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**LITHUANIAN-POLISH-UKRAINIAN
COOPERATION A FACTOR INSPIRING
INTEGRATION PROCESSES IN THE
CRIMINALISTICS OF THE THREE SEAS
REGION (INTERMARIUM)**

Summary

According to our scientific doctrine, in the first half of the 20th century, four basic schools of forensic science were formed, based on the national systems (models) of forensic science of several European countries. For several decades, scientific forums have been discussing the need to bring the paradigms of national forensic science systems (models) in Europe closer together. This is a topic we have raised more than once, including at the “Forensics and Forensic Expertise: Science, Study, Practice” conferences we organize. Without going into the historical circumstances of the formation of forensic science in the modern territories of Lithuania, Poland, and Ukraine, we must emphasize that they differed significantly and undoubtedly had and have an impact on the modern models of forensic science.

The primary purpose of the article is to present the views of Lithuanian scientists on the issues of mutual Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian cooperation in the field of forensic science in the broad sense after 1990, including in the Trilateral area, and to appeal to colleagues from Central Europe for its deepening, consolidation

in both scientific and didactic and practical fields. In the article, we would like to emphasize the place and importance of these processes in academic institutions and non-governmental forensic organizations. Russia's aggression against Ukraine has put a big question mark on the project to create a common European forensic space. Today, a more realistic approach is to build a regional forensic network, based on the potential of the countries of the Trilateral Initiative, incorporating countries such as Ukraine and Moldova first¹, and then possibly other countries in the region. We are convinced that the seeds of a new school of forensic science are being formed in Europe between the Eastern European and Germanic schools, which we can tentatively call the Three Seas Initiative (Intermarium) school, and that the "power plays and interests" in European geopolitics will be a stimulus to strengthen the broader forensic cooperation of the countries in the region.

Keywords: schools of forensic science, regional cooperation of forensic science, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, Three Seas Initiative (Intermarium)

Introduction

In the process of forming the scientific basis of forensic science, French, Austrian, German, and British scientists and representatives of the law enforcement agencies of these countries made major contributions in the first place. Among them, first of all, it is worth mentioning such pioneers of this field as Hans Gross (Austria-Hungary), Alphonse Bertillon and Edmond Locard (France), Franz von Liszt, Robert Heindl, Rodolphe Archibald Reiss (Germany-Switzerland), William Herschel, Edward Henry, Francis Galton (Great Britain), who not only contributed to the formation of national (systems) models of forensic science, but also laid the foundation for the formation of Germanic, Romanesque and Anglo-Saxon schools of forensic science. In the period between the world wars, the Eastern European school of forensic science, also known as the Russian or Soviet school, is forming².

After World War I, many states regained their independence, in addition, those that had not previously functioned as independent foreign policy actors were created; most of them appeared in Central and Southern Europe. These states had to carry out a variety of tasks, including those related to

¹ It is worth noting that on September 6–7, 2023, the eighth summit of the Trilateral Initiative (3SI) was held in Bucharest, Romania, with the first-ever enlargement to include a new, thirteenth participating country, Greece, and Ukraine and Moldova were granted associate status.

² It is worth noting that Russian representatives themselves recognize that forensic science before World War I in their country took only the first steps in combating crime, and there were practically no more or less significant scientific works, with the exception of Yevgeny Burinsky's publication on the use of photographic methods in the examination of documents. See T.V. Averianova, R.S. Belkin, Yu.G. Korukchov, E.R. Rossinskaja, *Kriminalistika. Uchebnik dlia vuzov*, red. R.S. Belkin, Izdatel'stvo NORMA, Moskva 2001, p. 6.

the fight against and prevention of crime, on top of the creation of their political, institutional, and legal structures, etc. This required, not always consciously, choosing a particular model of forensic science in the broadest sense (the forensic science triad: practice – education – science).

It is worth noting that at the time of the formation of scientific forensics Poland, Lithuania, and Ukraine as independent entities on the world map did not exist. Without going into the historical circumstances of the formation of forensic science in the territories of contemporary Lithuania, Poland, and Ukraine, we only need to emphasize that they differed significantly, which undoubtedly had and has an impact on the current models of forensic science in these countries. Poland, after regaining independence in 1918, faced the gigantic problem of merging parts of the country after the three partitioners, which also involved the structures of law enforcement and justice, including the establishment of strategies to combat and prevent crime, and this required the development of a widely understood consolidating system of forensic science. Lithuania, after regaining its independence in 1918, decided decisively to change its development vectors, looking for models in the West, primarily orienting itself towards Germany. Most of the territory of modern Ukraine came under Soviet rule after World War I, while some became part of the Republic.

The first stage (second half of the 19th century – World War I) of the development of forensic science was characterized by widespread international cooperation and efforts to create a universal discipline, which was to be an efficient tool and scientific basis for the process of combating and preventing crime.

Analyzing the further spread of scientific forensic thought, especially in the interwar period, we can see not only the convergence of scientific paradigms of forensic science and crime-fighting practice in specific groups of countries but also the formation of transnational schools of forensic science. The general geopolitical orientation of individual countries has undoubtedly influenced security policies and strategies for combating and preventing crime, and consequently the creation of a national model of forensic science.

We can argue that four basic schools of forensic science and their national models were formed between the world wars. According to our doctrine, such basic schools of forensic science are Germanic, romanesque, Eastern European, and Anglo-Saxon. Owe schools have formed on the foundations of several national models (systems) of forensic science. Most of the countries, especially those that were created or reborn after World War I, taking the direction of political and socio-economic development, and establishing

close cooperation with certain geopolitical leaders, often also adopted the existing general assumptions (paradigms) in these countries concerning such matters as crime fighting and prevention. Even a superficial analysis of selected national systems (models) of forensic science indicates a whole range of factors that have had and continue to have a strong influence on the formation of a national model of forensic science in a particular country. Among such factors, the following must be mentioned first: geopolitical, legal, historical, cultural, etc. Undoubtedly, they also had and have an impact on contemporary Polish-Lithuanian-Ukrainian forensic cooperation. A retrospective look at this cooperation allows us to claim that until 1990 it was practically non-existent or incidental³. After the restoration of independence by Lithuania and Ukraine and full sovereignty by the Republic of Poland, there was a significant intensification of relations between these countries and their institutions, including in the field of crime fighting and prevention, which could not leave cooperation and forensic science in the broadest sense. It is worth noting that we not only sought pragmatic forensic cooperation, but also made proposals for new directions of cooperation, thereby emphasizing that we are not just “recipients” of forensic thought from other countries, but want to participate in the processes of outlining new directions of scientific development. We first highlighted the importance of international academic forensic cooperation and the use of non-governmental forensic organizations. Such an example is our article published in 2005, *Polsko-litewska współpraca czynnikiem inspirującym integracyjne procesy w kryminalistyce europejskiej (Polish-Lithuanian cooperation as a factor inspiring integrative processes in European forensics)*⁴. We must also emphasize that the intensification of Polish-Lithuanian-Ukrainian cooperation, including in the field of forensics in the broadest sense, occurred after 2014 when Russia attacked Ukraine and occupied its eastern regions.

³ At best, we can speak of some forms of forensic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Poland, in which, at the margin, there may have been some elements linked to Lithuania as a structural unit of that state. Such an example is the book *Kryminalistyka krajów socjalistycznych (Criminalistics of Socialist Countries)*, published in 1985; among its authors were representatives of the Soviet Union, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria and Poland. Poland was represented by Prof. B. Holyst, and among the large group of Soviet authors was a representative of Lithuania – doc. E. Palskys.

⁴ H. Malewski, E. Kurapka, *Polsko-litewska współpraca czynnikiem inspirującym integracyjne procesy w kryminalistyce europejskiej*, in: R. Jaworski (ed.), *Nauka wobec prawdy sądowej. Księga pamiątkowa ku czci profesora Zdzisława Kegla*, University of Wrocław Publishing House, Wrocław 2005, pp. 371–379.

Polish-Lithuanian cooperation a factor inspiring integration processes in European forensics

In the aforementioned article, we outlined our views and assessments of Polish-Lithuanian forensic cooperation in 1990–2005, as well as opportunities and directions for further improvement. These assessments of ours were framed in the context of the geopolitical and legal changes that occurred during this period, not only in our countries but also more broadly, in Europe and the world.

Although we present our subjective views, we must emphasize that they are based on the opinions of the pioneers of forensic science and modern experts on the subject. The end of the twentieth century and the beginning of the twenty-first century are a special period of increasing integration trends in Europe, both in law enforcement and justice activities and in forensic academic cooperation. The forensic cooperation of NGOs also has its place within their framework. During this period, organizations such as Europol, ENFSI, Eurojust, etc. were established, which are primarily aimed at coordinating the fight against and prevention of crime, but at the same time inspire certain lines of scientific research, oriented towards the pragmatic goals of detecting and investigating crimes⁵. However, Russia's full-scale aggression against Ukraine (February 24, 2022) and the earlier annexation of eastern Ukrainian territories in 2014 have changed our optimistic vision of integration processes in Europe.

Until 1990, for understandable reasons, Polish-Lithuanian cooperation in the broad field of forensic science was episodic. However, it is worth noting that at that time Poland enjoyed formal independence, while Lithuania remained a structural unit of the Soviet Union. Initially, after Lithuania regained its independence, cooperation with Polish institutions was established by the structures of the border guard, customs, and police, and then, in the 1990s. In the 1970s. – Forensic laboratories, police colleges and universities. Since 1992, the Lithuanian Police Academy has established contacts with the Police Academy in Szczytno; these have resulted not only in the exchange of delegations but also in participation in conferences, publication of their studies in the partners' publications, etc. In the same year, the Lithuanian Police Academy organized a large international conference on the problems of training police officers, which was attended by representatives of Denmark, Finland, France, Latvia, Germany, Russia, Ukraine, the USA,

⁵ M. Goc, *Międzynarodowa współpraca laboratoriów kryminalistycznych*, "Current Problems of Forensic Science" 2000, vol. III, p. 81–86.

and Poland (represented by T. Cichorz, E. Legowicz and T. Bielska from the Police Academy in Szczytno). The papers from its proceedings were published as the proceedings of an international conference⁶.

In the 1990s more-or-less formal contacts were established with scientists, primarily forensic scientists who represented the University of Wrocław (prof. Z. Kegel, prof. M. Bojarski, prof. R. Jaworski, Dr. R. Cieśla, prof. M. Szostak, prof. M. Trzcíński et al.), Jagiellonian University (prof. T. Hanausek, prof. J. Wójcikiewicz and others), Warsaw University (prof. T. Tomaszewski, prof. P. Girdwoyń, prof. E. Gruza et al.), the Central Forensic Laboratory of the Police Headquarters in Warsaw (Dr. A. Filewicz, Dr. P. Rybicki, E. Buduj et al.), the Institute of Forensic Expertise of the Tchaikovsky University in Warsaw (Dr. A. Filewicz, Dr. P. Rybicki, E. Buduj et al.). Prof. Dr. Jan Sehn in Krakow (A. Głazek, Dr. T. Jaśkiewicz-Obydzińska, and others) and the Polish Society of Forensic Science (prof. M. Kulicki, prof. B. Młodziejowski, prof. M. Goc et al.), etc.

We must point out that in the last decade of the 20th century in both countries there were similar problems associated with fighting crime, and researchers have stressed that the state of forensic science at the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries is unsatisfactory⁷. In 2005, in the aforementioned article, we wrote that “We need to reflect not only on the state of forensic science in our countries, determine its tasks and research priorities, but also strive to develop an outline of a cooperation strategy that could grow into regional and, in the long run, pan-European cooperation.”⁸. An analysis of forensic literature shows that until 1990 there were practically no scientific publications by Polish authors in Lithuanian publications and *vice versa*. It was only in the 1990s that there was a real change in the situation in many areas, including forensics.

The established multidirectional Polish-Lithuanian forensic cooperation had not only an official dimension but also resulted in quite an active exchange of scientists and specialists, their participation in organized scientific events, publications in partners' publications, etc. For Lithuanian forensic

⁶ *Policijos pareigūnų profesinės, dorovinės bei psichologinės savybės ir jų ugdymas*, Tarptautinės mokslinės konferencijos medžiaga, Lietuvos policijos akademija, Vilnius 1994.

⁷ See H. Kołdecki, *Stan i zadania kryminalistyki – 20 lat później*, in: V. Kwiatkowska-Darul (ed.), *Czynności procesowo-kryminalistyczne w polskich procedurach. Materiały z konferencji naukowej i IV Zjazdu Katedr Kryminalistyki, Toruń 5–7 maja 2004 r.*, Nicolaus Copernicus University Publishing House, Toruń 2004, s. 21–27; J. Juškevičiūtė, S. Kuklianskis, E. Kurapka, H. Malewski, A. Pošiūnas, A. Žurauskas, *Kriminalistikos vystymosi Lietuvoje perspektyvos*, “LPA mokslo darbai”, vol. 1, Vilnius 1993, p. 65-70.

⁸ H. Malewski, E. Kurapka, op. cit., p. 375.

science, cooperation and the importance of Polish experience in both practical and scientific and didactic fields were significant for many reasons, as they allowed us to get acquainted with the achievements and experiences of Polish forensic scientists, to present our problems and challenges, as well as to establish individual friendly contacts, which is a very important factor of institutional cooperation⁹. Such an example is the Forensic Sciences Symposium “Forensic Traces”, held in Krakow on September 22–23, 1994, where we had the opportunity to meet many well-known Polish forensic scientists.

Michael Romer University in its current form was constituted in 2004 (in 1990–1997 it was the Lithuanian Police Academy, in 1997–2000 – the Lithuanian Academy of Law, in 2000–2004 – the Lithuanian University of Law), but regardless of the name, the forensic element in its functioning, apart from some perturbations in 2008–2015, was significant. At the turn of the 20th and 21st centuries, the university’s forensic science department was one of the strongest and became the informal leader of forensic science thought in the country. This resulted in the idea of creating a stand-alone Lithuanian Forensic Society¹⁰, whose primary goal was to consolidate and integrate the potential of forensic scientists from law enforcement and the judiciary with the sparse academic forensic community. Realistically assessing our scientific potential, existing problems, and challenges faced by Lithuanian institutions of the rule of law and justice, we understood that we must strive to intensify international forensic cooperation, creatively using the experience of our partners. This was also the purpose of the international scientific conferences.

The first *sensu stricto* Polish-Lithuanian forensic conference was held in Vilnius at the Lithuanian Academy of Law (now – Michael Romer University) in 1999.

⁹ H. Malevski, *Kriminalistikos mokslo raida Lenkijoje*, “Jurisprudencija” 2000, t. 16(8), p. 61–72.

¹⁰ It is worth noting that the predecessor of the current Society was the Lithuanian Scientific Society of Forensic Medics and Forensic Scientists, founded on March 28–29, 1958.

Fig. 1. At the first Polish-Lithuanian forensic science conference in Vilnius (1999), a paper was presented by Prof. Tadeusz Tomaszewski (moderators: prof. Henryk Malewski, prof. Zdzislaw Kegel, prof. Egidijus Kurapka)



Source: archives of Academy of Public Security at Michael Romer University.

In the late 20th and early 21st centuries, particularly intensive scientific contacts were established with the University of Wrocław and, in the first instance, with forensic colleagues. At that time, cooperation agreements between the two universities, which are still being implemented, were concluded, which translates into active mutual exchanges of researchers and students and delegations, including sometimes at the highest level. Our scholars (H. Malewski, R. Ryngiewicz, and others) have held scientific internships at the Faculty of Law and Administration of the University of Wrocław. It is necessary to emphasize mutual participation in editorial colleges and scientific boards of journals. A very important platform for cooperation is the constant (several dozen years) participation of Lithuanian representatives in the Wrocław Symposia on Handwriting (Document) Research, and of Polish scientists in conferences held in Lithuania. Joint publications are an important area of cooperation. Such recent examples include:

- participation in a Lithuanian-Ukrainian project to develop and publish a three-volume textbook on forensic science in English. The first volume¹¹ was published in 2016, and the second¹² was not published until 2023, influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's open aggression against Ukraine. Wrocław forensic scientists (prof. Maciej Trzciński and Dr. Rafał Cieśla) participated in the work on the second volume of this handbook;
- surveying and analyzing the views of more than 750 students at three universities from Lithuania, Ukraine, and Poland on the subject of forensic didactics, based on a questionnaire we developed and agreed upon with colleagues from Wrocław and Kharkiv. The results of this study were published in a scientific article¹³.

Forensic scientists from our university have become pioneers in organizing doctoral dissertations with the participation of foreign scientists, including those from Poland. In the first place were scientists from the University of Wrocław: prof. Zdzisław Kegel, prof. Ryszard Jaworski, prof. Maciej Szostak and one postdoctoral dissertation were attended by Prof. Zdzisław Kegel and Prof. Stanisław Kazmierczyk. It is worth noting that doctoral dissertations at our university were also attended by representatives of other Polish universities (prof. Jerzy Kasprzak, prof. Hubert Kołdecki et al.).

At the beginning of this century, together with the University of Wrocław (with the particularly active participation of Prof. Zdzisław Kegel) an attempt was made to establish a Polish-Lithuanian research and teaching unit at our university, which, due to many unfavorable factors, was not realized.

Active cooperation between our university and the University of Wrocław resulted in the awarding of an honorary doctorate to the then dean of the Faculty of Law and Administration there, Prof. Dr. Hab. Zdzisław Kegel. We must emphasize that the first three honorary doctorates of our university were conferred on Professor Zdzisław Kegel simultaneously with the granting of this dignity to the Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, Prof. Vytautas Landsbergis and President of the Academy of Executive Personnel Police in Münster (Germany) Dr. Rainer Schulte.

¹¹ H. Malevski, V. Shepitko (eds.), *Textbook of Criminalistics*, vol. 1: *General Theory*, Apostille Publishing House LLC, Kharkiv 2016.

¹² H. Malevski, V. Shepitko (eds.), *Textbook of Criminalistics*, vol. 2: *Criminalistic Technique and Tactics*, Pravo Publishing House LLC, Vilnius-Kharkiv 2023.

¹³ H. Malewski, E.V. Kurapka, S. Matulienė, V. Shepitko, M. Shepitko, R. Cieśla, *Didactics and the views of students in Lithuania, Ukraine, and Poland on the necessity of studying criminalistics disciplines*, "International Comparative Jurisprudence" 2022, vol. 8, no. 2, p. 193–208.

Fig. 2. First honorary doctorate ceremony at the Lithuanian Academy of Law on May 12, 2000. From left: president of the Academy of Executives Police in Münster (Germany) Dr. Rainer Schulte, Dean of the Faculty of Law and Administration at the University of Wrocław (Poland) Prof. Dr. Hab. Zdzisław Kegel, Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania prof. Vytautas Landsbergis.



Source: archives of Michael Romer University (Public domain, file:///C:/Users/henry/OneDrive/Desktop/MRU_1990-2020.pdf, accessed: 15.10.2023).

In 2001, the Lithuanian Society of Forensic Science was founded, and in 2002 registered, to consolidate the activities of the most active representatives not only of scientific and teaching centers but also of specialists representing law enforcement and the judiciary. Among the primary tasks of the Society is the activation of international cooperation, and one of the primary forms of such cooperation was international scientific conferences. Initially, these conferences, under the slogan “Forensic science and forensic expertise: science, study, practice” (until 2014 they were called “Forensic science and forensic expertise: science, study, practice”), were held every other year, but since 2012 they have become an annual event, except that every other year they are held as an overseas event in other countries. Then they are organized jointly with foreign entities. The forum has always featured a significant group of representatives of Polish scientific institutions and institutions related to crime fighting, and the congress materials published

to date include more than a hundred publications by authors from Poland. In 2016, a conference in the series was organized in Warsaw together with the University of Warsaw and the Polish Forensic Association.

Fig. 3. XV Conference “Forensic Science and Expertology: science, studies, practice” (Warsaw, 2016). Speaking at the opening of the conference is Prof. Tadeusz Tomaszewski. In the presidium: prof. Anna Giza-Poleszczuk, prof. Bronislaw Młodziejowski, prof. Henryk Malewski, doc. Snieguolė Matulienė.



Source: archives of the Polish Forensic Association.

In recent years, we have been actively cooperating with the Faculty of Law (Prof. Teresa Gardocka, prof. Dariusz Jagiełło, Dr. Łukasz Majewski, and others) at SWPS University of the Humanities and Social Sciences in Warsaw. Mutual scientific exchanges within the framework of the Erasmus program are implemented; we have twice developed and submitted joint applications to participate in the Polish-Lithuanian scientific research project “Daina”; we actively participate in organized conferences and publish scientific papers in our publications; Prof. Henryk Malewski is the co-au-

thor of the publication *Reglamentacja broni palnej w Europie. Wybrane zagadnienia (Firearms Rationing in Europe. Selected Issues)*¹⁴.

Viable fields of cooperation are opened up by a promising line of activity at the University of Warsaw, namely the UW Center for Forensic Sciences, which has been operating for several years (Prof. Tadeusz Tomaszewski, prof. Piotr Girdwoyń). At Michael Romer University from 2020 undergraduate law school offers a specialization in “Law and Forensics”. We plan to open a forensic master’s degree program at our university in the future, and with the support of colleagues in Warsaw, this would be much easier.

A very important level of Polish-Lithuanian forensic cooperation is the cooperation of non-governmental organizations, first of all, the Polish Forensic Society with the Lithuanian Forensic Society. When establishing the independent Lithuanian Forensic Society in 2001, we modeled ourselves on the experience of the Polish Forensic Society and took the advice of its representatives (appreciatively, in different years, Prof. Mariusz Kulicki, prof. Zdzisław Kegel, prof. Tadeusz Tomaszewski and prof. Józef Wójcikiewicz were given the titles of honorary members of our association). To emphasize the importance of interaction between the two societies, in 2015, a cooperation agreement was signed between them. This cooperation has developed in multiple ways, with examples including the following activities:

- in 2016, in Warsaw, together with UW and PTK (Prof. T. Tomaszewski, Prof. M. Goc), we organized an overseas XII scientific conference “Forensic Science and Expertology: science, studies, practice”, which was attended by representatives of 15 countries;
- in an effort to consolidate the efforts of the European forensic science community, in 2017 we signed a Memorandum and issued an appeal to our friends on the issue of taking steps to establish a European Federation of National Forensic Societies;
- after Russia’s full-scale aggression against Ukraine, we jointly drafted and sent to the world an Appeal for its condemnation¹⁵;
- we emphasize the importance of mutually organized scientific endeavors and participate in them.

Lithuanian-Ukrainian forensic cooperation

The active phase of cooperation with colleagues from Ukraine began a dozen years ago. Then direct contacts were established with forensic scien-

¹⁴ D. Jagiełło (ed.), *Firearms Rationing in Europe. Selected issues*, Difin, Warsaw 2021.

¹⁵ The appeal is posted on the website of the Polish Forensic Association, <https://kryminalistyka.pl/?lang=en> (accessed: 17.10.2023).

tists representing universities and institutes of forensic expertise in Kharkiv, Odessa, Kiev, or Lviv. The cooperation between our forensic societies was and is in a multidirectional format. Ukrainian forensic scientists have always been active participants in our congresses since 2011. It is worth noting that our overseas conference “Forensics and Forensic Expertise: Science, Studies, Practice” has twice been organized jointly with Ukrainian colleagues – in Uzhhorod (2014) and Odesa (2018).

Fig. 4. During the proceedings of the 7th conference “Forensic Science and expertology: science, studies, practice” in Šiauliai, Lithuania, in 2011, participating for the first time prof. Valery Shepitko presents a new forensic journal “Криміналіст Першодрукований”.



Source: authors' archives.

From the 4th issue (2012) practically every volume of the journal “Криміналіст Першодрукований” includes articles by Lithuanian authors (J. Baltrūnienė, G. Šarauskas, H. Malewski, M. Šatas, G. Šatienė, R. Jurka, G. Juodkaitė-Granskienė, A. Gorbatkov, S. Matulienė, V.E. Kurapka, et al.)¹⁶, and from the 5th issue (year 2012) there are articles by Polish authors (H. KołECKI, I. Sołtyszewski, K. Krasowski, G. Kędzierska et al.).

¹⁶ Several publications can be cited as examples: H. Malewski, V.E. Kurapka, I. Tamelė, *Motivation and expectations of students – an important factor in the implementation of the new bachelor's degree program “Law and Criminalistics”*, “Kriminalist Pershodrukovaniiy” 2021, no. 21–22, pp. 10–38; G. Malewski, *Special'nye znania – kraeugol'nyj postulat koncepcii kriminalistiki*

The periodical also features publications by scientists from several other countries.

Among the various forms of Lithuanian-Ukrainian forensic cooperation can be distinguished:

- joint publications and scientific research projects: one ambitious project is to develop and publish a textbook of forensic science in English in three volumes; it will present the traditional model of Eastern European forensic science with innovative elements that may serve as a future example for the textbooks of the newly established Intermarium school of forensic science. The manual is also intended to familiarize the Western European reader with our perception of the system and structure of forensic science and its basic paradigms. Two volumes have already been published, and following initial consultations, work on the third volume will begin in 2024;
- joint articles in reputable scientific publications¹⁷;
- joint scientific research projects: this year we have developed and submitted a joint international scientific research project *Strategy for forensic support of justice in Ukraine and Lithuania* and are waiting for the results;
- Erasmus visits and faculty exchanges. As an example, remote lectures (30 hours) on techniques, tactics, and history of forensic science were conducted by Prof. Valery Shepitko during the pandemic period. Before the war, we had been to Ukrainian universities more than once, including as part of the Erasmus program. Very impressive is the forensic material base of the Department of Forensic Science at the Ivan Franko National University of Law. Yaroslav Mudryi (Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University): a forensic training ground with several sections where visual inspection and other procedural exerci-

Gansa Grossa i ikch sovremennaq interpretaciji, “Kriminalist’ Pervopechatnyj” 2012, no. 5, pp. 108–121.

¹⁷ V.Yu. Shepitko, H. Malewski, V.E. Kurapka, *Criminalistic didactics in the movement to wards unified European criminalistic space: Views of Lithuanian and Ukrainian students*, “Journal of The National Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine” 2022, vol. 29(4) (Pravo); H. Malewski, E.V. Kurapka, S. Matulienė, V. Shepitko, M. Shepitko, R. Cieśla, *Didactics and the views of students in Lithuania, Ukraine, and Poland on the necessity of studying criminalistics disciplines*, “International Comparative Jurisprudence” 2022, t. 8, no. 2, pp. 193–208; R. Ackermann, V.E. Kurapka, H. Malewski, V. Shepitko, *Schaffung eines einheitlichen europäischen kriminalistischen Raumes. Die Tätigkeit öffentlicher Organisationen zur Stärkung der internationalen Beziehungen*, “Kriminalistik. Unabhängige Zeitschrift für die kriminalistische Wissenschaft und Praxis” 2020, H. 6, pp. 355–363 et al.

ses are carried out, and a forensic science museum that serves a very important teaching function;

- introducing students to forensic science systems and their developers in partner countries. This year, an article on *cooperation between forensic scientists of Lithuania and Ukraine: opportunities and main directions of cooperation*, based on interviews with well-known forensic scientists of Ukraine and Lithuania, was accepted for the volume of student scientific papers.

Recognizing the importance of forensic education, representatives of the International Congress of Forensic Scientists of Ukraine and the Department of Forensic Science of the Ivan Franko National University of Law. Yaroslav the Wise (the two institutions are linked by the person of Prof. Valery Shepitko), with the participation of the Lithuanian Forensic Society, decided to hold regular thematic symposia on this issue in an online format. Such symposia, devoted to specific aspects of forensic education, have already been held in 2022 and 2023. Their programs included the presentation of innovative solutions in forensic education. It is worth noting that only one paper could be presented from one country. Speakers from Poland, who gave papers at these forums, were Prof. Tadeusz Tomaszewski and Prof. Paweł Waszkiewicz.

The volume of the article allows only the presentation of fragmentary data on Lithuanian-Ukrainian forensic cooperation.

Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian forensic cooperation – goals and opportunities

Nation-states practically until the second half of the twentieth century were the primary determinant of political-economic, social, and other developments, including law or forensic science in the broadest sense, but in the period of globalization, we see other trends that affect our field as well. Can globalization processes be unequivocally evaluated as positive? However, do they carry specific risks? Is there a danger that large centers “producing specific ideas and knowledge based on them” will emerge (are emerging), and the periphery will be just consumers and their customers paying for such “products”? In our opinion, to remain competitive and “creative agility”, we need to consolidate our potential, which will allow us to actively participate in these processes and not just be a recipient of certain products and ideas.

The goal of any pragmatic cooperation is to achieve certain states that are desired by the participating entities. The primary goal of forensic science, broadly defined, is to work toward the eradication and prevention of crime.

In each country, these goals are seen as important and are pursued both nationally and internationally. Referring to the thesis presented, it should be noted that Poland and Lithuania are in the EU, while Ukraine is still at the beginning of this road. In the article, attention is focused on two levels of such cooperation, namely academic and non-governmental forensic cooperation.

We can talk about a real trilateral Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian academic forensic cooperation and contacts in the format of non-governmental forensic organizations since 2011, when in Šiauliai (Lithuania) during the VII scientific conference “Forensic science and forensic expertology: science, studies, practice” substantive contacts were established between Polish and Lithuanian forensic scientists and colleagues from Ukraine. Even then, possible directions and forms of cooperation were discussed in informal discussions. In the first place, it was an invitation to participate in scientific conferences and a mutual exchange of publishing scientific articles in partners’ publications – already implemented in 2012.

Fig. 5. Scientific conference “Forensics and forensic expertology: science, studies, practice”, Šiauliai, 2011. Among Polish scientists (prof. Mieczysław Goc, prof. Jarosław Moszczyński, prof. Tadeusz Widła, Dr. Marek Leśniak), Lithuanian (Dr. Gintarė Šatienė, Dr. Mindaugas Šatas) and Latvian (Dr. Elita Nimande, Dr. Vladimirs Terehovičs) representatives of Ukraine prof. Valery Shepitko and Dr. Mykhaylo Shepitko.



Source: Archives of the Lithuanian Forensic Society.

An important step in strengthening trilateral cooperation was taken in 2016-2017 when we discussed and drafted a Memorandum on the establishment of the European Federation of National Forensic Associations (EFNAC). September 16, 2017, in Palanga, Lithuania, during the XIII international scientific conference “Forensics and forensic expertology: science, studies, practice” representatives of three non-governmental forensic organizations – the Polish Forensic Society, the Lithuanian Forensic Society, and the Ukrainian Forensic Congress – supporting the concept of a common European area in forensic science, signed a Memorandum¹⁸ taking the initiative to establish the European Federation of National Forensic Associations (EFNAC). Although in the following years, the partners confirmed their willingness to continue working on the establishment of the Federation, due to the pandemic and the war in Ukraine this goal has not yet been realized, although the matter remains on our docket.

Fig. 6. Participants of the 13th international scientific conference “Forensic Science and Expertology: science, studies, practice” in Palanga, Lithuania, during which the Memorandum on the establishment of the European Federation of National Forensic Associations was adopted



Source: Archives of the Lithuanian Forensic Society.

¹⁸ The text of the Memorandum (PDF) is posted on the website of the Polish Forensic Association, <https://kryminalistyka.pl/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Powolanie-Europejskiej-Federacji-Stowarzyszen-Kryminalistycznych-EFNAC.pdf> (accessed: 17.10.2023).

In the first days of Russia's wartime aggression against Ukraine in 2022, at the initiative of the Lithuanian Forensic Society, together with the Polish Forensic Society and the International Congress of Forensic Scientists (Ukraine), we asked the international forensic community to condemn this aggression. The appeal is posted on the website of the Polish Forensic Association¹⁹.

Based on the analysis of the basic paradigms of the systems (models) of forensic science in our countries, we began to discuss the possibility of the formation of an independent school of forensic science in the Trilateral area²⁰, which would be able to combine the theoretical and methodological advantages of the Eastern European school with the technological, tactical and praxeological achievements of the other schools.

Today we can emphasize that the more than 30 years of Polish-Lithuanian forensic cooperation, which has been and is being carried out at various levels and in various forms, is positively evaluated, but requires the development of a further, reasonably coherent strategy, to which our forensic societies can contribute in the first place.

Indeed, we should strive to cooperate and combine our potential, based on historical commonalities of fate, cultural similarities, and legal traditions. These premises could be the foundation for a new, emerging school of forensic science in our region. The complementarity of our doctrines and the competition of forensic scientific thought are the prerequisites for the emergence of a new school of forensic science in the Tri-State region (Intermarium).

Summarizing the consideration of Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian cooperation in the field of forensic science in its academic dimension and the format of NGO cooperation, we can conclude that after 1990 there was a qualitative and quantitative leap in these activities, especially in terms of bilateral contacts. At the same time, we also see specific achievements in the formats of tripartite activities.

¹⁹ See <https://kryminalistyka.pl/> (accessed: 17.10.2023).

²⁰ On September 15, 2023, the authors of this article presented a paper on *Geopolitical factors and the formation of a new school of criminalistics in the Intermarium region of Europe* at the XIX conference "Forensic Science and Expertology: science, studies, practice" (Brno, Czech Republic). See program: <https://crimcongress.law.muni.cz/content/en/programme/> (accessed: 17.10.2023).

Completion

The article is an introduction to further discussion on deepening forensic cooperation, not only Lithuanian-Polish-Ukrainian but also regional in the broad sense of the word, so instead of a conclusion, one would have to write “cont.” (continuation to follow) – we will want to implement it at the 20th-anniversary conference “Forensics and forensic expertology: science, studies, practice”, which will be held in Vilnius in September 2024. We present some conclusions as theses for future discussions:

- until 1990, there was no real forensic cooperation between Polish and Lithuanian scientists. At best, we can speak of some forms of forensic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Poland, in which, at the margin, there may have been some elements linked to Lithuania as a structural unit of that state;
- after 1990, desovietization processes are taking place in Lithuania in politics, economy, science, management, etc., including forensics in its broadest sense. There is a process of moving away from the Soviets and a search for a new optimal model for the development of forensic science in the broadest sense. Getting to know the experience of Western European countries (first of all – Germany) and Central Europe (first of all – Poland) made it possible to confront the practical level of application of forensic methods and technologies in combating and preventing crime (the technological distance from the developed Western countries was noticed), and in the long run – to implement them in the activities of law enforcement agencies and forensic expertise institutions;
- the initial uncritical approach to the Western experience in the field of forensics was replaced by a realistic approach, as not only the glories but also the shadows of Western doctrines were noted. We can conclude that in Western doctrines the theoretical issues of forensic science are often underestimated and eclectic in nature. As a result, we began to discuss the possibility of the formation of an independent school of forensic science in the Trilateral area, which would be able to combine the theoretical and methodological advantages of the Eastern European school with the technological, tactical, and praxeological achievements of the other schools;
- today we can emphasize that more than 30 years of Polish-Lithuanian forensic cooperation, which has been and is being carried out at various levels and in various forms, is positively evaluated, but requires

the development of a further, fairly consistent strategy, to which our forensic societies can contribute;

- we must strive to cooperate and combine our potentials, based on historical commonalities of fate, cultural similarities, and legal traditions. These premises could be the foundation for a new, emerging school of forensic science in our region. The complementarity of our doctrines and the significant potential of the forensic scientific thought of our countries is the rationale for the creation of a new school of forensic science of the Tri-Seas Initiative (Intermarium).

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No

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