

UNEMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY AS A SECURITY RISK

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Abstract: In contemporary living conditions, low living standards, high unemployment and poverty pose a serious potential danger to the security of a modern democratic society. Today we live in a time when security risks dominate the modern security horizon, what is missing is scientific research the results of which will point to the dangers of modern types of risks and their threat to vital interests and citizens' safety above all. Scientific research in the area of security risks in the Republic of North Macedonia is insufficient, and studies that have been made are without a solid theoretical development of the research problem. In the paper, we place an emphasis on the results of the interlocutory research of the academic public on the topic of “Exploring the security risks in the Republic of North Macedonia”, preceded by theoretical development of the approaches in defining the security risks, with a special emphasis on the impact of unemployment and poverty on security of the state. The research includes the expert public, that is, representatives of the institutions that have direct competence in the area of dealing with security risks of threats.

Keywords: *risk, security risk, threat, security, security institution, unemployment, poverty*

INTRODUCTION

The rapid development of science, technology, new world processes, and forms of international cooperation have established new values and standards. The rapid pace of change has contributed to international security (and thus to national security) by bringing about new types of serious threats. When we talk

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about the dangers and risks of the new millennium, we can say that the dangers that were characteristic of the last century, such as military risks, aggression and the like, are diminishing today. Threats to national security, according to values and interests, have become multiplied, more complex and less predictable and come from different directions, making them more difficult for analysis and control. The state union has always been exposed to jeopardies, with the forms and intensity of their manifestation changing. The seriousness of the threats of the 21st century lies in the application of the information infrastructure in decomposition of values, and such types of threats do not allow guaranteeing the life and health of citizens, as their seriousness jeopardizes the values and interests of the citizens. Threats in the new millennium can be resolved only by means of an internationally created security policy, on the basis of which the policy of national security should be defined.⁴

The Republic of North Macedonia, within the framework of the security policy, has the intention to provide security and protection of the citizens both from external and internal influences and threats of various natures: security, economic, political, ecological, cultural, etc. The main threat to security involves the tensions and antagonisms that result from inter-ethnic conflicts, extreme nationalism, religious radicalization, wrong reforms and economic inefficiency, frequency and enormous dimensions of natural and / or technological disasters with a major impact on society. Apart from the weak economy (high unemployment, low standard of living, cheap labor), political, social and ethnic conditions in the country, new types of hazards should be mentioned: international terrorism, organized crime (human trafficking, weapons, drugs, money laundering, migration, violent extremism, fundamentalism) and so on.

These kinds of threats can directly or indirectly affect the national security of the country. They undermine the security, democratic and economic foundations of society through the weakening of state institutions and the loss of confidence in the rule of law.

Despite the attempts of the institutions to detect and deal with potential threats to the security of the country in a timely manner, today the state faces a serious economic, political and security crisis that tends to endanger the survival of the country. Unfortunately, this situation lasts too long, starting with the demands of the former opposition political parties that the current government resign in order to form a technical government and organize early parliamentary elections. The non-functioning of the institutions appeared to be an appropriate ground for the development of organized crime and corruption, a drop in foreign investment and, above all, a decline in the economy. If this is added to the global migration crisis, which unfortunately has a direct impact on the economic, political and

⁴ National Security Policy means an interdependent and complex system of measures, plans and programs undertaken by the Republic of North Macedonia for the protection, preservation and promotion of the security of the Republic of North Macedonia and its citizens, in accordance with the political, economic, defense, internal, security, social, environmental and other resources

security system of the Republic of North Macedonia, we can talk about the risks that pose a serious threat to the security of the citizens. Starting from these bases, as well as the seriousness of the issue focusing on the research of security risks, a scientific study was conducted on the opinion of the expert public, representatives of several security institutions regarding issues related to prevention of certain risks so that they should not become threats or even threats of a larger scale.

EXPLORING THE SECURITY RISKS IN THE REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

The world today lives in times of globalization and postmodern social perceptions. Developmental dynamics is not linear and it is characterized by many ambivalent processes that have had influence on security and freedom as values. Namely, the social circumstances create an environment and a culture of living that call for greater freedom and realization of personal freedom as a universal social, cultural and civilization benefit. However, the complex network of social relations and interdependence in the era of globalization, which greatly contributed to the breakthrough in the sphere of freedom, simultaneously led to the rise of security risks and, more closely, the preoccupation with the security risks. Security risks today have become, if one may say, the basic paradigm of the study of security sciences. First, because we live in a time when security risks dominate the theory and practice and have undergone a shift from neutral to negative (security) in understanding and defining modern risks. Second, since security risks are increasingly less locally determined, they are increasingly the consequence of the complex interdependent relationships of a globalizing society, are more predictable, more numerous, and with ever more harmful possible consequences. Third, contemporary security risks are hard to be determinate and prevent because of the new scope and structure of their nature. Fourth, because the strategies and ways of handling, managing and assessing security risks have become the basis for the modern way of treating security risks. Fifth, since there is obviously a change in the structure and types of security risks, in which the manufactured are dominating over external risks and the exposures over the self-extinguishing security risks.

The Republic of North Macedonia is not and cannot stay out of this intricate network of social relations in which the nature of modern security risks changes. It must necessarily reflect in some way these tectonic movements in the security sphere, and especially in the area of security risks. It is precisely because of this fact, but also because of the fact that in the Republic of North Macedonia so far there has been no such kind of scientific research and study of security risks, we have decided to fill one significant gap in our security science and practice related to the study and treatment of security risks. In essence, it is necessary to investigate to what extent and in what way the wider changes in the nature of security risks affect the scope, structure and type of security risks in the con-

temporary Macedonian society and state. This would give a clear picture of the nature of the contemporary security risks and it would be easier to determine the most appropriate approaches to the security prevention, handling, management and assessment of security risks by the security policy makers in the Republic of North Macedonia.

The unfavorable economic, political and security situation requires, on its part, a profound analysis and inclusion of all segments of society, each contributing to the timely detection of potential risks and security threats and taking timely adequate measures by the competent institutions, so that potential risks are prevented and they do not grow into threats and threats to security on a wider scale.

By doing so, in the course of 2017, our team carried out a research project opting for empirical research - surveying the expert public about the current risks and threats to the security of the Republic of North Macedonia.

In the questionnaire were investigated the opinions and attitudes of the expert public-representatives of the security institutions on the issues related to the security risks in the Republic of North Macedonia. The survey included representatives of the security institutions whose main competence is security, such as:

1. The Cabinet of the President of the Republic of Northern Macedonia;
2. The Intelligence Agency;
3. Ministry of Defence - security organs;
4. Ministry of Internal Affairs (Security and Counter-Intelligence Directorate and Public Security Bureau, Criminal Police and Uniformed Police); and
5. The private security chamber

The purpose of the research project is based on the perceptions of the current opinions and attitudes of the expert public on the security risks, to obtain valid scientific knowledge about the existence of security risks, their types, the process of handling and management as well as the assessment of security risks.

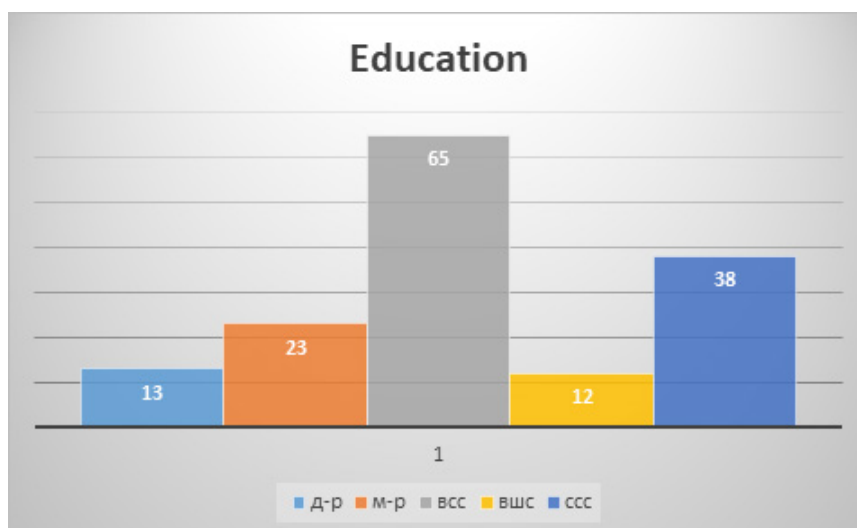
The obtained results from the survey, and from the entire scientific research project, will be of benefit for the scientists working on the research of security in the Republic of North Macedonia, the security policy holders and the security management of security institutions.

The **questionnaire** itself contains several sets of questions: biographical data, understanding-defining the notion of risk, ways of acquiring knowledge of risks, assessing the vulnerability of society to the types of risks. an assessment of what kind of society we are living in relation to risks; a number of risks are listed, and the respondents were asked to construct the risks that threaten security, starting from the most important to the less significant, the intensity of the influence of the risks on the personal safety of citizens, and on the security of the vital interests of the state, exploring the reasons for the current security risks in the Republic of North Macedonia, assessing the quality in creating and implementing the security policy Quality in the application of methodology in assessing security risks and creating security strategy. At the end of the questionnaire, there are open

questions for commentaries and presentation of certain attitudes of the expert public on certain issues related to security risks, for which issues are not covered in the questionnaire.

The survey covered a total of 151 interviewed persons from the above-mentioned security institutions, from several cities in the Republic of North Macedonia: Skopje, Kumanovo, Bitola, Vinica, Kicevo, Kratovo, Ohrid Struga.

Table no. 1: *Tabular display of the educational level of the respondents*



According to the educational structure, there are polled: 13 doctors of science, 23 masters, 65 with higher education, 12 with college education and 38 with secondary school.

Of the total of 151, almost a half, 65 or 43% are with higher education, if we add masters and doctors of science to this group, the number of respondents is 101 out of 151 or 66.88%, highly educated staff who has been working for years on assessment and management of risks, so we consider their answers to be relevant, and in particular the outstanding issues and their considerations and suggestions for a more detailed assessment of the dangers of certain types of risks, as well as a proposal for measures to overcome such a situation, are timely detection, quality and assessing and taking appropriate measures and actions to prevent potential risks from becoming dangers of a wider scale.

In the paper we will try to elaborate the results to several questions.

In the analysis, we reserve the processing of data related to the influence of the economic factors, i.e. unemployment, low living standards, poverty, migration movements and labor market impacts, their impact as a potential risk to the security of the Republic of North Macedonia.

STRUCTURE OF THE SAMPLE

Selection of the sample is based on the distribution of certain socio-demographic characteristics among the employees in the security organizations.

Thus, the gender structure of the sample shows a certain disproportion in favor of the male sex (70:30), which is a result of the greater presence of the male sex in the security institutions of the Republic of Northern Macedonia, that is, it is about replicating the real situation in this domain. As for the age structure, the percentages show the largest number of respondents from the older category (over 40) - 30%, and the lowest participation of the youngest age category (up to 25 years) - 14%. The remaining age categories are in the range between these two intervals, and the value of the standard deviation (1,425) indicates the dispersion of the different age groups. The structure according to place of residence reveals the prevalence of the respondents from Skopje (93%), while the respondents from other cities participate with 7% only (5% from Western Macedonia, 2% from Eastern Macedonia). The ethnic structure indicates the highest participation of respondents from the Macedonian ethnic community (86%), members of the Albanian ethnic community participate with 6% in the sample, the Turkish with 3%, etc. The religious structure reveals the prevalence of the respondents who are Orthodox Christians - 81%, then Muslims - 11%, atheists - 4%, etc. The structure according to education reveals that almost every other (47%) respondent has completed university education, and almost one in three (29%) has secondary-school education. 90% of the respondents are employed, in institutions / organizations that deal with security issues: the largest part - 43.5% are employed in private security agencies, and 41.3% in the state intelligence agency. In a smaller percentage, the sample includes police officers (6.5%), employees in the criminal police (5.4%) and the Security and Counter-Intelligence Directorate - 3.3%, which means that the research findings are created with the participation of all security organizations in the sample.

ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS OF SECURITY

Where do the security risks come from in the Republic of North Macedonia? Are they the result of a turbulent regional environment or the general globalization trend? The respondents, although not rejecting external influences, still consider that security risks mainly originate from "home", i.e. from the state itself (44%). However, a high percentage of respondents (39%) see regional security risks as the main reason for endangering security in the country, while additional 17% of respondents see globalization as the source of the security risks in Macedonia (Table 1).

Table 1: *Origin of the security risks in the Republic of Macedonia*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Globalization	17	17.0	17.0	17.0
	Regional security risks	39	39.0	39.0	56.0
	Security risks in the country in country	44	44.0	44.0	100.0
	Total	100	100.0	100.0	

Because the respondents consider that the situation in the country is the main source of security threats, several important socio-economic issues (above all, unemployment and poverty) and their impact on security are analyzed for labor needs.

From here, respondents in the largest percentage (39.2%) consider that poverty “extremely much” affects personal safety, and an additional 29.9% think that poverty “has a great deal of influence” on personal safety. This means that almost 7 out of 10 respondents consider that the impact of poverty on personal safety is high or very high (Table 2)

Table no.2: *Impact of Poverty on Personal Security*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Extremely little	3	3,0	3,1	3,1
	Little	4	4,0	4,1	7,2
	Partly	23	23,0	23,7	30,9
	A lot	29	29,0	29,9	60,8
	Extremely	38	38,0	39,2	100,0
	Total	97	97,0	100,0	
Missing	System	3	3,0		
	Total	100	100,0		

The in-depth analysis reveals that certain socio-demographic characteristics influence the perception of the impact of poverty on security. Namely, Table 3 reveals that religion, that is, religious affiliation plays a certain role in the perception of the relationship of poverty-safety. Namely, 41% of Orthodox Christians believe that the impact of poverty on personal security is “extremely high”, while only 18.2% of Muslims think the same. For most Muslims, in fact, the impact of poverty on personal security is relative (according to 45.5% of the respondents).

Table no.2: *Impact of Poverty on Personal Security*

Religion		Extreme- ly little	Little	Partly	A lot	Ex- tremely a lot	Total
Orthodox	Count	3	4	14	25	32	78
	% within	3.8%	5.1%	17.9%	32.1%	41.0%	100,0%
Muslims	Count	0	0	5	4	2	11
	% within	.0%	.0%	45.5%	36.4%	18.2%	100,0%
Catholic	Count	0	0	1	0	1	2
	% within	.0%	.0%	50.0%	.0%	50.0%	100,0%
Protestant	Count	0	0	1	0	0	1
	% within	.0%	.0%	100.0%	.0%	.0%	100,0%
Atheist	Count	0	0	2	0	2	4
	% within	.0%	.0%	50.0%	.0%	50.0%	100,0%
Other	Count	0	0	0	0	1	1
	% within	.0%	.0%	.0%	.0%	100.0%	100,0%
Total	Count	3	4	23	29	38	97
	% within	3.1%	4.1%	23.7%	29.9%	39.2%	100.0%

On the other hand, when answering the direct question, with the offered answers “yes” and “no”, 2/3 of the respondents do not see poverty as a factor of influence on the general security. An attempt has therefore been made to differentiate their responses according to certain characteristics.

Table 4: *Does poverty affect general security*

			Yes	No	Total
Security organization	Administration for Security and Counter-intelligence	Count	3	0	3
		% within	100..0%	..0%	100.0%
	Intelligence agency	Count	10	28	38
		% within	26..3%	73..7%	100.0%
	Police officer	Count	5	1	6
		% within	83..3%	16..7%	100.0%
	Criminalistics police	Count	2	3	5
		% within	40..0%	60..0%	100.0%
	Private security agencies	Count	11	29	40
		% within	27..5%	72..5%	100.0%
Total		Count	31	61	92
		% within	33.7%	66..3%	100..0%

Crossing the view on the impact of poverty on general security, with the affiliation to a particular security organization, reveals certain differences. Namely, Table 4 reveals that employees of the Security and Counter Intelligence Directorate (fully) and police officers (on a large scale) see poverty as a factor in endangering general security. On the other hand, almost 3/4 of the respondents - employees of the Intelligence Agency and private security agencies (and 3/5 of the crime investigating police) - do not see poverty as an influential factor.

A square check test confirmed that there was a statistically significant link between employment in a particular security organization and the stance on the impact of security or vulnerability. Namely, the value of the Pearson Chi-Square of 14.223, 4 degrees of freedom and 5% permissible error, is higher than the minimum value – 9.488; which implies a connection between these variables. The Contingency coefficient of 0.366 indicates a significant correlation between the security organization and the position on the safety impact of security.

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymp. Sig. (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	14.223 ^a	4	.007
Likelihood Ratio	14.584	4	.006
Linear-by-Linear Association	.761	1	.383
N of Valid Cases	92		

a. 6 cells (60.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is 1.01.

Symmetric Measures

	Value	Approx. Sig.
Nominal by Contingency	.366	.007
Nominal Coefficient		
N of Valid Cases	92	

Almost 2/3 of the respondents estimate that very high (30.9%) or extremely high (36.1%) affects personal safety, while only 7.2% consider this impact to be minor. (Table 5).

Table 5: *Impact of unemployment on personal safety*

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Extremely little	7	7.0	7.2	7.2
	little	4	4.0	4.1	11.3
	partly	21	21.0	21.6	33.0
	A lot	30	30.0	30.9	63.9
	Extremely a lot	35	35.0	36.1	100.0
	Total	97	97.0	100.0	
Missing	System	3	3.0		
Total		100	100.0		

Certain socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents influence their attitude towards the unemployment-personal link security. Thus, the structure of responses among younger respondents reveals greater heterogeneity in the answers, than in the elderly. Thus, as much as 21.4% of respondents under 25 years of age believe that unemployment affects “very little” personal security, and 50% of them that unemployment affects “extremely much”. Much greater consistency exists in older age categories (36-40 years) and especially over 40 years, where it is evident that most of the answers (over 70%) are concentrated in the categories “extremely much” and “many”, and in minor percentages (3.6%, or 6.3%, respectively), attitudes for “extremely low” and “small” influence are present.

Table 6: *Impact of unemployment on personal safety*

Age			Ex- treme- ly little	Little	Partly	A lot	Ex- tremely a lot	Total
	To 25 years	Count	3	0	2	2	7	14
		% within	21.4%	.0%	14.3%	14.3%	50.0%	100.0%
	26-30 years	Count	2	1	3	7	4	17
		% within	11.8%	5.9%	17.6%	41.2%	23.5%	100.0%
	31-35 years	Count	0	0	7	8	7	22
		% within	.0%	.0%	31.8%	36.4%	31.8%	100.0%
	36-40 years	Count	1	1	4	4	6	16
		% within	6.3%	6.3%	25.0%	25.0%	37.5%	100.0%
More 40 years	Count	1	2	5	9	11	28	
	% within	3.6%	7.1%	17.9%	32.1%	39.3%	100.0%	
Total		Count	7	4	21	30	35	97
		% within	7,2%	4.1%	21.6%	30.9%	36.1%	100.0%

Crossing the attitude about the impact of unemployment on general security, with the affiliation to a certain security organization, again reveals certain differences. Namely, Table 7 reveals that the employees in the Security and Counter-intelligence Administration (100%) see the unemployment factor as a security threat. On the other hand, most of the respondents - employees of the Intelligence Agency and private security agencies, the police and the criminal police - do not see unemployment as an influential factor in the domain of security.

Table 7: *Does unemployment affect general security?*

Security organization				Total
		Yes	No	
Administration for Security and Counter-intelligence	Count	3	0	3
	% within profesion	100.0%	.0%	100.0%
Intelligence agency	Count	12	26	38
	% within profesion	31.6%	68.4%	100.0%
Police officer	Count	1	5	6
	% within profesion	16.7%	83.3%	100.0%
Criminalist police	Count	2	3	5
	% within profesion	40.0%	60.0%	100.0%
Private security agencies	Count	9	31	40
	% within profesion	22.5%	77.5%	100.0%
Total	Count	27	65	92
	% within profesion	29,3%	70.7%	100.0%

CONCLUSION

- Security risks originate from “home”

Although they do not rule out external influences, security service employees still consider that security risks mainly originate from “home”, that is, from the situation in the country itself.

- Impact of unemployment and poverty on personal security - high and extremely high

Most employees in security organizations perceive poverty and unemployment as factors that “very” and “extremely much” affect personal security. The affiliation to a particular security organization affects the attitude of the impact of poverty and unemployment on general security.

The affiliation to a particular security organization affects the attitude of the impact of poverty and unemployment on general security

Employees in the Security and Counter-Intelligence Directorate (fully) and police officers (on a large scale) see poverty as a factor in endangering general security, unlike employees in other security organizations. Also, employees in the Security and Counterintelligence Administration (100%) see the unemployment factor as a security threat, unlike employees in other security organizations that do not share this attitude.

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