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# Strategic Directions of Activities of the Intelligence and Security Agencies of the Western Balkans

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## Abstract

The Western Balkans is geographically positioned on an important route between Asia and Europe, while the Balkan countries are mostly politically oriented towards the West, which is why it can be said that the entire Balkans has both a Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian position. As an interesting hub with a transit position, which has many advantages in terms of the flow of goods, services, people, capital and ideas, there are many threatening phenomena in the Balkans. The largest of them are organized crimes, cybercrime, terrorism, violent extremism, radicalism, sabotage, subversive activities, intelligence work and diversion. Contemporary global and regional security-political trends and dynamics of viral threatening phenomena require the specific organization of the intelligence-security sector. In addition to the imperative that the security-intelligence system has a strong normative and organizational basis, it is necessary to determine precise strategic directions, so that every activity of the security-intelligence capacities would be purposeful and goal-oriented. Strategic directions are the result of political and legal codification processes, which result from the need for continuous realization of political and security interests of the Western Balkan countries through the operation of the security and intelligence system. In order to achieve the goals defined by the strategic directions, it is necessary to permanently, continuously, coordinate and control the operation of the intelligence and security apparatus of the countries of the Western Balkans. The mentioned convergences in the basic principles do not exclude the existing divergences of the strategic orientations of the security-intelligence systems, which requires a detailed and comprehensive analysis.

*Keywords:* security, strategic documents, laws, strategic directions, intelligence and security agencies

## **Strategic Directions of Activities of the Intelligence and Security Agencies of the Western Balkans**

The Western Balkans<sup>1</sup> represent a significant geopolitical hub of a regional character. Although it does not have a long historical background, the term has wide application in numerous international processes and events. However, it is necessary to emphasize that this is not a territorial and geographical, but a political and geopolitical concept, primarily due to opposing political and security interests and goals. In order to achieve national and security interests and goals, the countries of the Western Balkans rely to the greatest extent on their own intelligence and security agencies. As intelligence and security agencies, due to limited financial matters and organizational-personnel capacities, cannot be instrumentalized for almost all interests and goals, states must establish primarily problematic positions in the form of strategic directions.

Strategic guidelines are not original goals, given in one political or legal document. These are derivative problem orientations, which are reached by studying laws and strategic-doctrinal documents, the content of which also refers to national values and interests according to which an active attitude of security subjects is required in terms of their protection (values) and their realization (interests).

In certain historical periods and socio-political circumstances, states change their strategic directions. Thus, almost half a century of state continuity in which the intelligence and security services of the former SFRY operated, led to a significant overlap of the strategic directions of Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Macedonia. On the other hand, Albania, as an independent state, had specific strategic orientations adjusted to its own foreign and domestic political ambitions. Today's trend unites another group of countries whose strategic directions are formed in the same direction and in accordance with the same principles. This primarily refers to Albania,

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<sup>1</sup> Republic of Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Republic of Northern Macedonia and Albania.

Montenegro and Northern Macedonia as full members of NATO and Bosnia and Herzegovina as a potential candidate for membership in the mentioned military-political international organization. On the other hand, there is Serbia, which, with the adoption of the National Assembly Resolution on the Protection of Sovereignty, Territorial Integrity and Constitutional Order in 2007, took the position of a militarily neutral country, and accepted these strategic directions only partially through the Partnership for Peace program, which Serbia joined in 2006.

### **Conceptual Definition and Role of Intelligence and Security Agencies**

Intelligence and security agencies represent state administration institutions, with the status of a legal entity, whose “[...] activity is the most interesting and sensitive part of the state administration, with secrecy as one of its main principles of work, which is why it is necessary for security services in accordance with this nature of work to ensure respect for the principles of transparency and publicity of their work, through regulatory mechanisms of internal and external monitoring, whereby administrative activity has a special significance” (Labović, 2019, p. 106). Therefore, the role, activities and methodology of the work of intelligence and security agencies have resulted in the creation of a monopoly environment, where only the state has the right to establish such institutions, based on law. The main goal of the activities of intelligence and security agencies is to collect timely, accurate, reliable, credible, complete and purposeful information through various techniques and methods characteristic for such institutions. This information is used by political decision-makers to protect national security or to define foreign and domestic policies.

Intelligence and security agencies can be classified in different ways, according to their position in the state administration: departmental and central; according to the space of action: offensive and defensive; according to the primary mission: intelligence and security (includes counterintelligence); according to problem directions: political, military-security, economic, energy, etc. Among the mentioned divisions, the most frequently used in the scientific literature and the most represented in intelligence analyzes is the division

into intelligence and security services. Intelligence services (OS) perform intelligence, non-intelligence-subversive and counter-intelligence activities, in order to achieve national interests and to protect the vital values of society and the state, but also their own capacities. "Intelligence activity represents the total planned and controlled action of state bodies in the collection, processing and distribution of information on the power and plans of foreign countries, organizations and individuals, which may endanger the security of entities and values they protect" (Ronin, 2009, p. 13). In addition, intelligence activity is carried out in order to collect intelligence information that ensures the creation of domestic and international policy, as well as the collection of information that ensures the implementation of defined political guidelines. As for the counter-intelligence role of the intelligence services, the OS conducts protection of its capacities abroad, located in residencies. The capacities are primarily: members of the OS who conduct intelligence activities, agency network through which information is obtained, information and telecommunication channels through which data are distributed to headquarters, methodology and techniques of work abroad and secret and sensitive data obtained in the work. "Non-intelligence operations can generally be divided into four groups: a) information and propaganda operations; b) political operations; c) economic operations and d) paramilitary operations. Each of these operations can be performed autonomously or as part of a broader strategy" (Trbojević, 2017, p. 327).

The Security Service is "a state body established on the basis of law, which monitors the activities of foreign intelligence services and their agencies on the territory of their state, monitors social phenomena and processes that pose or may pose a threat to legally sanctioned (securitized) values of the state and society, analysis of data on all processes and phenomena that may represent a danger to state and social values and reporting to the responsible state authorities on their orders" (Dragišić, 2011, p. 207)

Therefore, the goal of intelligence and security agencies is to collect timely, accurate, reliable, credible, complete and purposeful information (Bjelajac, 2017, p. 17) through various techniques and methods characteristic of services, in order to protect vital values and realize the national interests.

## Theory of Strategic Directions

The strategy of the state can be defined as a set of statements in the form of rules, principles and norms, which are used in the adoption of long-term management actions in the function of development and protection of national and state values (Kovač, 2003, p. 16). It is a permanent, systematic effort of the theoretical and practical mind to make sense of the life of a state-organized national community as a whole (Višnjić, 2011, p. 401). The strategy consists of practical action based on the general programmatic position on the directions of development and survival of society, which determines the highest goods, values, interests and goals, taking into account intrastate and interstate relations, ways of building political, economic and military power and directing national resources. (Kovač, 2003, pp. 9-10). Modern practice indicates that strategies are translated into appropriate documents, which means that most of today's strategies are codified. Strategies are general political-program determinations of a long-term character, set in the form of norms, rules and principles by the holders of legislative and sometimes executive power, which are implemented through the actions of the state administrative apparatus. The change of a specific set of authorities doesn't affect it, it continues with the beginning of the realization of the ideas of national prosperity, which were once nurtured for years and even centuries (Mijalkovic, 2015, pp. 231-232).

However, strategies are not the only source of strategic directions, because they are largely contained in national laws, but also in constitutions. The most important is the *lex specialis* founding laws on individual agencies, which regulate in detail, among other things, the competencies, organization and field of work, where these laws are important sources of the strategic direction of intelligence and security agencies. Also, there are certain laws that regulate certain areas and branches, and contain important norms, with the character of strategic orientation.

Viewed from the security aspect, the strategic orientations are based on positive legal and strategic-political documents. Looking at the intelligence and security system in isolation, we see that the strategic directions

are related to the achievement of strategic goals and the collection of strategic data. Strategic data would be those that speak of far-reaching political, military and economic problems, as opposed to tactical data that serve to solve specific, urgent and everyday problems within the scope of an institution (Milašinović, 2007, p. 467).

Strategic orientations are long-term, the most general security-political orientation, as an expression of the perception of the holder of state power about threats to the security of society and the state from which it is necessary to protect oneself. Intelligence and security agencies have clearly defined roles in the implementation of strategic directions, and they are concretized by certain bylaws and individual political documents. Strategic directions are intertwined. The realization of one strategic direction influences the realization of other, related strategic directions. What is legal in defining strategic directions is that they must not be mutually exclusive and confronted. Strategic orientations can be general and specific. General strategic orientations are derived from the basic values and interests of society and are realized indirectly, through the actions of security entities. Specific strategic directions are derived on the basis of the analysis of problem points of view, which in everyday work the elements of the national security system permanently solve.

## **Strategic directions of the activities**

### ***Republic of Serbia***

The executive segment of the intelligence and security system of the Republic of Serbia consists of three intelligence and security agencies: the Security and Information Agency (BIA), the Military Intelligence Agency (VOA) and the Military Security Agency (VBA).

The general strategic directions of the agencies' activities concern their contribution to preserving sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity; preserving internal stability and security; preserving the existence and protection of the Serbian people; preserving peace and stability in the region and the world; creating information support in the process of

European integration and membership in the European Union; creating conditions for economic development and overall prosperity in preserving and protecting the environment and resources.

The primary individual strategic direction is set in the form of a constitutional obligation. Namely, the Constitutional Preamble states that the Autonomous Province of Kosovo and Metohija is an integral part of the territory of Serbia with the position of essential autonomy within the sovereign territory of Serbia. In addition, the obligation of all state bodies, and thus intelligence and security agencies to represent and protect comprehensive state interests in Kosovo and Metohija (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2006, Preamble) is defined. A large number of organized criminal groups operate in Kosovo and Metohija which are connected with other criminal groups in the area of central Serbia and beyond, while parts of illegally acquired funds are used in the financing of terrorism (Vlada Republike Srbije, 2009, Art. 7). Also, a large number of foreign intelligence services operate in Kosovo and Metohija. At the same time, the security of the Republic of Serbia is threatened by the transformation of the "Kosovo Security Forces" into the "Kosovo Armed Forces" (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2019, Art. 6). The situation in Kosovo and Metohija also encourage separatist aspirations in certain territories of Serbia, especially in the Raska-Polim area.

Intelligence activity, as a specific strategic direction, is determined within the scope of work of BIA. In general, the intelligence work of BIA is aimed at protecting national security and providing information support for the realization of national interests, primarily through reviewing future activities of countries in the region, and its intelligence capacity is focused on gathering intelligence on the activities of international organizations regarding political, economic, security, even energy aspect and future particular goals on the international scene, which are important for the protection of values and the realization of the interests of the Republic of Serbia. The VOA is responsible for conducting intelligence activities, ie for collecting, processing, analyzing, assessing, protecting and submitting data of importance to the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the Serbian Army (SAF).



The BIA and the VBA are among the institutional bearers of the fight against organized crime, which is a condition for a positive integration process of Serbia into the EU (Vlada, 2009, Art. 13). Fight against organized crime, when it comes to the purview of BIA, implies monitoring, documenting and preventing transnational forms of organized crime. Cooperation and criminal integration of organized criminal groups from the territory of Serbia with those from Montenegro, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Romania, Croatia, Northern Macedonia, Bulgaria and Albania (Vlada, 2009, Art. 8) is most intensively monitored. VBA preventively opposes organized crime and corruption within the MoD and the Armed Forces. A special aspect of the work of the VBA and BIA concerns the monitoring of organized criminal groups and their possible cooperation with other threatening forms, such as the connection of organized criminal groups from southern Serbia with terrorists and extremists in Kosovo and Metohija (Narodna skupština, 2019, Art. 9).

BIA and VBA, among the components of the security and intelligence system of Serbia, have the most important role in the fight against terrorism and extremism. The specifics of terrorism, as a threat to the Republic of Serbia, are reflected in its connection with ethnic extremism, separatist tendencies, religious extremism (especially Islamist), the activities of radical religious preachers and the return of fighters from foreign battlefields to Serbia (Vlada Republike Srbije, 2017–2021, Art. 6).

An important segment of the work of the VBA and BIA is to oppose foreign intelligence services. The VBA conducts counter-intelligence activities in the field of protection of the systems and forces of the MoD and the Armed Forces and classified information relevant to the work and security of the MoD and the Armed Forces. The BIA prevents intelligence activities of foreign services in terms of obtaining classified information of public administration organizations, as well as its own data (Narodna skupština, 2019, Art. 13). In addition, the BIA and VBA's role in the creation and implementation of state policy, as well as the facilities they use in their work.

BIA, VOA and VBA protect the data they come across in their work, and the disclosure of which would violate the interests and security of the Republic of Serbia. Also, the VBA and BIA, in accordance with legal regulations,

perform security checks in the procedure of issuing certificates to persons for access to classified information (Narodna skupština Republike Srbije, 2009, Art. 54), thus reducing the possibility of certificate holders to be data providers to unauthorized beneficiaries.

### ***Republic of Montenegro***

The executive part of the intelligence and security sector consists of the National Security Agency (ANB) and the Intelligence and Security Directorate (OBD).

The general strategic orientations are the result of modern security-political circumstances and international integration processes of Montenegro, which follows NATO's strategic approach to defining challenges, risks and threats to national security (Skupština Crne Gore, 2018, Art. 7). Up in the general strategic field, it provides information support for European integration and protects: 1) the values and principles of NATO and the EU; 2) sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of Montenegro; 3) internal stability; 4) life and property of citizens; 5) economic goods; 6) democracy, principles of the legal state and the rule of law; 7) human and minority rights and freedoms. Also, the intelligence and security system participates in the realization of the strategic interests of Montenegro, as the most important direction in the field of national security (Skupština, 2018, Art. 3-5).

The ANB and OBD collect, process, exchange, store and protect intelligence on the intentions and efforts of international organizations, military alliances, states, paramilitary organizations and groups to directly conduct, i.e., finance, advise or train the bearers of armed aggression against Montenegro. OBD implements intelligence activities abroad for the needs of the MoD and the Army of Montenegro (VCG), by collecting, processing and analyzing data on the armed forces and defence systems of other countries, political and security situations in the area where persons from the MoD and VCG are engaged within international operations abroad. In addition, OBD counter intelligence protects persons, facilities, property, assets and activities of the MoD and VCG abroad, plans, organizes, coordinates and implements intelligence in the Army, develops and applies military intelligence doctrines, tactics,

techniques and procedures, collects military intelligence, prepares intelligence materials and submits them to the holders of state power (Skupština Crne Gore, 2020, Art. 5-7).

The vision of the fight against terrorism, which also applies to the institutions of the intelligence and security system of Montenegro, takes place through five areas: prevention of terrorism, suppression of terrorism, protection against terrorism, repair of damage from terrorist attacks and prosecution and prosecution of terrorism-related entities. (Vlada Crne Gore, 2015, Art. 14).

Within the scope of its work, the ANB detects and suppresses international organized crime, ie by applying special measures and procedures it monitors, investigates and documents the most socially destructive forms of crime, except when these acts are committed by members of the MoD or VCG, where the military service has jurisdiction. (Skupština, 2020, Art. 5).

Although information technologies contribute to the quality of life and progress of the industry, there is a constant continuity of development and improvement of cyber threats, which is why both agencies are constantly adapting to these threatening phenomena. The Agency is continuously working intensively on strengthening organizational and technical capacities in the field of cyber security. The greatest danger reigns from cyberattacks on other countries, cyber terrorism, cybercrime, and cyber warfare (Vlada Crne Gore, 2018, Art. 9-10). OBD protects the information systems of the MoD and VCG and the sectors of the purpose-built industry from unauthorized intrusion, interruption of communication, theft and deco inspiration of information.

The ANB performs counter-intelligence protection of the Assembly, the Government, the President, ministries, administrative bodies, certain persons and jobs in these bodies, as well as facilities, equipment and premises they use (Skupština Crne Gore, 2015, Art. 6), and OBD performs counter-intelligence protection of facilities of particular importance to the defence.

### ***Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)***

The executive segment of the BiH security and intelligence system

includes the Intelligence and Security Agency (OSA), the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) and the security and intelligence institutions of the Armed Forces (OS) and the Ministry of Defense (MoD).

Intelligence activities in the military field are performed by the Military Intelligence Unit (VOR) (Parlamentarna skupština BiH, 2005, Art. 9), and in the civilian field OSA (Parlamentarna skupština BiH, 2009, Article 5).

The VOR provides protection against the activities of intelligence services both independently and in cooperation with the OSA, when certain problems are valorized as extremely complex, and must be resolved by coordination of the two services. OSA prevents espionage and intelligence activities that are directed against the security of BiH and is realized through intelligence penetrations of foreign services into vital state and public institutions. Furthermore, the OSA opposes a wide range of forms of terrorism, while the VOR and other military services within the Intelligence system protect anti-terrorist forces and defence sector systems. The fight against terrorism as a strategic direction includes the fight against all forms of terrorist and extremist activities.

The fight against organized crime in the field of action of all BiH services. The VOR prevents organized crime that is trying to penetrate or be realized within the Armed Forces, while SIPA conducts the fight against organized crime mainly on a repressive level and OSA on a preventive level.

The BiH intelligence and security system has an obligation to keep secret data. Isolated, the VOR: provides support to BiH Armed Forces missions, prepares and directly participates in peace support operations, conducts security checks for members of BiH defence institutions, cooperates with NATO structures, cooperates with complementary foreign and domestic services and institutions on intelligence, counterintelligence and security and anti-terrorist protection of the elements of the defence system. OSA BiH, within its competence, protects its own information and telecommunication capacities from cyber attacks. The competent organizational units of OSA provide security protection against cyber attacks to the most important state and public authorities, whose services are crucial for the conduct of vital state activities.

## ***Republic of Albania***

The operational segment of the Albanian Intelligence and Security System consists of the State Intelligence Service (SHISH) and the Defense Intelligence and Security Agency (AISM).

The strategy makes a clear distinction between national interests and security goals, ie it is clear what is meant by one and what by the other. Albania sees its vital national interests in exercising sovereignty, preserving the country's independence and territorial integrity, protecting the constitutional order, protecting the lives of citizens and fundamental rights and freedoms, economic development and protecting property and ownership. In addition to vital interests, other interests emerge EU integration processes, development of bilateral relations with neighbouring countries and partners, solving social problems, environmental protection, etc. (Cvetković & Stojković 2014, pp. 253-254).

In the strategic and security orientations of Albania, the backbone is the fight against "risks and threats to security", while other activities of the intelligence and security system include non-intelligence activities.

Based on the defined concretization, AISM collects, processes, evaluates and analyzes intelligence for the needs of the MoD and the Armed Forces (AF) of Albania, which relate to defence systems, foreign organizations and entities that could be a threat or risk to Albania's defence potential. The Agency exchanges intelligence ie cooperates and conducts joint operations with the intelligence structures of NATO, the EU and partner institutions in the interest of collective defence. The Defense Agency collects intelligence abroad, and it relates to terrorism, extremism, espionage, sabotage, diversion, subversion, smuggling of weapons of mass destruction, cyber threats and organized crime (Skupština Republike Albanije, 2014, Art. 7).

In addition, AISM monitors the distribution of weapons of mass destruction, which is a direct threat not only to internal and regional but also to global security. Albania is not seen as a destination, but as a possible transit country (Skupština Republike Albanije, 2015, Art. 15), which stems both from the geographical position of the country and from the root links of the state authorities with the organized criminal groups, taking

into account that they work closely with criminal organizations globally. Although the strategic framework does not provide for this, the threat of a link between the organized criminal groups and terrorism still exists, especially if we take into account the fact that organized criminal groups actively participated in financing terrorist activities in AP Kosovo and Metohija, southern Serbia and northern Macedonia.

The strengthening of the Islamic State in Albania and mass Islamist recruiting internationalism has taken several hundred Albanian terrorists to foreign battlefields. According to the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, AISM and SHISH have a key role to play in combating all extremist and terrorist forms.

The primary counter-intelligence part of the strategic directions includes monitoring the work and intentions of foreign intelligence services in relation to the NATO alliance and the European integration processes of Albania. The Great Albania ideal as a national symbol of all Albanians is systematically planned and implemented by the mother country, with significant diplomatic efforts to gain an affirmative stance necessary for the international community to meet Albania's irredentist goal. Therefore, "in order to avoid negative psychological effects when mentioning "Great Albania", that term has been replaced by the term "Natural Albania", which is basically based on the same idea of uniting all areas inhabited by Albanians" (Konotar, 2012, p. 39) and has the full support of the United States.

### ***Republic of Northern Macedonia***

The intelligence and security agencies of Northern Macedonia are the National Security Agency (ANB), the Intelligence Agency (OA) and the Military Security and Intelligence Service (VSBiR).

The general strategic directions include: protection of fundamental freedoms and human and civil rights, fight against discrimination on any grounds, protection of property, freedom of the market and entrepreneurship, protection of humanity, social justice and solidarity, environmental protection, guaranteeing, promoting and protecting local self-government, preservation of state identity and freedom of expression of ethnicity, protection of territorial integrity and sovereignty, protection of peace, security, life, health, property and personal

security, protection of economic development and private property, protection of democratic values of rule of law, economic and political integration into EU, preserving peace in Europe and the region, protecting the international order, protecting internal political stability, creating conditions for promoting a security culture, creating conditions for building favorable interethnic relations (Skupština Republike Severne Makedonije, 2003, Art. 1–3).

The special strategic directions of the security-intelligence system of the Republic of Northern Macedonia are based on the fight against “security risks and dangers”, which in fact represent the agenda of security-threatening phenomena.

Although there is no danger of conventional war, nor of military intervention from outside, geopolitical circumstances of a global and regional character can lead to moments of crisis and conflict. An important role in this segment is played by the VSBiR, as a purposefully formed institution with the task of taking care of the security of the armed and defence forces of RS Macedonia. Intelligence activities at the civil level are performed by the OA, which is responsible for collecting information on regional security-strategic phenomena and processes; internal and international conflicts in the region; distribution of weapons of mass destruction; terrorism and violent extremism; transnational organized crime, illegal migration and cybercrime; current processes and developments related to energy security; global pandemics and their potential reflections on national security (Skupština Republike Severne Makedonije, 2021, Art. 3-4). At the military level, information is collected on activities, intentions and plans of military-political, economic, political and other international organizations of intelligence importance for the MoD and the Army of RS Macedonia, as well as on activities, intentions and plans of foreign countries, international institutions, informal groups and organization, which can emit negative implications for the MoD and the Army of RS Macedonia.

The ANB opposes the counterintelligence activities of foreign intelligence services, ie their efforts to endanger the security of RS Macedonia through espionage, subversion, psychological and propaganda actions, information warfare, incitement of diversion, incitement of separatism and secessionism,

violation of economic interests and financial security of the state. As part of its counterintelligence activities, the ANB conducts checks on persons who have access to information, facilities and persons of strategic importance to the state, in order to prevent illegal and unauthorized access to information and lines of communication. At the same time, the ANB plans, implements and supervises measures for the technical protection of facilities and persons (Skupština Republike Severne Makedonije, 2019, Art. 8).

Intelligence and security agencies of Northern Macedonia are oriented towards all external and internal forms of violent extremism and terrorism, whether they are returnees from foreign battlefields or extremists and terrorists who are a consequence of internal social contradictions and antagonisms. Furthermore, Intelligence and security agencies have the task of preventing human trafficking, illegal migration and related forms of crime such as forced labour, slavery, human trafficking and other forms of human exploitation. Prevention of trafficking in human beings is the primary goal of Intelligence and security agencies in this area, while the National Strategy and Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and Illegal Migration in the Republic of Macedonia envisages concrete measures and procedures to detect human trafficking chains, as well as assistance to victims of trafficking.

Security protection as a strategic direction has been diversified into the military and civilian domains. In the military domain, SVBiR organizes, plans, coordinates and implements secret measures, activities and procedures for the security protection of forces in military units and institutions. In the civilian domain, the ANB provides security and counterintelligence protection to holders of high state functions (Prime Minister, President of the Assembly, President of the Republic, etc.) and facilities of strategic importance to the state (Skupština, 2003, Art. 6).

## **Conclusion**

The adoption of legal and strategic-political documents, from which strategic directions are derived, was influenced by the will of the holder of state



and political power, as well as ratified international acts as an expression of the collective will of the international community.

The vital values of the countries of the Western Balkans, from which the general strategic directions are derived, and whose fulfilment depends on the successful realization of individual strategic directions, have certain coincidences, ie certain peculiarities. In doing so, the convergence of crucial strategic orientations of the Western Balkan countries can be systematized into groups related to 1. protection of territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence, 2. preservation of the constitutional order, democratic political system and rule of law, 3. guarantee and protection of human rights and freedom, 4. preservation of national and regional peace and security, 5. creation of conditions for unhindered economic development, 6. protection of energy and environmental security, 7. survival of the state, society and nation, 8. preservation of national identity and dignity, 9. European integration is the most important foreign policy goal.

There are divergent general strategic directions, as a result of the foreign policy orientation of the countries. Thus, among the general orientations of Albania, Montenegro and Macedonia are 1. protection of values, principles and standards of NATO, 2. deepening and intensification of cooperation with NATO organizations and institutions, 3. Protection of security of the North Atlantic Alliance, as well as its subjects and potentials, 4. Representation and realization of political and military-security interests and intentions of NATO. Bosnia and Herzegovina is still not a member of the North Atlantic Alliance, due to the opposition of the Republika Srpska, which is strategically oriented toward the other entity – the Federation of BiH. On the other hand, in terms of international military-political directions, the basic strategic commitment of Serbia is to preserve the status of military neutrality. What is common is that the countries of the Western Balkans strive to protect themselves through the activities of intelligence and security agencies from 1. espionage and other forms of intelligence work, 2. subversive, hybrid and other non-intelligence operations, 3. armed attack, armed rebellion, military intervention or special war, 4. organized crime and serious forms of crime, 5. radicalism, violent extremism and terrorism, 6. cybercrime and other forms

of (mis) use of computer and IT technologies for threatening purposes, 7. subversive activities supported from outside. This will be much easier and more efficient when the countries of the Western Balkans become full members of the European Union, because then there will be a change in the political and security course, and interstate cooperation in this field will intensify.

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## **Strateški pravci delovanja obaveštajno-bezbednosnih agencija država Zapadnog Balkana**

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### **Sažetak**

Zemlje Zapadnog Balkana deo su istog međunarodnog integrativnog procesa sa jedne strane i deo istog geopolitičkog i geointeresnog previranja sa druge. Pored toga, Zapadni Balkan je geografski pozicioniran na važnoj ruti između Azije i Evrope, dok su balkanske zemlje većinom politički orijentisane ka Zapadu, zbog čega se može reći da čitav Balkan ima kako evroatlanski, tako i evroazijski položaj. Kao interesno čvorište sa tranzitnim položajem (koje ima mnogih prednosti u vidu protoka roba, usluga, ljudi, kapitala i ideja), na Balkanu su prisutne mnoge ugrožavajuće pojave među kojima su najveće: organizovani kriminal u svim pojavnim oblicima (belo roblje, krijumčarenje migranata, oružje, narkotici), teški kriminalitet, sajber kriminal, terorizam, nasilni ekstremizam, radikalizam, subverzija, sabotaža, prevratničke aktivnosti, obaveštajni rad i diverzija. Savremeni globalni i regionalni bezbednosno-politički tokovi i dinamika viralnih ugrožavajućih pojava zahtevaju specifično organizovanje obaveštajno-bezbednosnog sektora. Uz imperativ da bezbednosno-obaveštajni sistem ima snažne normativne i organizacione osnove, neophodna je odrediti i precizne strateške pravce, kako bi svaka aktivnost bezbednosno-obaveštajnih kapaciteta bila svrsishodna i ciljno orijentisana.

Strateški pravci rezultat su političko-pravnih kodifikacionih procesa, a koji proističu iz potrebe kontinuiranog ostvarivanja političkih i bezbednosnih interesa zemalja Zapadnog Balkana kroz delovanje bezbednosno-obaveštajnog sistema. Kako bi se ostvarili ciljevi definisani strateškim pravcima neophodno je permanentno, neprekidno, koordinisano i kontrolisano delovanje obaveštajno-bezbednosnog aparata zemalja Zapadnog Balkana. Pomenute konvergencije u osnovnim načelima, ne isključuju postojeće divergencije strateških pravaca bezbednosno-obaveštajnih sistema, što zahteva detaljnu i sveobuhvatnu analizu.

*Ključne reči:* bezbednost, strateška dokumenta, zakoni, strateški pravci, obaveštajno-bezbednosne agencije