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## Strategies of police and analytical support for financial crime prevention in a context of global geopolitical crisis. Guidelines for ensuring financial security in Ukraine

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### Abstract

Russian invasion of Ukraine has increased the need to discuss sound strategies for preventing financial crimes, in the context of the global geopolitical crisis. Therefore, the aim of the article was to analyze various strategies for the prevention of financial crimes in two particular but connected contexts: on the one hand, the international scenario and, on the other hand, the Ukrainian reality, where the guidelines for ensuring financial security are defined, in a country going through a war that affects its national sovereignty, resulting from the invasion of

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the Russian federation. Methodologically, different cognitive tools were combined, such as: critical geopolitics, documentary research and discourse analysis. The results obtained show how cooperation between the public and private sectors is essential to establish a solid international system of prevention and police response to financial crimes and, moreover, to promote a culture of security and responsibility at all levels of reality. It is concluded that preventing financial crime in the context of global geopolitical crises requires a multifaceted approach that combines international cooperation, data analysis, education, critical thinking, and a deep understanding of geopolitical dynamics.

**Keywords:** organizational support; crime prevention; financial crime; global geopolitical crisis; financial security in Ukraine.

*Estrategias de apoyo policial y analítico para la prevención de delitos financieros en un contexto de crisis geopolítica global. Pautas para garantizar la seguridad financiera en Ucrania*

## Resumen

La invasión rusa a Ucrania ha aumentado la necesidad de discutir estrategias sólidas para prevenir los delitos financieros, en el contexto de la crisis geopolítica mundial. Por lo tanto, el objetivo del artículo fue analizar varias estrategias para la prevención de delitos financieros en dos contextos particulares, pero conectados: por una parte, el escenario internacional y, por el otro, la realidad de Ucrania, donde se definen las pautas para garantizar la seguridad financiera, en un país que atraviesa por una guerra que afecta su soberanía nacional, resultado de la invasión de la federación rusa. Metodológicamente, se combinaron distintas herramientas cognitivas, tales como: la geopolítica crítica, la investigación documental y el análisis del discurso. Entre los resultados obtenidos se muestra como la cooperación entre los sectores público y privado es esencial para establecer un sistema internacional consistente de prevención y respuesta policial ante los delitos financieros y, más aún, para promover una cultura de seguridad y responsabilidad en todos los niveles de la realidad. Se concluye que prevenir los delitos financieros en el contexto de crisis geopolíticas globales, requiere un

enfoque multifacético que combine cooperación internacional, análisis de datos, educación, pensamiento crítico y una comprensión profunda de la dinámica geopolítica.

**Palabras clave:** apoyo organizativo; prevención de delitos; delitos financieros; crisis geopolítica global; seguridad financiera en Ucrania.

## Introduction

Preventing financial crime in a global geopolitical crisis requires a comprehensive strategy that combines police support and intelligence analysis, among other political and scientific aspects. In the specific case of Ukraine, ensuring financial security is essential to maintain economic and social stability in the context of structural instability induced by the armed conflict, which attempts to undermine the material and symbolic foundations of the State's national sovereignty. According to Donnelly (2004), in this context of growing conflict, law enforcement must develop specialized capacities to detect and dismantle criminal networks that try to take advantage of the crisis. This involves the use of advanced data analysis tools, international police intelligence sharing, and close collaboration with the financial sector and national security policymakers.

At the strategic level, there is a need for law enforcement agencies to proactively assess the risks and conditions in which financial crime occurs, establish clear priorities, and build strong leadership to coordinate financial crime prevention efforts. To this end, financial institutions must also combine reasonable policies, procedures, and internal controls with an organizational culture that prioritizes integrity and ethics. This situation is much more complex, because:

Financial crime contributes to society's ills and is a threat to financial stability and inclusion, and its mitigation and prevention must be

prioritized. While billions have been invested to tackle such crimes, there is a need to place greater emphasis on strengthening law enforcement with the help of the private sector and ensuring that the legal and regulatory framework and financial crime risk management toolkit are improved. so that stakeholders can achieve more effective results. (The Institute of International Finance and Deloitte LLP White Paper, 2023, p. 01)

In conjunction with detection and follow-up measures, efforts to prevent financial crime in Ukraine should focus on the recovery of illicit funds and the destruction of sources of financing for criminal and terrorist activities. Achieving this dual objective requires improving the exchange of information between national and foreign authorities and, at the same time, overcoming legal and regulatory barriers that are ineffective in their scope and functionality. In the current context, financial crime prevention must also consider emerging challenges related to geopolitical fragmentation and the growing importance of cryptocurrencies and decentralized finance. Law enforcement needs to be prepared to adapt to these changes and always develop innovative responses (Donnelly, 2004).

Everything indicates that, in the current scenario, ensuring Ukraine's economic security requires the joint construction of a multidimensional approach that combines police support, intelligence analysis, public-private cooperation, and continuous adaptation to a rapidly changing environment. Undoubtedly, in times of geopolitical crisis, the threat of financial crime can only be effectively countered through sustained and coordinated efforts at the national and international levels (Cabrera, 2020).

Therefore, the objective of the article was to analyze several strategies for the prevention of financial crimes in two particulars, but connected, contexts: on

the one hand, the international scenario and, on the other, the context of Ukraine, where the guidelines to guarantee financial security are defined, in a country that is going through a war that affects its national sovereignty. result of the invasion of the Russian Federation in February 2022. As it is logical to assume, this objective is expressed in several specific questions:

1. What analytical and intelligence strategies can police forces use to proactively detect and prevent money laundering, fraud, and other financial crimes in a context of increasing geopolitical instability such as Ukraine?
2. How can law enforcement agencies collaborate with the financial sector and regulators to develop a comprehensive financial crime framework that includes robust policies, procedures, and internal controls?
3. What advanced data analytics tools and emerging technologies can specialize police units leverage to monitor suspicious transactions, identify patterns of illicit activity, and dismantle transnational criminal networks?
4. What challenges and obstacles may law enforcement in Ukraine face when trying to prevent financial crime during a geopolitical crisis, and how can they overcome them through international cooperation, intelligence sharing, and capacity building?

These questions are resolved, at least preliminarily, throughout the text. Otherwise, the article is divided into four (04) sections. The first part shows a selection of the most outstanding literature due to its international relevance, together with the theoretical aspects of the current discussion on financial crime and economic security. In the second section, the methodological process of the research is defined. In the third, the results of the research are discussed and



analyzed, from an inductive and qualitative perspective. Finally, the conclusions, recommendations, and objective limitations of the study are presented.

## 1. Selected Literature Spotlight on Financial Crime and Financial Security Theory in Today's World

Any thorough review of databases of proven international scientific value shows that in the last decade the literature on economic crimes has increased significantly, reflecting the complexity and diversity of these crimes in the twenty-first century, characterized by the digitization of commercial transactions.

As Akay (2020) argues, essentially, economic crimes encompass a wide range of illegal activities, including money laundering, fraud, administrative corruption, and insider trading, among others. These crimes not only affect individual victims but can have a devastating effect on the global economy, undermine trust in financial institutions and affect market stability. Financial crimes are committed by both criminal organizations and individuals, making it difficult to prevent them and prosecute criminals.

An outstanding aspect of the literature on economic crimes, or at least the literature consulted in this research, is its eagerness to identify the factors and conditions that lead to the manifestation of these crimes in each time and space. Consequently, international criminal research shows that demographic variables such as age, education, and financial situation can influence a criminal person's or group's propensity to commit economic crimes (The Institute of International Finance and Deloitte LLP White Paper, 2023; Donnelly, 2004). Similarly, the cultural and social context in which these crimes occur plays an important role in the prevalence and public perception of these crimes. Indeed, multidimensional understanding is essential to develop effective prevention and timely response

strategies. In this order of ideas, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime since the dawn of the twenty-first century:

A series of high-profile cases in Europe and North America over the past decade have provided extensive details on the damage that economic and financial crime can cause, including loss of credibility of companies and institutions, bankruptcy, and loss of employment. In the developed world, the impact of such crimes may be easier to contain because of the size of economies and the ability to put in place appropriate regulatory mechanisms. (United Nations, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2005)

Faced with this harsh reality identified by the international emergence of a complex diversity of economic and financial crimes, the existing theory acquires a double purpose: on the one hand, to build an interpretive, interdisciplinary, and holistic model on this phenomenon to reveal to scientific understanding (qualitative and quantitative) its full scope and meaning. On the other hand, according to Konrad (2023), the *theory of financial security* arises focused on creating an environment that reduces the risk of crime. This includes enforcing strict regulations, increasing transparency and accountability of financial institutions, and simultaneously fostering a culture of joint compliance and economic responsibility. Moreover, the sources consulted and available in the references of this research, indicate that public prevention policies must be proactive and address not only the visible consequences of financial crimes in general, but also the root causes that lead to their spread in material and digital environments.

Authors such as Achim *et al.*, (2022) are right to state categorically that the hermeneutical interpretation of the literature consulted reveals that cooperation between different actors (international, national, and local) is essential to combat

financial crimes. Therefore, partnerships between governments, financial institutions, and international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank can, under certain conditions of cooperation, facilitate the exchange of information and the implementation of best practices in the fight against these crimes. Inter-agency collaboration improves incident response capacity while strengthening public confidence in financial security institutions.

In addition to formal and informal social control mechanisms, according to Donnelly (2004), the evolution of technology has introduced new challenges and opportunities in the field of financial crime. Indeed, the digitization of financial services and the rise of cryptocurrencies have created an environment conducive to the emergence of new forms of fraud and money laundering. These realities and conditions highlight the need for financial institutions to adapt their security strategies to address these emerging risks, using advanced technologies such as data analytics and AI to detect suspicious patterns. However, AI in this field has its risks and obvious advantages:

Like other technological advances, AI offers new potential, albeit accompanied by new risks. The financial services sector may be among the biggest beneficiaries of technology, which can allow it to better protect its assets and better predict markets. Or it may be the sector with the most to lose if AI spurs theft, fraud, cybercrime, or even a financial crisis that investors can't conceive of today. (Kearns, 2023, par., 04)

Finally, as Vasilachis de Gialdino (1999) states, it is important to consider factors such as social representations and, more specifically, the role of education and awareness in the prevention of economic crimes. In this subjective dimension, The Institute of International Finance and Deloitte LLP White Paper (2023), suggests that educational programs for employees of financial institutions and the



public can be effective in reducing the incidence of these crimes, of course, if it is possible to raise awareness of all the damage that financial criminals can do to people's lives. groups and companies. Thus, education about the risks and warning signs of financial crime can empower people to make informed decisions and become strategic allies of authorities in the fight against fraud and other crimes.

Beyond the particularities of each author, there is a consensus in the specialized literature on financial crime and security on the need to build a theoretical and practical framework, of an interdisciplinary nature, to address these complex problems. By understanding the factors, objective and subjective, general, and specific, material, and symbolic, that contribute to the realization of financial crimes and, at the same time, promote cooperation and education, it is possible to develop more effective strategies to protect the integrity of the global financial system. In this framework that combines scientific research and concerted public policies, continuous research, and adaptation to changes in the economic and technological environment are essential to face future challenges in this field of study of a frankly interdisciplinary nature (Moreno, 2024).

In geopolitical and geostrategic terms, due to their heuristic and hermeneutical capacity, there are two fundamental theories to address, in all its complexity, financial security in Ukraine and the world. These theories are a. The economic theory of crime, and b. The theory of the fragmentation of the international financial order. Both can be interpreted from a critical perspective, hence their usefulness for this research. In their own way, the economic theory of crime and the theory of the fragmentation of the international financial order offer conceptual frameworks for understanding how geopolitical and economic considerations are shaping the dynamics of crime and financial security in the

current world order, since the end of the Second World War (Arbeláez-Campillo & Villasmil, 2020).

### ***1.1. Theoretical aspects of the research***

As part of the rational choice epistemology instituted by Downs (1973), the economic theory of crime, developed by Gary Becker in 1968, proposes that criminals, *as rational economic agents*, evaluate the expected costs and benefits before committing a crime. Thus, according to this approach, factors such as the probability of being arrested and convicted, as well as the severity of the punishment, are crucial to explain, broadly speaking, criminal behavior. In this order of ideas, Rubatino (2023) points out:

"A person commits a crime if the expected utility for him exceeds the utility he could obtain by using his time and other resources in other activities" (1995, p. 7). Becker (1995) argues that crime is not inevitable, as is the case with death or taxes. And **the relationship between crime and the economy is part of social thought, because of a matter of economic rationality that involves the analysis of the cost-benefit in individual behavior that stimulates that preference...** (2023, p. 10) (emphasis added)

In the current geopolitical context, this theory suggests that international financial criminals also make rational calculations when choosing where and how to operate. Factors such as the strength of anti-money laundering laws, international law enforcement cooperation, and the severity of sanctions can influence their decisions, if they do not act out of desperation and, on the contrary, are fully aware (reliable information) of the effects and consequences that their criminal action may have on the social order and on their own lives. Thus, ultimately, being a delinquent is the result of a rational choice that arises from an

evaluation, right or wrong, of the costs and benefits that are expected to be obtained through criminal practice (Downs, 1973).

For its part, the theory of fragmentation of *the emerging international financial order*, epistemologically connected to complex thinking and chaos theories in the social sciences, postulates according to Müller (2024) that the introduction of new financial technologies, such as central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), could lead to the fragmentation of the international financial order. with unpredictable consequences for entire regions of the current world order. Cryptocurrencies and CBDCs have the potential to create "digital currency containers" that grant greater domestic control over financial transactions. This, combined with rising geopolitical tensions such as the war in Eastern Europe or the Israeli-Iran conflict, is turning financial infrastructures into national security projects.

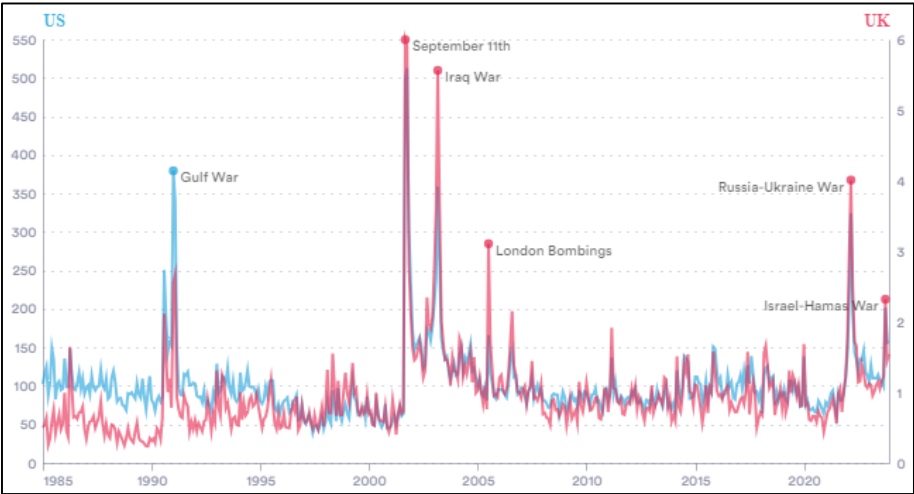
According to this theory, the shift from a financial security regime focused on "securing money in motion" to the *tight security* of financial infrastructures themselves, could lead to further fragmentation of the global financial system, into economic regions dispersed in the heat of the geopolitical and geostrategic interests of a multipolar world, such as, for example: the European Union, EU, China and Russia, Latin America or the BRICs, among others. Therefore, this theory assumes that:

The ongoing transition to a new world order reconfigures the international monetary system, leading to increased geopolitical tensions and the fragmentation of global financial structures. As power shifts occur and competing blocs emerge, risks to global financial stability increase, with important implications for the future of international economic relations. This changing landscape challenges

the existing order and threatens the stability of cross-border financial flows. (Müller, 2024, par., 2)

Both in theory and in the current geopolitical reality, the fragmentation of the international financial system poses challenges to financial security. In this context, in the words of Economics observatory (2024), the creation of economic and financial blocs can lead to an increase in capital controls and financial sanctions, which in turn can affect international monetary and financial stability and be a breeding ground for financial criminals. Therefore, geopolitical tensions increase financial risks, and bring with them behaviors such as fear of conflict on the part of investors, which translates into high-risk investments in unstable regions and fluctuations in asset prices, among other disruptive aspects.

Table 1. Geopolitical risk index



Source: Caldara and Lacoviello (2022), cited by: Economics observatory (2024).

Table 1 shows how certain geopolitical events of global interest raise levels of conflict, almost automatically, with a direct impact on finance, investment flows and trade initiatives. However, these research tools are insufficient on their own and must be complemented by qualitative studies that account for the conflict in each affected region and using models such as the theory of fragmentation of the international financial order or the economic theory of crime, which provide a logical framework to understand how geopolitical dynamics are reshaping the global financial system and criminal practices. Therefore, geopolitical dynamics dialectically driven by nation states are the crucial forces for maintaining financial security and promoting sustainable economic growth in an increasingly fragmented, complex, and chaotic environment (Economics observatory, 2024).

## 2. Methodology

To address the issue of police support strategies for the prevention of financial crimes in a context of global geopolitical crisis, the authors of this article built a hybrid methodological framework, based on three cognitive tools, with extensive experience in the repertoire of qualitative research methods and techniques, which are: critical geopolitics, documentary observation and a version of critical discourse analysis. Next, it describes how each of these tools responded to the achievement of the general objective of the research.

Critical geopolitics focused on analyzing how geopolitical narratives and practices influence the configurations of power and security at the global level, and in the case of Ukraine, which suffers the onslaught of Russian imperialism. In the context of financial crimes, this tool explored how geopolitical tensions affect financial infrastructure and public policies on economic security. As Cabrera



(2020) points out, current geopolitical tensions are transforming financial infrastructure into national security projects that require renewed attention from critical security and international policy studies.

In this scenario, critical geopolitics was able to help identify how financial security policy intersects with geopolitical agendas, particularly about the development of national sovereignty defense policies that are being developed in Ukraine in the wake of the war. Continuing with Cabrera (2020), critical geopolitics is consubstantiated with the studies of the discourse of power (hegemonic discourse) and counter-power, therefore:

... It is observed that critical geopolitics aims to establish an ordering and classification of geopolitical representations, through the very origin of the discourses associated with them. With this, not only is a capacity to generate new geopolitical knowledge glimpsed, but also findings are made about possible contradictions in the discourses that construct social realities. (Cabrera, 2020, p. 65)

On the other hand, documentary observation itself involves the collection and analysis of relevant literature to obtain a deep understanding of the phenomenon, in the relationship between texts and contexts (Gómez, 2010). This approach facilitates the study of policies, regulations, and institutional practices related to the prevention of economic crimes. As Jurado (2017) points out, documentation methods allow the qualitative interpretation of data that reveal cultural practices and account for everyday life in their textual and discursive representations. For this case study, using these perspectives, researchers were able to review white papers, policy briefs, and academic literature to identify thematic trends and challenges in financial security in the geopolitical context of the war in Ukraine and Russia.

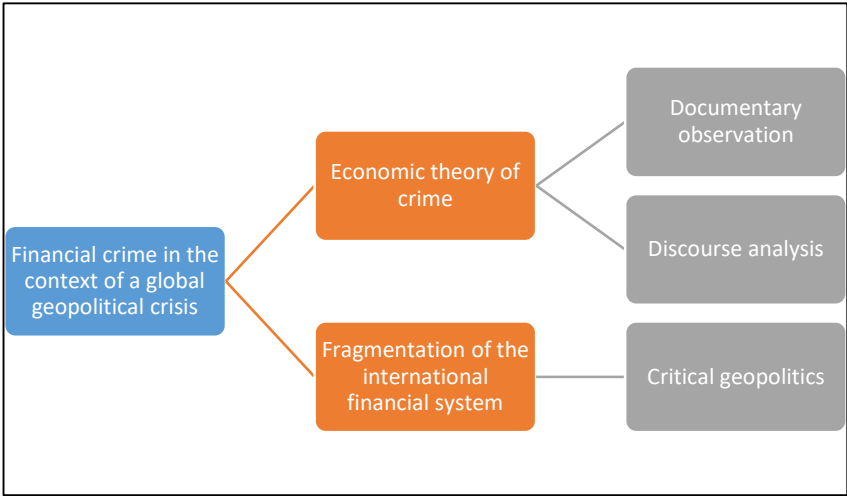
Finally, discourse analysis was used to examine how language and communication influence the perception and practice of financial crimes. The work of Molero de Cabeza y Cabeza (2009), shows in its own way how discourse analysis can reveal the manipulation strategies used by fraudsters to persuade victims and to hide the signs and symbols of their criminal action.

Therefore, in the context of financial crime prevention, this tool can help unravel how official narratives and media discourses shape public understanding of financial risks while also driving the policy responses of institutional actors. Discourse analysis allows us to identify the social and ethical implications of the prevailing narratives and how they can influence the formulation of public policies on financial security (Chomsky, 2017).

By dialectically combining these three cognitive and procedural tools, a robust methodological framework can be created to address financial crime from multiple analytical perspectives. Critical geopolitics provides the macro context; The document investigation then provided a detailed analysis of law enforcement policies and practices to identify and apprehend those responsible for these crimes. Finally, discourse analysis explores the narratives and perceptions that influence economic security.

Everything indicates that, in practical terms, this methodological framework can be used to evaluate and improve financial crime prevention strategies in specific regions facing geopolitical crises, such as Ukraine. When geopolitical dynamics, asymmetrical power relations, documented policies, and recursive narratives are qualitatively assessed, with all that this represents in historical terms, researchers and policymakers can design effective interventions adapted to local realities.

**Table 2.** Theoretical and methodological architecture of work



**Source:** authors' elaboration (2024)

Therefore, the strategic combination in such research of critical geopolitics, documentary observation, and discourse analysis offers a comprehensive epistemological space to study and address financial crimes in a context of global geopolitical crisis. This methodological framework not only facilitates a hermeneutical understanding of the current challenges in terms of financial security, but also helps to design more effective and even adaptive prevention strategies, based on empirical data and rational reflection typical of the human sciences.

**3. Analysis and discussion of results**

As already stated in the introduction, the general objective of the research, which was: to analyze various strategies for the prevention of financial crimes in two particular, but connected, contexts: on the one hand, the international scenario and, on the other, the context of Ukraine, where the guidelines to guarantee

financial security are defined, is expressed dialectically in four particular questions, that were answered by the authors of this article from the dialogical perspective of triangulation that combines under equal conditions three basic epistemological dimensions, namely, a. Documentary information of proven scientific value, b. The opinion of the authors and the hermeneutical exercise of critical geopolitics and, c. Studies of discursivity that locate texts and contexts in the construction of the structure of the meaning and meaning of historical events, as they are presented to intersubjective consciousness.

To the first question, what analytical and intelligence strategies can police forces use to proactively detect and prevent money laundering, fraud and other financial crimes in a context of growing geopolitical instability such as Ukraine? In Ukraine, amid growing geopolitical instability, police forces can adopt sophisticated intelligence strategies, such as predictive analytics and artificial intelligence, to proactively detect and thwart financial crimes such as money laundering and fraud. This involves integrating data from various sources, including international financial systems, to identify anomalous transactions indicative of criminal activity (Economics observatory, 2024).

In the specific case of Ukraine, one of the main strategies in the fight against crime is the use of financial intelligence, which involves the creation of specialized units for the investigation of money laundering. These units analyze suspicious transaction patterns, handle big data and machine learning understanding techniques to identify anomalies, and at the same time collaborate with international financial institutions to monitor unusual capital flows (Europol, 2023). Investigative operations are also used to resolve corruption cases and restore the credibility of police entities.

In this order of ideas, in a context of geopolitical instability such as that of Ukraine, political and police strategies are continuously adapting to face new challenges. The use of network analysis to map connections between transnational criminal groups and hostile state actors in the service of Russia is intensifying. Again, in this particular, international cooperation becomes crucial, with greater exchange of information between financial intelligence units of different NATO countries (Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, 2023). Advanced cryptocurrency tracking techniques are also implemented and controls on international transactions are strengthened to detect attempts to evade economic sanctions.

Regarding the second question asked, how can law enforcement agencies collaborate with the financial sector and regulators to develop a comprehensive financial crime framework that includes robust policies, procedures, and internal controls? Undoubtedly, collaboration between law enforcement, the financial sector and regulators assumes a strategic character, which requires the development of a comprehensive institutional framework to attack financial crime in all its manifestations. This framework, still under construction, must be able to incorporate elements such as: strict policies, procedures, and controls, along with regular training and audits to ensure compliance and adaptability to ever-evolving threats (Feás & Steinberg, 2024).

The third question is critical in the fight against financial crime, what advanced data analytics tools and emerging technologies can specialize police units leverage to monitor suspicious transactions, identify patterns of illicit activity, and dismantle transnational criminal networks? In principle, advanced data analysis tools and technologies, such as machine learning models, blockchain analytics, and biometric verification systems, allow specialized police units to



monitor, analyze, and cross-reference large amounts of financial data to detect patterns indicative of illicit activities. These tools and others facilitate the identification of complex networks and the interception of illegal financial flows across borders (Europol, 2023).

Finally, when rationally asked, what challenges and obstacles can law enforcement in Ukraine face, when trying to prevent financial crimes during a geopolitical crisis, and how can they overcome them through international cooperation, intelligence sharing, and capacity building? Evidence shows that Ukrainian law enforcement agencies should focus on improving their response capacity by training in innovative technologies and forensic techniques. In this framework, strengthening international cooperation and intelligence sharing, through partnerships with global entities such as Interpol and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), can provide crucial support to overcome these obstacles, thereby strengthening Ukraine's defenses against financial crimes in times of crisis.

As can be inferred in a war, Ukraine's law enforcement agencies face several challenges in their efforts to prevent financial crimes in the current geopolitical crisis. The economic and political instability caused by the Russian invasion created a favorable environment for the growth of illegal activities, such as money laundering and fraud. Supply chain disruptions and volatile financial markets make it difficult to detect suspicious transactions. In addition to the above, geoeconomic fragmentation and the weakening of international alliances hinder cooperation in the fight against these crimes and the exchange of critical information (International Monetary Fund, 2023). In the words of Feás and Steinberg (2024):

Everything seems to indicate that the war in Ukraine is going to accelerate some trends that were already pointed out in the international economic order. We are going to a time of greater mistrust, of questioning the institutional framework of Bretton Woods and of the transfer of the geopolitical multipolar scenario to the economic and financial field. Uncertainty will be greater, and, with it, the dynamism of the global economy could suffer. Likewise, the deterioration of international cooperation frameworks and respect for rules could lead us to a more fragmented world economy, with less globalization and interdependence, and, therefore, where there is less wealth and prosperity. Just as the integration of economies creates wealth – even if that wealth is sometimes poorly distributed – disintegration destroys it. (2024, para., 10).

In a scenario of growing instability, the fragmentation of the world financial order is the predominant alternative in theory and if it is not possible to build general geopolitical consensus between powers and actors that have, in essence and existence, antagonistic interests. But in any case, international cooperation is essential to overcome these obstacles. Law enforcement agencies can increase intelligence sharing through global networks such as INTERPOL and Europol and engage in multilateral financial information sharing initiatives (Europol, 2023).

According to the International Monetary Fund (2023), without a sustained policy of strategic capacity building, which includes training personnel with competence in economic crimes, in advanced data analysis techniques, and the use of technology to track complex financial transactions, the implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements can facilitate the recovery of international funds and the prosecution of criminals. thus, increasing the effectiveness of Ukraine's actions against economic crimes; The fight against economic and financial crime could not be won in any realistic way.

## Conclusions, recommendations, and limitations of the research

Decisive action to prevent financial crime in the context of global geopolitical crises is a multifaceted challenge that requires effective policing and analytical support strategies, even more so in a country like Ukraine, which is suffering the ravages of a long-running war. As the geopolitical dynamics of high conflict evolve, so do the tactics and practices of financial criminals. Thus, the strategic need to achieve a combination of analytical methods, international cooperation and the use of advanced technologies is imperative as essential factors to solve this growing international problem.

First, international cooperation is essential to prevent financial crime. The increasing interconnectedness of financial markets and the growth of cross-border transactions have boosted the flow of illicit funds. According to research by Europol (2023), criminals are increasingly adept at exploiting loopholes in regulatory frameworks across national districts, so cooperation between law enforcement and financial regulators is important to track and stop these criminal activities. Therefore, information networks and intelligence sharing are essential to identify patterns of criminal behavior and *deconstruct* complex criminal networks, in the local, national, and digital scenario where they operate.

Second, data analytics and the use of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and machine learning can significantly improve a law enforcement agency's ability to detect suspicious activity. These tools can automatically detect unusual transactions and provide predictive analytics, allowing financial institutions, under certain technological conditions, to anticipate and respond to emerging threats. Likewise, the development of central bank digital currencies

(CBDCs) also provides new opportunities to control and monitor financial transactions, allowing countries to better monitor their economies or, conversely, increase risk levels in terms of the fragmentation of the global financial order, the prevalence of one of these two possible scenarios is something that only time will reveal beyond doubt.

Another important aspect is the continuing education and training of financial authorities and police officers. The literature reviewed by us throughout this research (Achim *et al.*, 2022; Donnelly, 2004; Europol, 2023) suggests that teams that understand the criminal risks and strategies of financial crime are logically more effective at preventing and responding to these crimes in real time. Therefore, continuous education on modern technologies and best practices for managing these economic crimes is important when it comes to making the financial system more resilient to multidimensional threats.

In this order of ideas, the current geopolitical context, marked by conflicts such as the war in Ukraine, has shown that criminals can exploit crises to intensify their activities. The reality and complexity of ongoing events on the international stage show that conflicts and political instability often lead to an increase in corruption and money laundering, a situation that underscores the political need for strategies to prevent these crimes to be adaptive and sensitive to changes in the global environment. Which ontologically defines the national and local rhythm. The multiple law enforcement agencies must be always prepared to respond quickly to these changing dynamics, without losing governance and governability in their areas of sovereign action.

In epistemological terms, it is opportune to build a comprehensive approach that integrates geopolitics, technology, and international cooperation in the formulation of financial crime prevention policies. The concrete experience of this research team suggests that, at least for the Ukrainian reality, a framework is needed that addresses, on the one hand, the consequences of financial crimes, but also deals with; on the other, and this is the fundamental thing, of the underlying causes of these crimes, such as: economic inequality and lack of trust in public institutions. This holistic and ethical approach must include the participation of multiple stakeholders, such as governments, the private sector, police agencies, universities, and civil society, among others, to jointly create a safer and more conducive environment for the achievement of sustainable development.

Simplifying things for analytical reasons, preventing financial crime in the context of global geopolitical crises requires a multifaceted approach that combines international cooperation, data analysis, education, critical thinking, and a deep understanding of geopolitical dynamics. Only through comprehensive and adaptive strategies will we be able to effectively address the growing challenges of financial crime in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. Given this reality, the authors of this research recommend to stakeholders five (05) strategies, but with a lot of potential, in the attempt to mitigate the conditions of possibility that drive the emergence of financial crimes.

1. *Strengthening International Cooperation.* In line with the National Bank of Ukraine (2023), it is important for Ukraine to continue to strengthen comprehensive cooperation with international allies and financial organizations. This includes the implementation of agreements to promote financial and technical



assistance, as well as participation in international forums dealing with financial security and crime prevention. The policy of cooperation with institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank can provide the necessary support to stabilize the war-affected national economy and promote structural reforms that strengthen the country's financial system.

2. *Development of a Solid Regulatory Framework.* Ukraine needs to establish a coherent legal framework that promotes transparency and accountability in the financial sector. This initiative includes the enforcement of laws and regulations specifically targeting financial crimes such as money laundering and terrorist financing. As stated by the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine (2023), the creation of a clear and effective regulatory environment will not only protect financial institutions, but also increase investor and public confidence in the country's financial system.

3. *Investment in Technology and Analytical Capabilities.* As in all areas of human action in the digital age, the adoption of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and data analytics improves the ability of financial and law enforcement agencies to detect and prevent financial crime (Vidovic & Villasmil, 2024). Consequently, investing in tracking and analytics systems that can identify suspicious patterns and unusual transactions allows institutions to respond more effectively to potential threats. This strategy also includes continuous training of public and private employees on the use of these technologies to ensure their effective management.

4. *Promotion of Financial Education and Public Awareness.* Strengthening public financial education is useful for preventing financial crime in general (Ministry of

Finance of Ukraine, 2023). Social awareness programs designed to inform citizens about the risks associated with fraud and financial crime, as well as their rights and available remedies, in a democratic environment can empower people to make informed decisions and fearlessly report suspicious activity. Financial education should also be part of the training of workers in the financial sector to ensure that they are able to identify and manage risks in a timely manner.

*5. Implementation of Economic Resilience Strategies.* Given the context of the geopolitical crisis, it is especially important for Ukraine to develop strategies to strengthen the country's economic resilience, even in these times of war. This means diversifying revenue streams, promoting investment in key sectors such as agriculture and clean energy, and ensuring long-term fiscal sustainability. As Herbst, Khakova, and Lichfield (2024) state, the implementation of policies that promote economic growth and financial stability helps mitigate the negative consequences of the war and, at the same time, build a safer future for the Ukrainian economy.

If these recommendations are implemented effectively and efficiently, they can contribute significantly to ensuring financial security in Ukraine and, even more, to strengthening its strategic capacity to meet current and future challenges in containing organized crime. In the policy of defending Ukraine's national sovereignty, in the face of the onslaught of post-Soviet Russian imperialism, the strengthening of economic security is a matter of the first order, much more so when the economy and public finances are the material bases of any society that seeks to increase its dynamics of sustainable development. in a climate of democracy and respect for the human rights of its citizens.

Finally, it is worth mentioning some of the objective limitations that identified this research, which have to do with the deficiencies of the selected methods or with the very nature of this field of study. First, privacy and confidentiality laws can restrict the availability of and access to important documents, such as financial records and suspicious transaction reports. In addition, the information available is often fragmented or outdated, making it difficult to gain a complete and accurate understanding of illicit economic activity in Ukraine.

Documentary sources can also vary in quality and accuracy, and a critical review is necessary to avoid erroneous conclusions, an activity that exceeded the possibilities of this research. In addition, financial criminals use sophisticated strategies to conceal their activities, making it difficult to identify criminal patterns using documents alone. Finally, the lack of direct interaction with subjects or witnesses of these crimes limited the ability to learn and fully understand the tactics used in the consummation of financial crimes.

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