

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS FOR MANAGING AND PREVENTING THE TERRORISM PHENOMENA

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Abstract. *Terrorism becomes an essential issue for the security of any state. The fight against terrorism is a national and international desideratum that involves a specific culture for every citizen. Thus, the fighting actions against terrorism aims both to implement preventive measures with a preventive and deterrent role, as well as to cooperate between civil and military structures with the role of managing the consequences of the terrorist attack, together with the effective fight against terrorism through response measures active. The present research is a step in identifying the main ways to act against terrorist attacks and the objective is to screen the manners of the strategies were designed. Based on the facts and the reports on the terrorist activity at the global level, some consideration about the strategic priorities and strategies for expressed.*

Keywords: *strategy; terrorism; strategic priorities; strategic objectives.*

Introduction

Although terrorism as a social phenomenon has been present in almost all stages of the development of human civilization, until now the simple man and the political or military politicians have not felt or may have been unaware of the magnitude of this phenomenon so acutely at international level. We are dealing with a phenomenon that, through its implications, directly threatens not just the lives of individuals or human collectives, not just state security, but overall global stability, with profound and long-term implications for the fundamental values and legitimate aspirations of mankind.

This phenomenon is part of the contemporary society' peak of violence pyramid, immediately after the war and the armed conflict and before organized crime, the unorganized crime and the domestic violence underlying the pyramid (Duta, 2010). Consequently, such a danger can only be met by a sustained effort of solidarity at national and international level (Atanasiu & Stancila, 2014). Thus, we consider it absolutely necessary to align our strategic national and international strategy for the adoption of concrete strategies for the prevention and combating of terrorism. Solving this situation involves multiple, direct, radical and categorical, even violent solutions, aimed at curbing evil from the root, others indirect, consisting of well-designed

strategies of reducing the gaps and the effect of fallacy, harmonizing social and international relations, and on this basis of improvement of the human condition.

The new dimension of terrorism has determined, both at national and international level, not only a rethinking of how to combat it, but also the realization of a conceptual and appropriate legal framework necessary to materialize the measures established at the level of the political and military decisions of the states.

Together with the concept of terrorism, its development and evolution, was born the concept of counter-terrorism and it evolved accordingly to answer to the challenges. Governments has to set up different institution at the national level to can deal with a set of dimensions of the social life related with the terrorism as: ethics of democracy, individual's human rights, transparency and access to public information, need of security and so on (Kaplan, 2017). A second concern is to initiate networks due to the global dimension of the terrorism phenomena and the need to address to it at a global level too. The limits of the EU in this mater, the differences between the lows enforced are making the information sharing and the intelligence acting as a whole difficult and hybrid (Boer, 2015). Alongside the terrorism the countering violent extremism (CVE) was consider by the EU, at the national and union levels, with a holistic and collaborative approach, considerations taken into account by non-European countries too (Korn, 2016; Harris-Hogan, Barrelle, & Zammit, 2016). The CVE seems to be a prerequisite for terrorism and the pillars that EU considers are: prevention of radicalization, assistance of the most vulnerable categories to radicalization, and de-radicalization, pillars that are showing that the prevention place a first and most important role. Since 2005 the EU are dealing with Counter-terrorism Strategy and Strategy of Combating Radicalization and Recruitment to terrorism, to diminish this phenomena (Bakker, 2015; Korn, 2016; Harris-Hogan, Barrelle, & Zammit, 2016).

The paper objective is to analyze the evolution and changes on the terrorism activity at a global level, the counter measures that were tacked by the UN, EU, USA, NATO etc. and the strategies against terrorism and countering violent extremism, to create a global picture needed for Romania to set up its strategy as a boarder country of EU and NATO member. Based on the analysis some conclusion for the Romanian security structures were drown for a better understanding of the terrorism phenomena and the complexity of the effects in the social-economic environment.

Methodology of scientific research

In order to accomplish the present scientific research, the main source of information consisted in the study of the specialized literature in the field of this research, namely the theoretical documentation of the national and international legislation applicable to this topic, followed by an empirical research based on quantitative methods, the data taken from the internationally presented statistical information on the situation of terrorist attacks and the content analysis of the annual reports and institutional strategic plans of the Romanian public entities active in the field of preventing and combating terrorist acts. Based on the strategies and reports of the international and European bodies involved in the fight against terrorism and analyzing the counter-terrorism measures used by others (best practice), could be adjust the Romanian Strategy to the local conditions.

The terrorism – a complex, multidimensional phenomena

a) Trends of attacks, injured and deaths

The concept “terrorism” is first attested in November 1794, when Cadroy refers to “the doctrine of partisans of terror” when intense and violent fighting against counter-revolutionaries took place in his Opinion de Cadroy. It is a way of exercising power, not a means of action against it. Terrorism is defined today as violent acts committed in a political-revolutionary context. Since 1937 the definition of terrorism has manifold variants all of them referring to the acts and tools used to generate losses or injuries to other groups or states (Gioia, 2016). A definition proposed by the UN Secretary-General in 2004 and endorsed by France, considers terrorism as “any action [...] which is intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to civilians or non-combatants, where the purpose such an act is, by its nature or context, to intimidate a population or to force a government or an international organization to take any action”. The United Nations General Assembly considers terrorism as follows: “Criminal acts that are designed or calculated for political purposes in order to provoke terror in public” (Council of Europe, 2018).

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 were a major impetus for policy change in the fight against terrorism. Despite all this, news is often heard about terrorist attacks taking place around the world. Based on studies conducted by the US National Anti-Terrorism Center, the evolution of terrorist attacks over the period 2005-2016 is presented in the figure below.

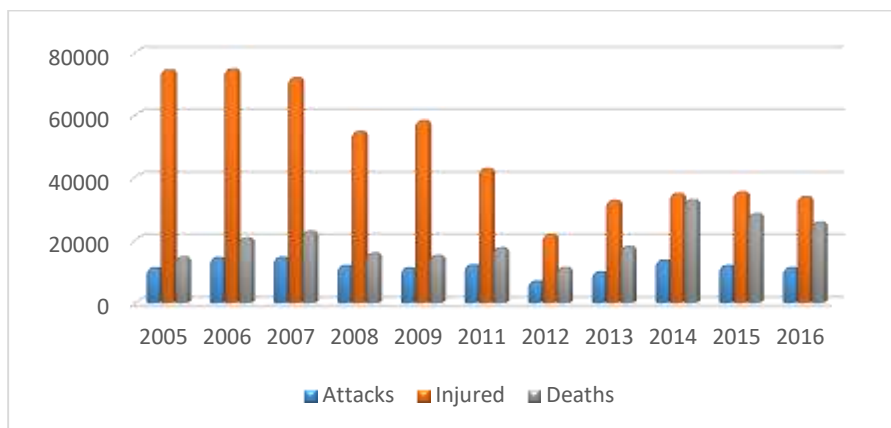


Figure 1. Evolution of global terrorist acts 2005-2016

(Source: authors processing based on the data presented on Country reports on terrorism, US Department of State)

We can appreciate a small decrease of the acts is shown from 2005 to 2012 followed by an increase that place 2016 at the same level with 2005. **The first conclusion** could be that after ten years, if it was impossible to stop at least a part of the terrorist acts, we succeeded to keep them at a flat level.

Instead, the number of the injured persons knows a substantial decrease, knowing a minimal value on 2012 of 21,652 wounded, growing up on the next years to relatively flat amount of 33-34,000 wounded.

The number of deaths registered for the studied period has a waiving shape, it could be seen that the last year it goes to 20-30,000 compared with 2005-2012 when it says between 10-20,000 victims. **A second conclusion** is that the level of injured substantial was decrease, but the number of deaths was increase.

A third and sorrowful conclusion is that the decrease of the injured number was made due to the increase of deaths number. That means that the violence of the terrorist acts is much higher.

Year 2012 records the lowest level of all three studied indicators and represents a “*year of change*” in our opinion, should be connected with the death of Osama bin Laden in May 2011? There are several argues to sustain this starting with the fact that attacks from September 11, 2001 had a tremendous impact on the security, terrorism and counter-terrorism paradigms.

From 2001 to 2011 the US declares Osama bin Laden as the main target of the counter-terrorism fight and Perl (2007) in his report for the 110th Congress proposed three indicators to measure the progress against terrorism: Incidents, Attitudes and Trends. Argomaniz, Bures, & Kaunert (2015) are presenting the effects of 9/11 on the attitude of EU, approach of security, counter-terrorism and intelligence. All the measures that had been taken to create the “convergence” of the legislation and share information among the EU members. The main paradigm change was to place the security prior of the liberty. Not only the EU took measures, studied the terrorism phenomena and issued strategies that place an important role in addressing to this new challenges.

States from Asia and Africa also were shaken and reconsider their attitude against terrorism and there were changes in legislative framework, institutional structure, polices and strategies of counter-terrorism, reports and analysis were conducted to identify the vulnerabilities and the best way to address to the potential treats (Ewi & Aning, 2006; Allison, 2004).

There were opinions (Omelicheva, 2007) that the “*war on terrorism*” allowed the governments of Central Asian countries to exceed the justified response and to use excessive force in eradicate the Islamic militants.

b) Global terrorism index structural analysis

Using the Global Terrorism Reports issued by Institute of Economics and Peace in 2014-2017 (the 2014 report analysis period from 2000-2012, 2015 report refers to year 2014, 2016 report to year 2015 and 2017 report to year 2016) we are using the structure of the last report and organize the information, as much as possible to give a broad image of the terrorism activity and evolution in this period.

	2014 ¹²	2015	2016	2017
GTI Results	Terrorist activity significantly increased with about 44%; 85% of incidents were successful less than 2012	Terrorist activity increased with 80%	Deaths decrease with 10% 2015-2014	Deaths decrease with 13% 2016-2015 and 22% 2016-2014

	2014 ¹²	2015	2016	2017
	Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nigeria, Syria – highest activity and impact 60% of incidents, 82% of deaths (54%↑ 2012)	Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria – highest activity and impact 78% of deaths	Iraq, Afghanistan, Nigeria, Pakistan, Syria - highest impact 72% deaths	Afghanistan, Nigeria, Syria, Pakistan and Iraq accounted 75% deaths; 4 of 5 countries recorded less
	26 countries had fewer deaths Highest increase in deaths Iraq 164%, largest reduction Cote d'Ivoire (-85%)	60% of studied countries do not experienced terrorist deaths	Iraq and Nigeria biggest decrease	Nigeria has the biggest reduction
	24 countries lost more than 50 lives; 60% ↑ 2012	11 countries (120%) have high level of terrorism (>500 deaths) compared with 5 in 2013	23 countries recorded highest number of deaths compared with 17 in 2014	Substantial decrease were in Yemen, Afghanistan and Syria
	GTI calculated for 162 countries	GTI calculated for 162 countries	GTI score ↓ 6% (76 country ↓ and 53 countries ↑)	GTI score ↓ 4% 163 countries
	60 countries experienced fatal terrorist incidents of 87 with incidents slightly up from 81 in 2012	93 countries experienced terrorist incident ↑ from 88 in 2013	274 known terrorist groups carried out attacks; 103 groups do not kill	77 countries recorded 1 death ↑18,5%
	Risk to be victim of homicide than to terrorist attack is 40 times higher	13 times more deaths from homicides than terrorism	ISIL attacks in 28 countries compared with 13 in 2014	Iraq ↑40% deaths
Trends	90% of suicide attacks placed in MENA and South Asia	Foreign fighters 50% from MENA, 21% from Europe and 4% from Turkey	2014 the worst of last 16 years, 93 countries attacked, 32,765 deaths	8 of 9 regions experienced an increase; North America a reduction
	13 countries with substantial risk of terrorist activity were identified	Nigeria has the largest increase in deaths – 300%; there are the houses of Boko Haram and Fulani groups	98% of deaths in US resulted from lone actor attacks	South Asia the most terrorist activity; Central and North America least
		Foreign fighters arrived in Iraq and Syria was high	ISIL foreign fighters have high education but low income; feeling exclusion	Egypt 9 times and Turkey 16 time increase in terrorism
	25% of attacks targeted citizens slightly increase	Attacks against citizens increased 172% (total number of deaths ↑ 80%)	Half plots with ISIL connection have been conducted by people without direct contact	Attacks against civilians ↑ 17%
	Weak political system, lack of legitimacy of government and group grievances are the main	Terrorist attacks on religious targets 11% ↓		Deaths from terrorism have risen in tandem with battle-related deaths

	2014 ¹²	2015	2016	2017
	reasons of terrorism than economic performance and level of violence			
	Terrorist incidents with extremely high number of deaths are rare (> 500)	ISIL causes more deaths in battlefield than terrorism attacks		Terrorist attacks are deadlier in conflict affected countries (2.4) versus non-conflict (1.3)
Terrorism in OECD Countries	Only 5% of the terrorist fatalities in OECD	Only 0.5% deaths occur in West except 9/11 (2.6%) ⁷	OECD countries dramatically increased; 21 of 34 recorded at least 1 death ¹	10,000 death between 1970-2016 (58% before 2000)
	Turkey and Mexico recorded the highest number of deaths and terrorist activity	Drivers of terrorism differs in wealthier countries than in poorer countries: a) OECD countries – youth unemployment, confidence I press, democracy, drug crime, immigration b) Non-OECD countries – armed conflict, corruption, weak business environment ¹¹	Terrorism is expected to occur in OECD countries with lower socio-economic performance ⁴	1% of global deaths; 10 times more than 2010
	PKK, ISIL, ITTS and DHKP/C groups were responsible for 75% deaths in OECD countries		In OECD and non-OECD countries attacks are related with the acceptance of rights, relations with neighbors, violence, terror ⁴	First semester recorded 3 time less deaths
	25% of deaths caused by lone actors			Unconventional tactics on soft victims are more effective than elaborate schemes
	There is significant correlation with: - Social hostility - Ongoing conflicts - Lack of intergroup cohesion - Political terror		ISIL affiliated attacks generates 313 deaths in 2015 compared with 18 in 2014 ²	ISIL attacks occurred in 18 of 33 countries and counted 75% of deaths

	2014 ¹²	2015	2016	2017
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Security effectiveness - Group grievances... 			
Characteristics of terrorism	Weapons: more than 60% explosives and 30% firearms	Terrorist activity is a significant driver of refugee activity and internal displacement ⁸	93% of terrorist attacks were in last 25 years in countries with high level of state terror ³	99% of terrorist deaths occurred in conflict or political terror countries
	40% with 1-5 fatalities, about 10% >5 fatalities	Terrorist activity is correlated with political violence - 92% of attacks in last 25 years in countries with political violence ¹⁰	90% of terrorist attacks occurred in countries engaged in violent conflicts ³	There are multiple paths of radicalization (education, income, religion, politics)
	72% of terrorist attacks occurred during a period of major conflict	Less than 0.6% occurred in countries without conflicts and political terror - country safety and security environment ¹⁰	0.5% of attacks are in countries without conflicts or terror ³	"us or them" mentality born from deprivation drive to terrorist recruitment
		Lone wolf attackers are the main perpetrators in West ⁸	Individual terrorist acts are unpredictable but with common statistical patterns ³	Lone actor attacks increased especially in US
	Peace pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free flow of information - Good relations with neighbors - Acceptance of other rights 	Lack of respect for human rights and for international organizations are related with terrorism ¹⁰		
	Pareto principle 80% of deaths occurred in 17% of attacks			
Terrorist Groups	4 groups responsible for 66% deaths	Boko Haram and ISIL are responsible for 50% of deaths ⁶	4 groups responsible for 74% deaths	4 groups responsible for 59% deaths
	Deadliest groups Taliban and TTP, al-Qa'ida, Boko Haram and ISIL	Boko Haram overtakes ISIL and become the deadliest (317%↑) ⁵	ISIL deadliest in 2015 (surpassed Boko Haram)	ISIL deadliest in 2016 - 50% ↑
	Religion the main motive with a high increase, Political and separatism 3 times less and constant from 2000	Islamic fundamentalism was not the main cause of terrorism in West ⁹	Boko Haram 18% ↓ in number of people killed	ISIL in Iraq and Syria nearly defeated, 3 fold budget ↓
	ISIL and Boko Haram newly relevant		al-Qa'ida 17% ↓ in number of people killed	ISIL directed attacks in 15 countries; 30% ↑

	2014 ¹²	2015	2016	2017
	Shift between small nationalist/ethnic towards large broad religious or political goals		ISIL, Boko Haram, al-Qa'ida and Taliban – most active	Boko Haram, al-Qa'ida and Taliban groups had strong activity
	Ends: - 43% polarization - 40% policing - 10% achieving goals - 7% military force		Taliban in Afghanistan 29%↑ in number of people killed	Ways to end: attainment of political goals, splintering, or defeat – equal share
Economics of Terrorism		Economic cost – US\$ 52.9 billion, 61% ↑ 2000	Global economic impact – US\$ 89.6 billion, 15%↓ 2014	Global economic impact – US\$ 84 billion, 7%↓ 2015 and 19%↓ 2014
	Indirect costs could be 10 to 20 times higher than the direct costs	Costs of terrorism are lower than other forms of violence	Iraq suffers the highest economic impact (17% of GDP)	Costs of counter-terrorism and CVP and indirect effects on business are not considered
	- GDP decrease - Changes in FDI - Insurance increase - Changes in customer behavior		Tourism contribution to GDP is twice larger in countries with no attacks	Largest terrorist groups are financial supported by transfers, donations, trafficking, taxation and extortion
	Increase government spending and affect other sectors as education, health, transport	Costs of counter-terrorism are significant and greater than the direct costs of terrorism	Peacekeeping and peacebuilding is 2% from the terrorism economic impact	Costs of an attack in Europe decrease significantly (less than 10,000US\$) – kind of self-funded

Notes:

¹ Moved from GTI results to OECD section

² Moved from Trends to OECD section

³ Characteristics of terrorism in 2016 takes partially from “Correlates and Drivers of Terrorism”

⁴ Takes from “Correlates and Drivers of Terrorism”

⁵ Moved from GTI results to Terrorist Groups

⁶ Moved from Trends to Terrorist Groups

⁷ Taken from Terrorism in Western Countries

⁸ Moved from Terrorism in Western Countries to Characteristics of terrorism

⁹ Moved from Terrorism in Western Countries to Terrorist Groups

¹⁰ Characteristics of terrorism in 2015 takes partially from “Correlates and Drivers of Terrorism”

¹¹ Taken from Correlates and Drivers of Terrorism

¹² Totally different structure, organized by authors, report covers years 2000-2012

In 2016, more than 75% of terrorist attacks took place in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan and India. Also smaller attacks took place in France, Florida and New York-USA

Premeditated terrorist attacks have changed relations between countries of the world and how they relate to security services at national and international level, generating a process of concentrating the efforts of the international community to adopt measures and deploy joint action to combat and prevent terrorism, which led to the adoption of

international strategies for the prevention and combating of acts of terrorism. International terrorism is a strategic threat not only for the US and EU countries, but also for Russia, China, India and many other countries, including Romania.

From the above comparison, we can highlight few lines:

- The terrorist activity increased in the last 5 years (2012 records the lowest level)
- The deaths resulted compared with the injuries highly grows
- Pareto principle applies 80% of the effects are produced by 20% of the attacks
- 5 countries record the highest activity Iraq, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Syria
- 4 terrorist groups are generating more than 50% of the deaths
- Deadliest groups Taliban, al-Qa'ida, Boko Haram and ISIL (they are disputing the first place, last 2 years ISIL)
- Countries in conflict are more exposes to terrorist acts
- Lone actors' acts are increased
- Reasons of radicalization are different in OECD countries (wealthier countries) than in non-OECD (poorer countries) and they are continuously changed
- The main targets are the individual citizens and their property
- Foreign fighter number increased
- The economic effects are decreasing
- Ways of terrorism financing is changing
- Costs of peacekeeping and peacebuilding
- Counter-terrorism measures and CVP should be considered together.

This consideration and the correlation calculated against GTI score argues and are the starting point for the prevention and counter-terrorism strategy.

The strongly correlated factors with GTI in 2016 (measured by INFORM index) are: conflicts, level of peace, political terror, group grievances, religious issues, humanitarian crisis, number of displaced people.

Hopefully in the mentioned reports Romania is recorded since 2000 up to 2016 with "zero" GTI score. This is not a reason for not having a prevention and counter-terrorism strategy or not being aware and preoccupied of the level of violence.

Institutional and legislative framework for preventing and combating terrorism

The vast majority of government strategies and programs developed in the democratic countries for the prevention and combating of terrorism primarily aim at achieving the following objectives: anticipation, prevention, discouragement and response. In this context, our country has also adopted legislative and administrative measures to protect the life, bodily integrity, freedom and dignity of its own citizens, representatives of foreign states and all individuals who are on the territory of our country, as shown in the following figure:

Agreements concluded by Romania on cooperation in preventing and combating terrorism confirm the determination to create a broad and unitary legal framework that meets the requirements of the global terrorist phenomenon. At our country level in 2001, the Romanian Intelligence Service becomes the ultimate authority to prevent acts of terrorism. In this context, the National Strategy for the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism is adopted.

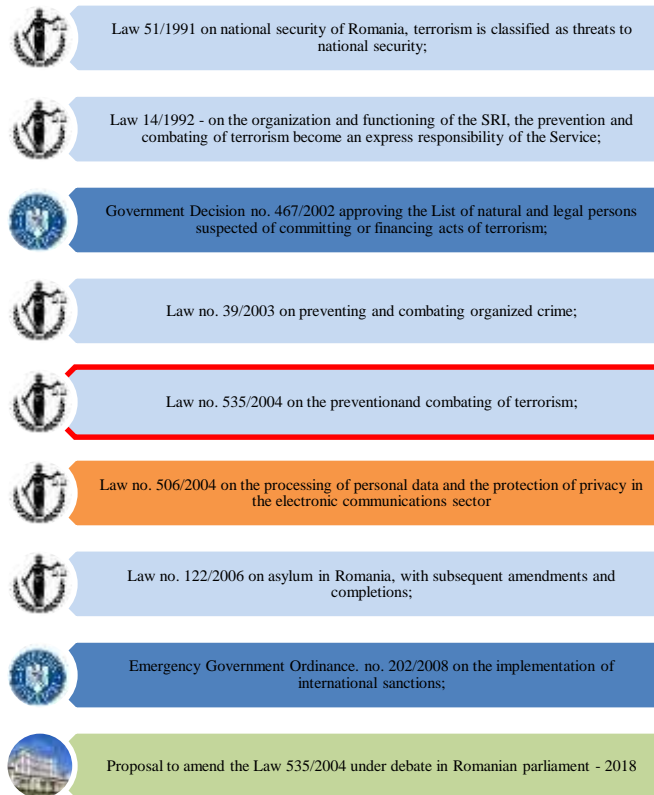


Figure 2. National Anti-Terrorism Regulations
(Source: authors processing)

Law no. 535/2004 on the prevention and combating of terrorism is the legal framework that establishes the attributions of the public authorities and institutions within the National System for Prevention and Combating of Terrorism.

A proposal to amend the Law 535/2004 and to update it to the nowadays requests is under debate on the Romanian parliament. Together with the government is preparing a package of laws for national security. This will strongly refer to the immigration, terrorist activity, radicalization, violence and the intervention measures.

Strategies and strategic priorities in place to prevent and combat terrorism

In order to combat terrorism, Romania has acted and will act within NATO, the European Union and other international organizations to promote and consolidate democracy, to support governments and security and defense institutions in the fight against terrorism, to participate in multinational operations, the process of prevention, counteraction and post-conflict reconstruction.



Figure 3. Actions to prevent terrorism
 Source: author processing

As part of the global counter-terrorism strategy, the prevention of terrorist acts plays a very important role and is manifested through:

- Actions to reduce functional imbalances;
- Maintaining the balance of forces;
- Combating the proliferation of this phenomenon.

Many times the problem of preventing terrorism is also difficult because some states are not willing to allow foreign powers to act without restrictions on their national territory (Stancila, 2007).

a) United Nations global antiterrorist strategy

In 2006, the General Assembly member states agreed for the first time on a common strategic framework – The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that is reviewed every two years. This unique instrument should allow the international community to strengthen its efforts in the fight against terrorism based on four pillars, as they are presented in figure no. 4.

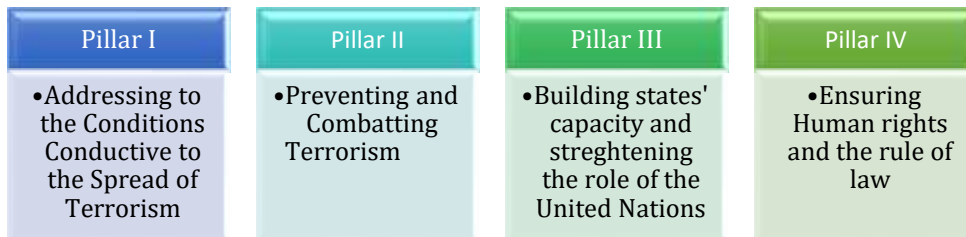


Figure 4. Pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
 Source: reproduction UN (2005)

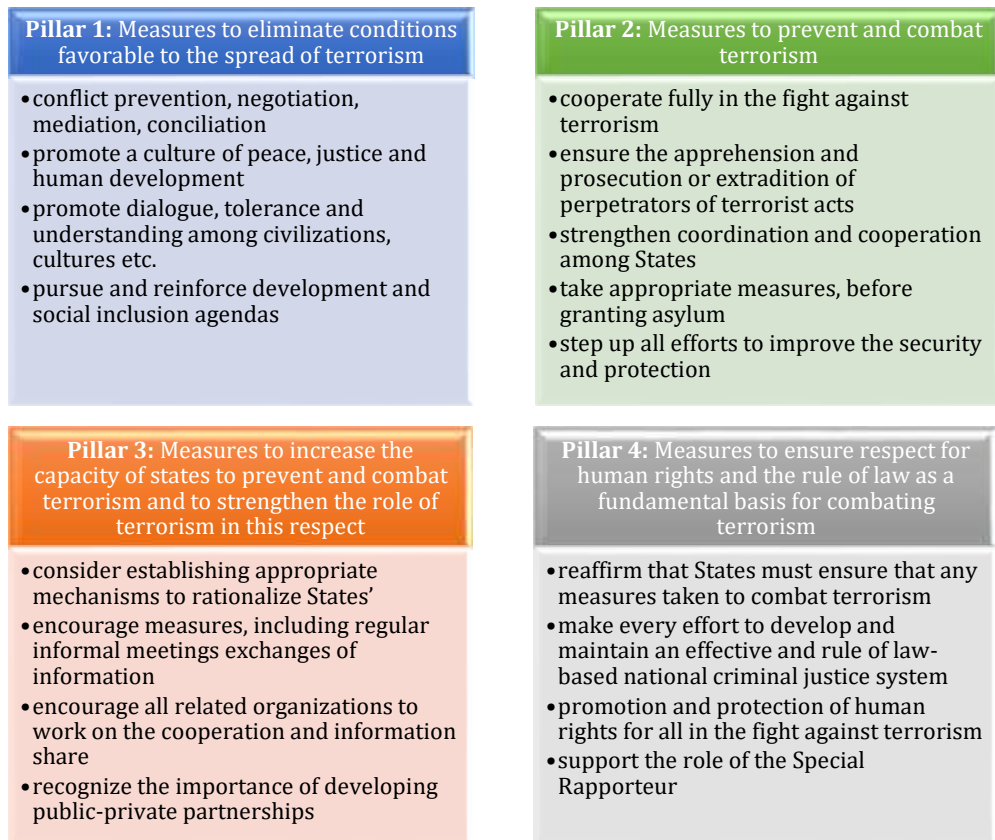


Figure 5. Priority Axes of the United Nations Global Antiterrorist Strategy
Source: authors' selection from Plan of Action (UNGTS, 2006, Frunzeti, 2005)

In the Plan of Action (Annex of the Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 8 September 2006, 60/288. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy) are detailed the main ways of the enforcement of the strategy in four chapters (see figure 5).

It could be seen that both strategy adopted on 2006 and revised systematically up to now, are focused on the "**protection**" and "**prevention**" as one of the main pillars.

b) European Union strategies to fight against terrorism

In 2005, the European Council adopted the EU Counter-Terrorism Strategy for Combating Terrorism Globally and Enhancing Security in Europe. As terrorist attacks continue to affect citizens in Europe and beyond, fighting terrorism is a top priority for the EU, its Member States and its partners.

The strategy focuses on four pillars showed in figure no.5.

Through the four pillars, the strategy recognizes the importance of cooperation with third countries and international institutions. The strategies start from the facts that acting and reacting means to register a previous action of the terrorists' groups, usually

involving victims (dead and wounded). To avoid this, and remain a peace promoter the prevention become the most important weapon.

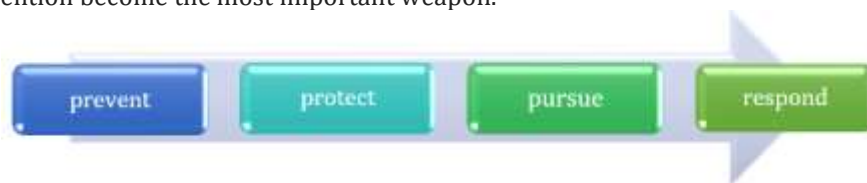


Figure 6. Intervention pillars of the E.U. fight against terrorism
(Source: authors processing European Council, 2005)

The EU like the UN highlighted in their strategies the importance of the states' cooperation and the need of strong cooperation in sharing information, creating networks and implementing preventing actions and the role of human rights and judicial systems. Cooperation seems to be a step behind integration, this is offering a better capacity of a common response, but being under the national judicial system and parliaments' authority their legitimacy and affect could be weakened (Manar, 2007; Nesi, 2016).

The border control is one of the most important component of the counter-terrorist measures. The EU strategy pays attention to it and there were certain measures that the member states have to implement. Unfortunately, the terrorist attacks from the time shows that it is a strong limitation of the effects of this measures, this border control could not totally stop the mobility of the terrorist actors (Krasmann, 2007; Le'onard, 2015).

Also, there are opinions that the EU strategy and the action plan (Bossong, 2008) is more a result of a long and tempestuous political proses that generates some the neglecting of the strategic dimension.

As a conclusion, the terrorism and extremism acts and actors are evolving and there are substantial changes in techniques, strategies and "*modus operandi*". To address to this challenges, we assume that the counter-terrorism and extremism prevention should consider the new trends and to adjust their strategy accordingly (Frazer & Nünlist, 2015; BIgo & al., 2017; Atran & al., 2017; Karlsrud, 2017).

Romania's national strategy to prevent and combat terrorism

Romania as member of UN, EU and NATO has to be connected to the "*last minute*" theories, agreements, evolutions and stages of the terrorism and at the same time to be part of the international efforts of counter-terrorism system and counter violent extremism trends. The strategy has to consider the link with the citizens and their perception on the security issue to accept the public spending needed for counter the terrorism activity and to prevent it, considering that the level in very low at this moment (Grigorescu, 2006; Grogorescu, Bob & Dobrescu, 2007).

The National Security Strategy of Romania is a major landmark of the fight against terrorism at national level. Romania's national security strategy is based on the existing international regulations in the field of counter-terrorism. In this context, the National

Strategy sets out the following general objectives, specific objectives and related action directions as in figure 7.

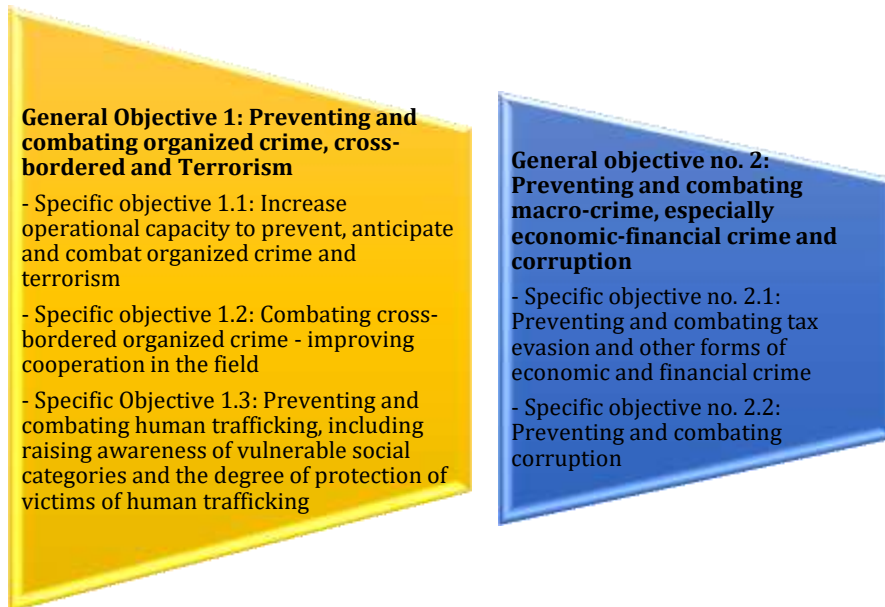


Figure 7: Action strategic objectives for preventing and combating terrorism within the National Strategy for preventing and combating terrorism (Source: own processing according to information from the Romanian National Strategy for prevention and combating of terrorism)

Conclusions

“As terrorism is a complex multidimensional phenomenon, effective response to the terrorism may need to take into account, and to some degree to be individually configured to respond to, the evolving goals, strategies, tactics and operating environment of different terrorists’ groups.” (Perl, 2007).

Romania in the Global Terrorism Reports issued by Institute of Economics and Peace in 2014-2017, that are covering 163 states and calculate the GTI, is recorded with “0” for the mentioned period. This are making us to feel very secure if we are not analyzing the main factors that are converging to this achievement. There is a risk to consider this and a success of the counter-terrorist measures, not as a result of a convergence of geo-economic multiple factors.

This conjuncture can be easily change any time that is why Romania has to be an active player on the network of counter-terrorism systems. In an increasingly turbulent and regional context, in the midst of the most deadly conflicts and intra-community breaks, terrorism becomes part of mankind's everyday life, especially through the media, in a quasi- collective, drowned in a kind of fatalism, leading to a tacit tactic of normalization and giving up the phenomenon as if it were something natural in human societies.

The strategy that Romania should develop and enforce has to be based on the findings of the potential risks and evolution. The findings of our analysis on the Global Terrorism Reports issued by Institute of Economics and Peace in 2014-2017, could be a starting point of the Romanian counter-terrorism strategy. Never the less as a part of EU we should refer and integrate in the union counter-terrorist force and to respect the main lines of the EU strategy. Similar we are bound to take into consideration the UN strategy as a member state and to be prepared to act accordingly.

Only when terrorism hits the gates of a state, there is a temporary mass mobilization to condemn it and take action to fight it. However, the fight against terrorism is a daily, long-term adventure that can be won on all fronts with the help of well-grounded international strategies and adopted at national level. It is recommended to be aware with all opinion of the practitioners and researchers and to consider their findings in the process of strategy design (Bunn, 2016; Gioia, 2016; Kaplan, 2017; Boer, 2015).

We believe that an important role in the fight for preventing and combating terrorism is the strategic planning at the level of the main public entities that are active in combating this phenomenon. Thus, we considered it necessary to present the main international strategies adopted to prevent and combat terrorism. At national level, Romania aligns itself with these provisions, thus adopting the National Strategy for Combating and Preventing Terrorism, a strategy which also guides the strategic planning of the main ministries, organizations and institutions in Romania involved in the prevention and counter terrorism.

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