of the state. It is a destructive factor that ultimately leads to the destruction of the system of economic relations at various levels. This destruction covers both internal and external aspects of the economic security of the state.

Updating the value foundations, which contributes to the formation of a single field of security culture, is important for the socio-cultural mechanism of ensuring the security of society. The security culture has a hierarchical structure that arises as a result of social stratification on various grounds, including social classes and strata. These stratifications affect relations in the fields of economics, social sciences, politics, and culture and can contribute to the formation of zones of social tension where the potential for social insecurity accumulates. Relationships of material, economic, and personal dependence arising from the lack of transparency in the functioning of state structures can become a source of shadow mechanisms and corruption in society.

In today's context, corruption is a complex and immoral phenomenon in socio-cultural perception. This problem is important because addressing issues related to socio-cultural stereotypes is an extremely difficult task. Usually, in the context of fighting corruption, power is understood as abuse at the highest levels. The roots of this phenomenon, which affects social dynamics and the system of power, are laid in the sphere of everyday corruption, and it is worth noting that it is in this context that social stereotypes are formed, which are further spread and integrated into the structure of public administration and government institutions. The aggravation of the economic crisis and the formation of ethnic diasporas in different countries create a favourable background for the activities of organized criminals from other nations. The latter create national groups that are more cohesive and protected from law enforcement agencies. National solidarity and, sometimes, family ties, language and cultural barriers effectively prevent foreign actors from infiltrating these groups.

Sustainable development is seen as an integrated and balanced process that aims to achieve harmony between social welfare, the environment and economic growth. This process aims to meet the current social and economic needs of the population, while ensuring compliance with environmental standards and taking

into account the ability of future generations to meet their needs. The impact of globalization on sustainable development is evident and reflects general trends in global development, such as economic, social, technological and political changes. These processes lead to an increase in the volume of international flows of goods, services, capital, and people between countries, which improves the quality of life and contributes to the sustainable development of the socio-cultural environment (Kotenko et al., 2020). Thus, sustainable development is aimed at improving the welfare of society to meet the needs and ambitions of people and ensure an equitable distribution of development between the present and the future (Rakauskienė et al., 2022).

Sustainability includes three main components: economic, social and environmental, in Figure 1. These three pillars do not exist independently of each other; they interact and reinforce each other. The level of economic growth, life expectancy, education level and poverty rate are key factors in this process (Latvia crime rate & statistics 1992-2023, 2023).

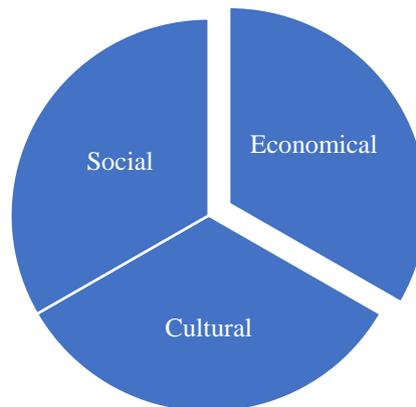


Figure 1. Three pillars of sustainable economic development

The UN Commission on Sustainable Development adopted its first Work Programme on Sustainable Development Indicators in April 1995, which included 58 key groups of indicators. However, in 2001, the UN Commission presented an expanded version of the indicators, which included four main groups of indicators: social, economic, environmental and institutional indicators (Indicators of sustainable development: framework and methodologies made by Commission on Sustainable Development, 2001). However, a more complex and balanced approach

to the problem of assessing the sustainable development of the European Union is considered to be the approach described in the EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2001), which was supplemented in subsequent documents. This approach takes into account the main criteria, such as stability, flexibility and compactness, and limits the number of indicators to no more than 42, ensuring a balance between the interests of the main priorities and the interests of all EU member states (A sustainable Europe for a better world: A European Union strategy for sustainable development, 2001). This system of sustainable development indicators includes the following areas: economic development, poverty and social exclusion, ageing population management, health, climate change and energy efficiency, production and consumption, natural resource management, transport, global governance and global partnerships. This system of indicators has a long institutional history and continues to be refined and developed.

However, due to the redefinition of values, the ideal of state security has changed. Previously based on military power, it is now associated with public safety and the sustainable development of civil society. This change in the ideal took place in the context of collective responsibility for the future of humanity and global security and was enshrined as a principle of the concept of “sustainable human development” adopted at the UN World Conference in 1992 (Population Council, 1992). This raises the question for society about the value foundations that correspond to the new ideal and that will allow Latvia to develop successfully, while maintaining its independence, sovereignty, and security in functioning in the global community. The new paradigm of sustainable development of society, based on the priorities of common, universal security, requires significant changes in the system of world-view orientations and values that will determine its renewed socio-cultural content.

The culture of security and sustainable development is the result of human activity and is embodied in the global cultural experience of preserving human life and maintaining a universal state of security and sustainable development of society (Berdykulova et al., 2021). It is expressed in ideals, values, norms, symbols, behavioural patterns, traditions, customs, and rituals. By changing and expanding the semantic context of these components, humanity enriches its experience and understanding of security and sustainable development. The culture of security and sustainable development emerges at different levels and has two aspects: one based on human experience and reflected in history and culture, and the other reflecting the values and security goals adopted by society (Horbal and Makarova, 2023). It contributes to the harmonious development of society, ensures security and helps to solve various problems in public life. The culture of security and sustainable

development is an alternative to the counterculture of violence, cruelty, domination, fear, and cynicism that characterize the involution of society.

Culture has a social and economic value that contributes to improving the quality of life of individuals and societies as a whole. Latvia's policy documents recognize the important role of culture in ensuring national stability, security and economic development. Cultural conditions influence the economic sphere, cultural heritage and cultural behaviour of individuals and social groups. Thanks to the development of information and communication technologies, a new virtual cultural space and various types of social networks have emerged, changing the structure of society and making it more accessible to different cultural values (Bedelov et al., 2021). The digital society has opened up new opportunities for cooperation and interaction between different groups, but it has also given rise to new challenges and threats that need to be addressed and answered.

In Latvia, between 2008 and 2010, a strategy for sustainable development until 2030 was developed (Latvia 2030 – Sustainable development strategy of Latvia, 2010). This strategy was approved by the Saeima of the Republic of Latvia in June 2010. The development of the strategy was extremely complex and unique, as it involved active consideration of public opinion and sentiment, extensive discussions among experts and other stakeholders, and active participation of various social groups. In particular, a group of independent foreign experts from various countries, such as Switzerland, the USA, Belgium, the UK, and New Zealand, was engaged to assess the strategy and its development process. The main goal of Latvia's Sustainable Development Strategy is to increase the productivity of human, economic, social and natural capital, taking into account global trends. This strategy is based on the idea of meeting the needs of the present generation, balancing the interests of social welfare, environmental protection and economic development, as well as preserving the ability to meet the needs of future generations and biological diversity.

At the same time, it is important to take into account global challenges, such as demographic changes, economic globalization, climate change, energy security, the development of the global middle class and many others. Responding to these challenges requires development policies that promote socio-cultural growth, improve the quality of life of citizens, social cohesion and security, and protect the environment for future generations. The socio-cultural foundations for overcoming confrontational logic and moving to a position of dialogue between cultures and reconciliation of social positions can be established through the imperatives of humanism, social justice, responsibility, tolerance, consensus, and tolerance (Tacij et al., 2014). A culture of tolerance, including these important values, is recognized as the ability to accept "difference" in other people and nations in terms of culture,

way of thinking and behaviour, and the willingness to engage in dialogue even with those who are difficult to understand, but with whom it is important to jointly solve social problems and coexist on this planet.

Based on universal, national and civilisation-wide values, the priorities of interreligious, interfaith, interethnic, interethnic and intercultural dialogue, mutual understanding, consensus building and responsibility, security culture is aimed at uniting society and forming a single field of security culture in both vertical and horizontal socio-cultural dimensions (Yaroshenko et al., 2019). The analysis of the above data suggests that there is a clear relationship between socio-economic factors, culture, and the influence of economic, cultural and political aspects in modern Latvia. Although families report their desire to raise children and develop their cultural knowledge and cultural literacy, preserving hereditary customs, traditions and cultural values, they also face numerous challenges and obstacles. It should be noted that crime, which is inextricably linked to the structure of human society, largely depends on the cultural and ideological aspects inherent in a given society. Different levels of crime, as illustrated by the example of Latvia, serve to illustrate the impact of national cultural identity on crime rates (Latvia crime rate & statistics 1992-2023, 2023). In this context, the characteristics of a country, such as its political system, geographical location and role in migration processes, also play a significant role. Of particular importance is the understanding that countries where different cultures clash on the same territory may face certain challenges and conflicts arising from differences in languages, traditions, religions, and beliefs.

There is a significant diversity of ethnic groups in Latvia, including Latvians, Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, Poles, Lithuanians, Estonians, and others (Latvia: World directory of minorities and indigenous peoples, 2018). This interethnic diversity is the result of historical processes such as colonization and migration. The coexistence of different cultural groups in Latvia promotes cultural exchange, but can also create conflicts due to differences in traditions, languages, and beliefs. At the same time, the Latvian government is actively working to support the rights of minorities, including the right to their own language and cultural identity (Rights of national minorities in Latvia, 2006). These measures contribute to the peaceful coexistence of different cultural groups in Latvia, although this task requires constant improvement and support from both society and the state.

Thus, crime is a complex and dynamic problem that always reflects the violation of social norms in society. Society is constantly changing, and the perception of and response to crime is changing with it. The understanding of crime is contextual and depends on the socio-economic and cultural conditions of each historical period. It is important to understand that crime is always associated with a violation of accepted social norms, and its level reflects the socio-economic and

cultural dynamics of a society. The solution to the crime problem cannot be limited to isolating offenders and physically punishing them, as this approach has limited possibilities and can lead to overcrowding in correctional facilities. Overcoming the phenomenon of crime requires a comprehensive approach and consideration of numerous factors that influence this phenomenon. Society should focus its efforts on analysing time perspectives, including the short-, medium- and long-term future, as well as the various aspects of life that can become a breeding ground for crime.

Factors such as the political and economic situation, the psychological and sociological state of society, and the depth of the human personality are important for understanding and combating crime. The positive dynamics of these factors contribute to the creation of a favourable environment for crime prevention and the maintenance of social harmony. In the context of the development of a socio-cultural sustainable society and the fight against economic crime at the international level, the Foreign Investors Council in Latvia (FICIL) has been actively emphasizing the need for more active measures to combat economic and financial crime for a number of years. In order to improve the situation, FICIL recommends developing a clear strategy for combating economic and financial crime, focusing on three key aspects:

- cooperation between institutions at the local and international community level, as well as between the public and private sectors;
- ensuring an effective and up-to-date legal framework that is understandable and accessible to all citizens;
- providing the necessary funding for the implementation of measures to combat economic and financial crime.

Crimes in the field of finance and economy have a significant impact on economic development, competitiveness, and welfare of the population, as well as a direct impact on the circulation of illegally acquired funds in the national economy (Dovgal et al., 2017). According to the 2021 annual report of the Financial Market and Capital Commission, the overall level of money laundering and terrorist financing and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (ML/FT) risk in the Latvian financial sector has significantly decreased in the most important segments – credit institutions and payment institutions (Strengthening Latvia's capacity to combat financial crime, 2022).

An effective system of monitoring and combating economic crimes, as well as the development of relevant legislation and changes in organizational structures, along with the coordination of their activities, must be based on research and a deep understanding of the causes of these crimes and the mechanisms of their formation. It is extremely important to influence the factors that determine the level of crime in general. The authors note that legislation, legal regulation and their use have a

significant impact on the situation with criminal activity in the country. Legitimate, efficient, high-quality and socially oriented judicial proceedings are a fundamental pillar, contributing to the implementation of the key principles of a fair trial as defined in the concept of justice. The state is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of justice. The criminal investigation process, as defined by the Criminal Procedure Law, should be aimed at achieving a fair result on the merits of the case, while avoiding overly restrictive procedural barriers.

The activities of law enforcement agencies are aimed at preventing crimes, detecting them and identifying the perpetrators, as well as ensuring compliance with the law. In Latvia, criminal investigation is divided into pre-trial and trial stages. During a criminal investigation, circumstances should be taken into account in which the rights of individuals cannot be restricted too severely or indefinitely. Thus, the state is obliged to guarantee the realization of the interests of each person within the framework of fair and objective legal proceedings. Lengthy court proceedings not only slow down investment and negatively affect Latvia's reputation as a state governed by the rule of law, but also have a serious impact on economic activity and increase the feeling of impunity among citizens.

Latvia has an interesting experience in improving the institutional system of law enforcement agencies in the fight against economic crimes. Since 31 March 2020, the Economic Court, a specialized district court, has been operating (Evaluation of the judicial systems (2020-2022) Latvia, 2022). The competence of the Economic Court is determined on the basis of an analysis of areas that require immediate resolution in order to ensure a thorough, cautious and progressive approach to determining jurisdiction, avoiding overloading with cases during the first years of operation. The establishment of the Economic Court provides significant benefits for the sustainable development of the legal system: increased reserves and their efficient and rational use; improved judicial qualifications and quality of judgments; increased credibility of the judiciary and reduced burden on other judicial bodies. As a result, it is expected that the speed of court proceedings will increase and the court practice will be enriched, which will contribute to the development of a unified policy of collecting fines. The establishment of the Economic Court is an important step for:

1. Ensuring stable economic development of Latvia and attracting investments.
2. Improvement of the legal system – creation of a system in which economic cases will be considered in a reasonable time.

At the same time, the use of advanced law enforcement technologies and the latest tools, including artificial intelligence, can play a key role in combating economic crime and contribute to the sustainable development of society, as well

as to the improvement of the socio-cultural environment. Artificial intelligence and other innovative technologies used in the fight against economic crime are transforming crime prevention strategies, making them more effective and sophisticated (Kalinichenko and Havrysh, 2019).

New technologies, in particular artificial intelligence, make it possible to identify areas and industries (manufacturing, services, construction, tourism, etc.) where there is a significant risk of economic crime (Ntshangase and Msosa, 2022). The use of artificial intelligence allows for an effective fight against money laundering. The developed algorithms can provide a more informed and accurate strategy for determining due diligence by analysing and interpreting signals of possible criminal activity and analysing significantly larger volumes of data with increased reliability. Artificial intelligence and other new technologies, both online and in real life, are revolutionizing crime prevention methods, making them more efficient and intelligent (Liadskyi et al., 2022).

In the area of socio-cultural sustainable development of law enforcement agencies, a completely new direction can be developed – digital investigation, collection, and enhancement of electronic evidence in cases related to cybercrime (Berdykulova, 2019). It is important to develop skills to monitor and control underground networks and conduct online investigations. In this context, tools that can identify and address this problem include search engines. They can be used for automated indexing of network information, information retrieval tools for processing large amounts of data, cryptocurrency analyses for tracking cash flow, and specialized software for finding evidence. It is also important to develop a new international legal framework to combat cybercrime.

Discussion

Scientific research aimed at analysing the prospects for sustainable development of the socio-cultural environment in the context of combating economic crime in Latvia plays an important role in addressing the problem of economic crime in this country. These studies help to examine the impact of socio-cultural factors on the level of shadow economy and corruption.

One such study conducted by G. Stack (2021) found an inverse relationship between the level of development of the tax culture of the population and the size of the shadow economy. In a comparative analysis between the United States of America and Spain, statistically significant evidence was found that a higher level of tax culture leads to a reduction in the size of the shadow economy. Similar results were confirmed by other empirical analyses conducted by A. Lytvynenko et al. (2022). Similarly, other researchers have widely considered the socio-cultural context of the relationship between the development of the

shadow economy and corruption in a number of empirical studies (Sredņakova & Sumbarova, 2022; Ginting, 2019; Aldhila et al., 2021). For practical application in the development of anti-corruption policy, studies recommend taking into account the conceptual aspects of systemic innovation and security approaches, which confirms the security approach proposed in the study results (Mileiko & Hamilton, 2022).

At the same time, P. Seshaiyer and C. McNeely (2020) found that the characteristic features of transformational economic systems are their deinstitutionalized nature and the transition from formal institutions to informal interactions. According to their conclusions, informal institutions include not only informal economic practices that arise in the context of formal institutions, but also a set of social norms that are shaped by cultural factors. However, it should be understood that the nature of transformational economic systems is not necessarily deinstitutionalized or that it is necessary to move from formal institutions to informal interactions (Makalyuk, 2014). There are other theories and studies that may indicate a different type of interactions in the process of transforming economic systems. Thus, it is possible to question the generally accepted nature of these conclusions and point to the need for additional research and discussion of different approaches to this issue.

It is also worth noting the opinion of T. See (2020), who emphasizes that the shadow economy has an impact not only on the economy, but also on social processes taking place in a transitional society. In the context of market transformations, shadow economic activity is becoming typical for many business entities (Pylypchynets, 2022). This is due to the conflict between modern and outdated norms, rules and standards, as well as the willingness of business entities to act in conditions of legal ambiguity to meet their needs. In this context, informal rules, infrastructure, and prices for bureaucratic services are formed. It seems that Latvia, like other transition countries, differs from developed countries not only in terms of the size of the shadow economy, but also in terms of its qualitative characteristics (Shapoval et al., 2018). In developed countries, the shadow economy is usually assessed as a violation of existing legislation, while in transition countries it is seen not only as deviant behaviour of economic agents, but also as the institutional structure of society, which is manifested in the legislative, executive and judicial branches in the form of shadow institutions. It is clear that the deinstitutionalization of society affects the legal infrastructure of the economy, which leads to the institutionalization of shadow and criminal economic activity (Haraschuk et al., 2020).

The economic order is an indispensable tool for the organization of society and the modern open economy, as pointed out, for example, by A. Uslu et al. (2020).

Its main goal is to achieve maximum productivity through the rational use of resources, harmonization of social interests and creation of conditions for making informed economic decisions. In a society in transition, economic order involves strengthening the legislative and regulatory framework for reforms, consolidating state power, restructuring enterprises, creating effective ownership structures, developing the financial and credit system and channels for investment, expanding market infrastructure, improving the culture of business relations, building trust between business entities and reforming labour relations, social protection of employees and the population, and improving relations between the centre and the regions (Kondratenko et al., 2018). Therefore, it is important to understand that the socio-cultural context that determines the way people interact, regardless of the strict grammatical norms of the language, is a significant component of human communication (Kopnova et al., 2022). Individuals choose the way they communicate based on their socio-cultural background and are not limited to grammatical requirements. All aspects of their communication have a certain structure that influences the choice of interaction. Therefore, it is worth agreeing with T. See (2020) and M. Mintaus (2021), who note that the rituals of daily communication play an important role, determining certain connections and relationships.

The results of the study showed a strong positive linear correlation between the socio-cultural conservation strategy and the sustainability of community-based tourism projects. In the opinion of W.C. Tubey et al. (2019), this indicates that effective factors of the socio-cultural conservation strategy, such as the preservation and promotion of cultural heritage, quality, and diversification of products offered, entrepreneurial opportunities for local residents and social integration of minority groups, contribute to the sustainability of community-based tourism. Thus, most scientific research is aimed at analysing the phenomenon of economic crime in Latvia. The research includes the study of types of economic crimes, their causes, mechanisms of occurrence and spread. Researchers pay attention to the analysis of factors that contribute to economic crime, such as corruption, economic inequality, insufficient regulation of markets and human trafficking. An important aspect of the research is to consider Latvia's cooperation with international organizations and other countries in the fight against economic crime. This may include an analysis of joint programmes, exchange of information and practices. Some studies focus on the impact of the socio-cultural environment on economic crime. This includes analysing cultural aspects, societal upbringing and attitudes towards offences. Some studies aim to develop recommendations for the Latvian government on policies and strategies to reduce economic crime and support sustainable development. Thus, the state of research on this issue is constantly changing and evolving. Both

national and international researchers are increasingly interested in the problem of economic crime and its impact on the socio-cultural environment in Latvia. This research is important for the development of strategies and policies aimed at strengthening the rule of law and sustainable development of the country.

Conclusions

The development of cultural space is a key aspect of the strategy for sustainable development of the socio-cultural environment in Latvia. The uniqueness and multifaceted identity of nations is determined by their material and spiritual values, both inherited and newly created. This development contributes to the consolidation of society and the development of new social, economic and cultural values. Cultural capital is especially important in the era of changes in the global economy, when the creative industry is becoming the main source of competitiveness, determining its presence in human creativity, imagination, and intuition. The socio-cultural environment is a key factor that determines these qualities. The main idea behind Latvia's sustainable development is to achieve a balance between the needs of the current generation and the interests of social welfare, environmental protection and economic development. It requires taking into account environmental aspects and avoiding compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations. Crime, which is rooted in the structure of society, has a strong impact on the cultural and ideological component of the latter. In Latvia, crime depends on the national factor and other factors, such as the type of country, political system, geographical location and the role of migration. Countries with different cultures and mentalities may experience different levels of crime. In Latvia, as a multinational country, this diversity is reflected in the coexistence of different ethnic groups. This can lead to cultural exchange, but it can also give rise to conflict. However, the Latvian authorities recognize the rights of minorities and take care of their cultural identities and language rights.

Artificial intelligence and new technologies play an important role in the fight against economic crime and in the development of the socio-cultural environment. They help identify risky industries, improve criminal investigations and contribute to the fight against crime. The application of these innovations helps to improve investigative techniques and the ability of law enforcement agencies to respond to modern challenges. The development of the cultural space and the fight against economic crime in Latvia require an integrated approach that includes the preservation and development of cultural values, sustainable attention to environmental aspects and the use of modern technologies to improve law enforcement. This will help achieve sustainable development and maintain the rule of law in society. Ensuring the sustainable development of the socio-cultural

environment and the fight against economic crime in Latvia requires a comprehensive approach that includes international cooperation, an effective legal framework, strengthening of cultural values and continuous analysis. This integrated strategy will contribute to sustainable development and the maintenance of law and order in society.

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