

DOI: [10.55643/fcaptop.3.50.2023.4089](https://doi.org/10.55643/fcaptop.3.50.2023.4089)

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Received: 25/04/2023

Accepted: 08/06/2023

Published: 30/06/2023

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# SECURITY ENVIRONMENT: THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES

## ABSTRACT

The research aims to form a conceptual vision of the "security environment" concept, to determine its structure and the content of concepts derived from it, as well as to establish logical and semantic connections between them. The need for such research occurred because of using security terms arbitrarily in government and business activities. Therefore, their content is interpreted and perceived differently, which, in turn, harms law-making, organization and planning of security measures, etc. The article, based on the theoretical foundations of security science, revealed and substantiated the author's approach to the understanding and interpretation of the "security environment" concept. Besides, the paper proposed the definition of the semantically similar concepts of "safe environment" and, conversely, "dangerous environment". Based on the results of the system approach and content analysis of the main security concepts, some terms derived from the concept of "security environment" were determined and their content was substantiated, as well as the corresponding structural and semantic logic of the connections between them. The article describes that the formation and development of the security environment are carried out by the relevant subjects of security activities, for which they use the forces and means at their disposal and the relevant legal acts, as well as apply their capabilities, demonstrate readiness for such activities and establish a safety culture in society. The research schematically and substantively demonstrated that a security environment is formed as a result of security activity taking into account challenges that have not been dealt with, risks that have been realized, internal and external threats and security situations. A dangerous environment is formed as a result of the dangerous occurrence, i.e. loss of control over the situation or the onset of a crisis state. This scientific intelligence will be helpful for everyone interested in modern security science issues: scientists, practitioners, civil servants, deputies and other subjects of the security environment, especially in the russian-Ukrainian war framework.

**Keywords:** safety, security activity, safety culture, security situation, challenge, risk, threat, danger

**JEL Classification:** H56, H70, O19

## INTRODUCTION

The issue of a safe human living environment has always been, is and will remain relevant. The current state of Ukraine's security environment is affected by numerous threats, especially those related to the war imposed by Russia. As a result, the human life conditions have been destroyed, and the system of norms of natural, national and international law, where basic human values and rights, especially the right to life and freedom, are enshrined, has been defiantly and cynically neglected. The concept of "security environment" is used quite often both in practice and in scientific research. In particular, there is practical experience in creating a safe environment for communities, and relevant methodological advice, concepts, etc. have been issued. Thus, the Institute of "Peace and Understanding" has developed a methodology for creating a safe environment at the community level [6], and also proposed a methodology for creating security, which will help citizens independently go through the full cycle of developing and implementing an effective security program [20], and developed a draft strategy for Public Safety and Civil Defense [3]. Moreover, scientific research includes the description of the security environment and proposed approaches to its assessment etc.

[8, p. 33; 9, p. 6]. Besides, there are no definitions of the "security environment" concept in regulatory documents, and only a few can be outlined in scientific ones. In particular, scientists such as V. Yu. Bogdanovich, O. A. Ilyashov, V. S. Komarov, and V. V. Oleksiuk offer their interpretations of the mentioned concept in the article "Approach to the Assessment of the security environment in modern conditions of armed conflict" [8, p. 33]; V. P. Bocharnikov, S. V. Sveshnikov in the monograph "Safe Environment 2030" [9, p. 6, 18]; O. O. Reznikov in the monograph "National stability in the conditions of a changing security environment" [18]. That circumstance requires state institutions to define the conceptual foundations and mechanisms for the construction of a security environment in Ukraine. This will make it possible to strengthen the capabilities of relevant entities at the state, regional and local levels to prevent, detect, eliminate (terminate) threats, and in case of their implementation, to quickly recover from crises.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

It should be noted that there are different ways to label the living environment according to the safety feature in scientific and practical activity, in particular, the meaning of different employed concepts "security environment", "safe environment", and "dangerous environment", are not considered. There are no definitions of the terms "safe environment", and "dangerous environment" and their justification in the scientific literature and legal documents of Ukraine, and they are used at the casual level. At the same time, such practice is also present at the institutional level. The concept of "security environment" is the most widely used, the meaning of which is revealed in works in different ways, in particular:

"the security environment is the geopolitical, political-diplomatic, military, information and other spheres where favourable conditions or dangerous phenomena, potential and real threats to the realization of national interests arise, exist, accumulate or manifest, in which the state implements its national security policy, interacts with international security structures, strategic partners, allies, military-political and other institutions and organizations in the interests of ensuring their sustainable development in a certain time interval" [8, p. 33];

"the security environment is a set of external and internal relations between forces operating in all spheres of national security, as well as conditions, factors and circumstances that in a certain way affect or can affect these relations" [9, p. 6];

"the security environment is a complex of factors that are relevant for a certain territory or the territory of Ukraine in general, which affect the level of protection of the civilian population, state authorities, local self-government, and economic entities in this territory"[18]. Having analyzed the interpretation of the concepts, it becomes obvious that the meaning of the "security environment" concept does not meet at least two requirements:

- the primary understanding of the meaning of "environment" set out in the explanatory dictionary (the environment is the conditions in which a person's life takes place, the environment; is a set of people connected by common life conditions, occupations, interests);
- a security approach to life, within which the environment is perceived in such a way that some part of it is outside the influence of real threats, a certain part contains certain potential and real threats (given the peculiarities of the Ukraine territories), but at the same time the state, society, organizations and people have appropriate opportunities and countermeasures against them, and another is exposed to the effects of real threats for which there are no appropriate countermeasures and opportunities.

The main factor in security environment formation is the concept of "security", the study of which is covered in many scientific works [15; 21; 22]. However, both in scientific sources and in legislation, its content is revealed in different ways, taking into account the scientific approaches and positions of the authors. In particular, in the Montreal Declaration "The Human Right to Security" this concept is interpreted as "a state in which danger and conditions that lead to physical, psychological or material harm are controlled to preserve the health and well-being of individuals and society" [17]. Some scientists note that security is:

- "a balanced state of functioning of the social system (man, the state, the world community), anthropogenic, natural systems, etc., in which a person, thanks to the knowledge of the surrounding natural environment and trends in its development, can timely identify and minimize the negative impact of existing and potential threats or avoid them, which, in turn, allows it to preserve the system of its values and ensure their further development" [14];
- "such conditions in which a complex system is located when the action of external and internal factors does not lead to processes that are considered negative about the specified complex system by the needs, knowledge and ideas available at this stage" [12];

- "a state when there are no risks to life and health when all public organizations work, state institutions work without hindrance, and citizens can freely enjoy their rights and comply with the duties entrusted to them" [26];
- "a state that provides the object with removal from the influence of known factors that harm its existence, development, improvement and cause damage to it, and the identification of new threats, adaptation to them and their elimination to ensure the preservation of the object" [10].

We can continue to share the definitions, but they will only emphasize one or another approach but do not reveal its true meaning. In these definitions and others described in scientific sources, security is interpreted as a state or conditions due to which there are no threats, or no risks or other destabilizing factors. In fact, there are always threats to both a person and any socio-economic system. In addition, there is another contradiction in the definitions of this concept, which is that the system is interpreted as a means of ensuring security, which cannot be agreed with. The system is static at a certain moment, which can be measured and its level of security can be determined using appropriate methods. Therefore, to reveal the meaning of the concept of "security" through the state of the system, which ensures security, is at least incorrect, since countering threats, or protecting interests: corporate or national, takes place through action, activity. At the same time, the opinion of G. Yu. Tkachuk is quite correct, who, researching approaches to the definition of the concept of "security", concludes that security provides an opportunity for the development and "preservation of acquired values", is a guarantor of the life of the system, ensures "balance, stability and integrity of the system » [23]. The author must single out the main internal elements that characterize the concept of "security", especially the stability and integrity of the system. A deeper study of these internal elements, and their interrelationships, shows that, on the one hand, it is the goal to which the system strives, and on the other hand, it is the result of its activity, which it receives due to the action of its main security elements - stability and self-sufficiency.

Nowadays, given scientific achievements and practical experience, safety must be understood as a multifaceted and complex phenomenon, which, having a physical and social nature, manifests itself, on the one hand, through the state of the system, which must be within acceptable limits, and on the other hand, through security activity, which includes mechanisms for prevention, detection, elimination of threats, and in the case of their implementation – recovery mechanisms [24, 25]. At the same time, security activities should form a security culture, and be carried out to preserve the integrity of the social system and protect interests (private, corporate, national). Therefore, when constructing the definition of "security", it is necessary to understand it in terms of statics and dynamics. Therefore, security is the state of a social system (organization, society, state) within the limited values that enable it to function, and security activity (prevention, detection, elimination of threats and restoration of processes, activities, system integrity, compensation for damages, etc.) aimed at to preserve its integrity and protect interests: private, corporate, public, national.

Therefore, the security environment is not enough investigated in scientific sources, especially its structure, content and concepts derived from it based on the system approach.

## AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The study aims to complete the structure of the "security environment" concept, to define its content and the content of concepts derived from it.

The study objectives are: to analyze scientific sources and regulatory legal acts for the presence of theoretical foundations of the security environment in them; to form a conceptual vision of the concept of "security environment" and define its content; define terms derived from the concept of "security environment" and propose and justify their meaning.

The obtained research results will make it possible to obtain new scientific knowledge for the first time, which will have both theoretical and practical significance for security science.

## METHODS

The research used a set of scientific methods, in particular: a content analysis of security concepts known in security science; a systematic approach to the definition of concepts derived from the concept of "security environment"; the method of constructing the content of such concepts as security, challenge, threats, danger, security risk, security environment, dangerous environment, security environment, security situation, security activity, security culture, crisis, readiness, capacity; subjects of security environment formation; generalization method and comparative analysis.

The article also uses the results of its analytical research, thematic scientific publications and own author's developments.

## RESULTS

Human life takes place in the conditions of a certain environment, which consist of:

- the natural environment, which is formed independently of human will, changes according to its laws of development and in a certain way affects (positively or negatively) a person (earth soil, air, reservoirs, plants, animals, sun, moon, planets, etc.);
- the social environment, which is formed and changes through the joint activities of people, the unity of the way of life, as well as a result of contradictions, misunderstandings, the presence of different interests, etc.;
- human-made environment, which is created and changed by humans through household and industrial activities to meet their own needs, including at the expense of nature.

The specified components of the environment, on the one hand, create conditions for human life, on the other, due to various reasons and circumstances, internal threats may arise in them or external ones may act, causing certain losses (damage).

The presented results of scientific sources and legislation analysis showed that the safety-related environment conventionally has three components:

- a dangerous environment in which threats act with a destructive force and at the same time there are no security mechanisms for their elimination, or due to various circumstances they cannot be applied (for example, in conditions of war in temporarily occupied territories, create conditions and relations that would ensure the human right to protection of violated its rights and freedoms, it is practically impossible; it is here that there is the greatest need to change a dangerous environment into a safe one);
- a safe environment characterized by the absence of real threats;
- a security environment in which certain potential and real threats arise and act on them, but at the same time, the state, society, organization and person have the appropriate capabilities and mechanisms to counter them.

Therefore, the term "security environment" means, on the one hand, the presence in society and the state of the necessary opportunities and tools that can be used to protect against threats, and on the other hand, the very result of the activities of various institutions and people aimed at countering threats. That is, the main constructive elements of the content of the security environment are conditions and relationships that contain mechanisms and tools for physical protection and protection of the interests of a person, organization, society, and the state from threats to ensure their vital activities.

Therefore, it is possible to propose a definition of the specified concepts:

- a dangerous environment is the living conditions of a person, organization, society, state and relations between them, where (or about which) threats act as a destructive force, and against which there are no protection mechanisms, or due to various circumstances, they do not operate in a certain territory or the territory of Ukraine in general;
- a safe environment is the living conditions of a person, organization, society, state and relations between them, where (or about which) there are no real threats in a certain territory or the territory of Ukraine in general;
- security environment is the living conditions of a person, organization, society, state and relations between them, which contain appropriate opportunities and mechanisms of protection against potential or real internal and external threats in a certain territory or the state territory in general.

Ideally, we should strive to create a safe environment for life, but in reality, our life is mostly spent in a security environment. At the same time, there are cases or periods when this environment is dangerous for life, in particular, nowadays in the conditions of war. Therefore, all efforts should be made, first of all, to create a security environment, which is much easier to turn into a safe one.

The formation and development of the security environment should be carried out by relevant subjects – state authorities, local self-government bodies, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and public associations, which are initiators or participants in the formation and development of the security environment, using the forces and means available in their orders and relevant legal acts.

As for the legal acts, the content analysis established that the essential documents for the security environment formation in Ukraine are: the Law of Ukraine "On the National Security of Ukraine" [1], the Law of Ukraine "On Critical Infrastructure" [2], the Strategy for State Security of security [4], Concept of ensuring the national system of stability [5] and other

normative legal acts. We should also note that the process of standardizing the order of creating a safe environment is ongoing, in particular, the project of the Strategy of Public Safety and Civil Defense of Ukraine has been developed [3].

Subjects of the security environment are obliged to use their own capacity, which must be understood as a set of human, material, technical and financial resources that determine their ability to effectively counter threats, emergency and crisis situations, ensure the restoration and functioning of the main spheres of life of society, the state, communities, etc. In addition, relevant bodies and units must demonstrate readiness for such activities and establish a safety culture in society. Readiness is the ability of subjects of the security environment to respond quickly and adequately to threats, security situations, and danger. Security culture is "a component of the organizational culture of a person, organization, society, or state, which is formed and manifests itself in the form of safety thinking as a value and safety behaviour as a norm in economic relations" [25].

Risks, challenges, threats, dangers and security situations have a significant influence on the living environment, in order to make a security environment, an even better safe environment, it is extremely important to correctly and systematically understand their content. Hence a justification for the definition of the specified security concepts is offered.

Risk is the probability that what is planned may go wrong or the possibility of a negative event or threat (causing harm). If the risk realizes, it may result in damage, destruction, etc., and therefore a threat or danger. In science and practical activity, various types of risks and their definition are outlined, in particular, not only a definition is proposed, but also a safety-oriented model of risk assessment of entrepreneurial activity [27]. The term "security risks" is also used, but its content is neither normatively nor scientifically defined. And there is a certain logic in this since risk according to the National Standard of Ukraine (DSTU-2293-99) is the probability of causing damage taking into account its severity [11]. In the case of its implementation, the consequence is harm, and harm, in turn, is a threat. Therefore, the concepts of "risk" and "security risk" are essentially the same. At the same time, using the concept of "security risk", it is necessary to understand that the occurrence of a potential threat, i.e. receiving damage, is directly foreseen. Therefore, a security risk is a potential threat (causing harm).

The challenge in its content is a new situation in the environment, which sets new requirements for decision-making. Challenges mobilize efforts to improve operations and encourage the development of new technologies, approaches, etc. At the same time, in case of inaction or inefficient activity of the relevant subjects, the challenge may lead to the emergence of a threat [16]. Scientific sources have different definitions of this concept. In particular, A. Kuznyetsova, I. Tiutiunyk, Y. Panimash, Z. Zsolt & P. Zsolt believe that a challenge is a set of circumstances, not necessarily a negative impact, which must be responded to while ignoring them, can cause positive or negative consequences for the enterprise [13]. We can agree with such an opinion to a certain extent, given that it is general.

So, a challenge is a new situation in the environment that can create certain opportunities for development or, conversely, conditions for the emergence of threats.

A threat is a negative action, impact on an object. Realized threats destabilize the life of a person, social system (organization, society, state), violate its integrity and cause damage. In turn, losses may hinder the realization of private, corporate or national interests. Therefore, the main sign of a threat is potential or real damage. In scientific studies, there are other opinions regarding the content of the concept of "threat". In particular, I. P. Migus and S. M. Laptev comprehend a certain event that affects the activities of business entities under threat [16]. From such a definition, it is difficult to understand what kind of influence it is: positive or negative. There are many definitions of the concept of "threat" [7; 19, etc.], however, the content embedded in them is multifaceted; it is difficult to agree with it. For example, we cannot agree with I. V. Boyko's opinion that a threat is already a real event, during which the danger moves from the state of possibility to the real plane [7]. At the same time, the need for security arises not when there are challenges, but when threats arise.

Consequently, a threat is the action of destabilizing subjective or natural factors that causes damage to a person, the socio-economic system (society, state, organization, etc.).

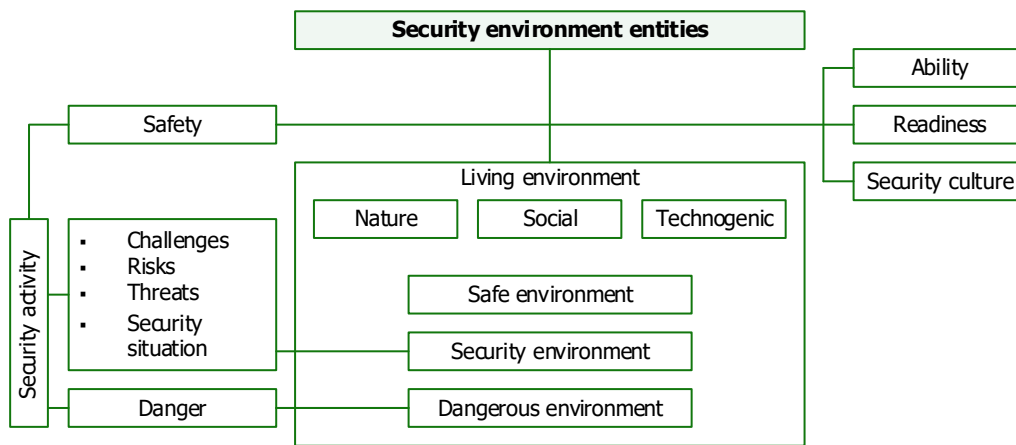
For ensuring the social system's safety it is necessary to counter threats, because, otherwise, a danger will arise, which will be much more difficult to overcome [25]. To counter threats, it is necessary to choose the appropriate ways, methods, means, etc., which are discussed in more detail in the scientific article [28].

A threat always damages and destroys a specific object. At the same time, the limit beyond which the danger begins is destructive marginal changes due to losses, after which a crisis state occurs, when there are practically no resources for development and, ultimately, for life. The limit beyond which danger occurs is individual for each person and social system. The main signs of danger are loss of control over the situation and a state of crisis.

Therefore, the danger is destructive extreme changes in the social system (society, state, territorial community, organization, etc.), caused by the realization of a threat, which leads to a loss of control over the situation or a crisis state (in which there are very limited or no resources to ensure life).

While the security environment formation, there are security situations. Otherwise, these are the conditions of life and relations, which are characterized by the presence of opportunities and mechanisms of protection against threats to people, social systems (organizations, communities, society, the state), but require decision-making regarding their application in connection with a change in character, strength impact of the threat, its spread, consequences, etc. Thus, a security situation is such a situational state of the environment in which or with respect to which the following changes (changes): the essence of the threat, the strength of its influence, the extent of its spread, consequences, and in connection with this, it is necessary to make appropriate decisions regarding the application of the capabilities and mechanisms of security activity.

Based on research results the study established that the "security environment" is associated with many other derived security concepts that have the appropriate structural and semantic logic of relationships (Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Structural and semantic scheme of logical connections between security concepts.**

The proposed and substantiated content of the specified security concepts, from the point of view of the connections between them, is characterized by meaningful unity and integrity, which will make it possible to ensure the same understanding of these concepts and their application in law-making and practical activities of the security environment subjects.

In addition, the formation of a security environment should be carried out by:

- increasing the capabilities and readiness of subjects of the security environment for security activities, that is, for countering (prevention, detection, elimination of threats and restoration of processes, activities, system integrity) threats to protect interests, preserve the integrity of processes, systems (organizations, society, state);
- unification and coordination of efforts of the state, communities and people;
- a security culture establishment, which manifests itself in the form of safe thinking as a value and safe behaviour as a norm in relationships.

## DISCUSSION

The conducted scientific research gives foundations for asserting that the issue of creating a security environment in Ukraine on a practical level is urgent and requires systematic and complex approaches. At the same time, a positive result will be provided by a combination of theoretical and practical actions. Besides, theoretical ones should be based on modern thorough scientific research, and practical ones should be based on new security knowledge and take into account modern threats, security situations, and dangers. However, nowadays reality is different, in connection with which we propose to single out the most important problematic questions to which conceptual answers need to be found, namely:

1) today there is no common understanding of the "security" concept among both scientists and practitioners. In fact, it has at least two sides – these are the state of the social system, which can be measured and determine the level of security, and activities aimed at prevention, detection, elimination of threats and restoration of processes, integrity, etc.

However, in law-making, a situation has arisen when in one legal act "security" is interpreted as a state, using the concept of "protection of interests...", etc.", and in another as an activity. Such an approach leads to a conflict between legislative norms, brings destructiveness to decision-making in the field of security, etc.;

2) a similar situation occurred with the concepts of "safety environment" and "security environment", which is used as a substitute for the first. In addition, there are practically no studies of the structure of the security environment as the most used concept, instead, various mechanisms of its formation are proposed in practical activities. In this case, it would be expedient to develop and scientifically substantiate the structure of the organization's security environment, territorial community security environment, and professional security environment, for example, the structure of the educational security environment, etc., and their research (evaluation) methods.

Because of this, it is obvious that the declared direction needs further scientific research.

## CONCLUSIONS

The problem of forming a security environment in Ukraine, especially now in the conditions of the war imposed by Russia, is acute in the practical security activity and in security science.

The proposed approach to the division of the living environment according to the safety feature into a safe environment, a dangerous environment, and a safe environment has theoretical and practical significance. This is explained by the fact that each of the specified forms of the living environment has its characteristics, which must be taken into account when making decisions regarding the conduct of security activities and scientific research, especially in terms of the selection of appropriate forces and means, tools, etc.

The list of security concepts developed based on a systemic approach; their content and the structural-semantic scheme of logical relationships make it possible to organize the application of these concepts in science and security activities, as well as law-making, as well as to form meaningful unity and integrity of these processes.

The paper emphasized that the formation and development of the security environment should be done by the relevant subjects by carrying out security activities, within the scope of which they should use the forces and means at their disposal and the relevant legal acts, as well as apply their capabilities, demonstrate readiness for such activities and establish a safety culture in society. The study schematically demonstrated that a security environment is formed as a result of security activities because of challenges that have not been dealt with, risks that have been realized, internal and external threats and security situations, and a dangerous environment – as a result of the occurrence of danger, that is, the loss of control over the situation or the onset crisis state.

The results of the research can be useful for those who are interested in modern security knowledge and problems of security science: scientists – for improvement, expansion and creation of new knowledge in this field, practitioners – for the development of holistic regulatory support for security activities, civil servants, people's deputies for normative, legislation in the field of security and defense.

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## **БЕЗПЕКОВЕ СЕРЕДОВИЩЕ: ТЕОРЕТИКО-МЕТОДОЛОГІЧНІ ЗАСАДИ**

Основна мета дослідження – сформуванню концептуальне бачення поняття «безпекове середовище», визначити структуру його змісту та змісту похідних від нього понять, а також установити логічно-семантичні зв'язки між ними. Потреба в такому дослідженні виникла тому, що сьогодні в практичній діяльності на всіх рівнях влади та бізнесу безпекові терміни використовують довільно. Відтак їхній зміст трактується та сприймається по-різному, що, своєю чергою, негативно відображається на правотворенні, організуванні та плануванні безпекових заходів тощо. У цій статті на основі теоретичних засад безпекознавства розкрито й обґрунтовано авторський підхід до розуміння й трактування концептуального поняття «безпекове середовище». Запропоновано визначення змісту семантично подібних понять «безпечне середовище» і, навпаки, «небезпечне середовище». За результатами системного підходу та контент-аналізу основних безпекових понять визначено низку похідних від поняття «безпекове середовище» термінів та обґрунтовано їхній зміст, а також відповідну структурно-семантичну логіку зв'язків між ними. У статті зазначено, що формуванням та розвитком безпекового середовища займаються відповідні суб'єкти безпекової діяльності, для чого використовують сили й засоби, які є в їхньому розпорядженні, та відповідні нормативно-правові акти, а також застосовують власну спроможність, демонструють готовність до такої діяльності та утверджують у суспільстві безпекову культуру. Схематично й змістовно продемонстровано, що безпекове середовище формується внаслідок безпекової діяльності з урахуванням викликів, із якими не впоралися, ризиків, що зреалізувалися, внутрішніх і зовнішніх загроз та безпекових ситуацій, а небезпечне середовище – унаслідок виникнення небезпеки, тобто втрати контролю над ситуацією або настання кризового стану. Ця наукова розвідка буде корисною для всіх, хто цікавиться проблемами сучасного безпекознавства: науковців, практиків, державних службовців, депутатів та інших суб'єктів безпекового середовища, особливо в умовах російсько-української війни.

**Ключові слова:** безпека, безпекова діяльність, безпекова культура, безпекова ситуація, виклик, ризик, загроза, небезпека

**JEL Класифікація:** H56, H70, O19