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Frunchuk Vasil

Doctor of Economic Sciences, Full Professor,
Senior Researcher at the Research Institute of OSINT Technologies
and Security Analytics,
Lviv State University of Internal Affairs
26 Horodotska Street, Lviv, 79000, Ukraine
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5305-3286>

Melnyk Stepan

Doctor of Economic Sciences, Full Professor,
Associate Dean of Faculty No. 2,
Lviv State University of Internal Affairs
26 Horodotska Street, Lviv, 79000, Ukraine
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3782-5973>

Hobela Volodymyr

Candidate of Economic Sciences, Docent,
Associate Professor of Management and Economic Security,
Lviv State University of Internal Affairs
26 Horodotska Street, Lviv, 79000, Ukraine
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7438-2329>

THEORETICAL AND METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH TO SECURITY ENVIRONMENT CHARACTERISTICS

Abstract. *The scientific article reveals the relevance of the research topic, due to Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine and global threats that negatively affect domestic society. The main focus of scientific research focuses on the need to develop and improve security activities, which are faced with practical challenges in finding effective security mechanisms to form a security environment given modern realities and needs. The study conducted a thorough theoretical analysis of approaches to interpreting the term "security environment", which consists of the components "security" and "environment", and proposed clear definitions for these concepts. Analyzing the approaches to interpreting the idea of "security" by Ukrainian scientists, the authors find that the social environment includes macro- and micro-level components that cover the political, social and spiritual spheres. Different living environments are presented: safe, dangerous and security, where the latter contains mechanisms for protection against existing and potential threats. A classification of threats by the degree of predictability and liquidity is proposed, which determines different approaches to understanding the essence and purpose of security activities. An author's scientific and methodological approach to the characterization of the security environment has been developed, which provides for different types of security activities – proactive, reactive and palliative security activities, which differ in methods of countering different types of threats. The proposed approach is aimed at improving security systems at different levels and overcoming current security challenges. It also emphasizes the integration of security activities into socio-political and economic processes taking place in Ukraine and at the global level. Thus, the proposed approach provides a theoretical basis for further research and development of practical measures to strengthen state security and form a security environment, laying the foundation for sustainable development and maintaining stability in the face of modern challenges and threats.*

Keywords: *threat, risks, security environment, dangerous environment, safe environment.*

Франчук Василь Іванович

доктор економічних наук, професор,
старший науковий співробітник НДІ OSINT-технологій
та безпекової аналітики,
Львівський державний університет внутрішніх справ
вулиця Городоцька, 26, Львів, 79000, Україна

Мельник Степан Іванович

доктор економічних наук, професор,
заступник декана факультету № 2,
Львівський державний університет внутрішніх справ,
вулиця Городоцька, 26, Львів, 79000, Україна

Гобела Володимир Володимирович

кандидат економічних наук, доцент,
доцент кафедри менеджменту та економічної безпеки,
Львівський державний університет внутрішніх справ
вулиця Городоцька, 26, Львів, 79000, Україна

ТЕОРЕТИКО-МЕТОДИЧНИЙ ПІДХІД ДО ХАРАКТЕРИСТИКИ БЕЗПЕКОВОГО СЕРЕДОВИЩА

Анотація. Наукова стаття розкриває актуальність теми дослідження, зумовлену збройною агресією росії проти України та глобальними загрозами, які негативно впливають на вітчизняне суспільство. Основний фокус наукової розвідки зосереджує увагу на необхідності розвитку та удосконалення безпекової діяльності, яка зіштовхується з практичними викликами щодо пошуку ефективних безпекових механізмів у державі для формування безпекового середовища з огляду на сучасні реалії та потреби. У дослідженні проведено ретельний теоретичний аналіз підходів до трактування терміну «безпекове середовище», який складається із складових компонентів «безпека» та «середовище», і запропоновано чіткі визначення для цих понять. Аналізуючи підходи до трактування поняття «безпека» вітчизняними науковцями, автори виявляють, що соціальне середовище включає макро- та мікрорівні складові, які охоплюють політичну, соціальну та духовну сфери. Наведено різні типи життєвих середовищ: безпечне, небезпечне та безпекове, де останнє містить механізми захисту від існуючих та потенційних загроз. Запропоновано класифікацію загроз за ступенем прогнозованості та ліквідності, що зумовлює різні підходи до усвідомлення суті та призначення безпекової діяльності. Розроблено авторський науково-методичний підхід до характеристики безпекового середовища, який передбачає різні види безпекової діяльності – проактивну, реактивну та паліативну безпекову діяльність, що відрізняються за методами протидії різним типам загроз. Пропонований підхід спрямований на вдосконалення безпекових систем на різних рівнях і подолання поточних безпекових викликів. Він також ставить акцент на інтеграцію безпекової діяльності в соціально-політичні та економічні процеси, що відбуваються в Україні, і на глобальному рівні. Таким чином, запропонований підхід забезпечує теоретичну базу для подальших досліджень та розробки практичних заходів із посилення безпеки держави та формування безпекового середовища, закладаючи основу для стійкого розвитку та підтримки стабільності в умовах сучасних викликів і загроз.

Ключові слова: загроза, ризики, безпекове середовище, небезпечне середовище, безпечне середовище.

Introduction. Modern threats, especially existential ones, caused by Russia's armed aggression, have a significant negative impact on all spheres of public life and the national interests of Ukraine. Therefore, they highlight the need for a deeper and more detailed study of the concepts of "security" and "security environment", and, accordingly, the practical problems of ensuring security, the effectiveness of security activities and the formation of a security environment.

It is worth emphasizing that security activities involve countering threats. However, security policy and security activities in Ukraine were not the main priority of state-building activities in the pre-war period. Given this, not only were effective security mechanisms not formed, but some of them, on the contrary, were destroyed or brought to such a state that their effective application is impossible. Accordingly, more attention should be paid not only to theoretical

but also theoretical and practical aspects of the formation of security mechanisms in the state, increasing the effectiveness of security activities in various spheres of public activity to counteract existing and potential threats. It is this vector of state policy that will contribute to the formation of a security environment, and therefore to the effective development of the state.

Considerable attention of scientists has been attracted by the direction of research and establishment of the essence of the concepts of “threat”, “danger”, and “risk” [6; 13; 14]. The term “security environment” consists of two key components: “security” and “environment”. A detailed analysis of approaches to the interpretation of these concepts has made it possible to form a clear understanding of the general term. In a broad sense, the environment is defined as the social and everyday conditions of human life [7]. Some scientists interpret the security environment as a part of the living space, which reflects human achievements in the field of socio-political, spiritual-material and intellectual values, which, in turn, form the worldview and behavior in the surrounding space [5; 10]. Accordingly, scientists emphasize that the social environment generally encompasses the political, social and spiritual spheres, but it should be divided into macro- and micro-levels [9; 11]. So, the macro level contains material, cultural, and political components, while the micro level concerns individual living conditions and environments.

According to security scientists [14–16], the security environment can generally be described as an environment in which various potential and real threats exist. At the same time, the state, society, organizations and individuals have the necessary resources and methods to counter these threats. On the one hand, this term refers to the availability of tools and opportunities to protect society and the state, on the other, the result of the efforts of various organizations and people aimed at neutralizing dangers. Accordingly, the key components of the security environment are those conditions and relationships that ensure the protection of the interests of a person, organization, society and the state to support their vital activity and resilience to threats.

Scientists have studied theoretical and methodological approaches to the formation of a security environment [1; 2], as well as approaches to assessing the security environment in modern conditions of armed conflict [5]. An important area of scientific research has become ways to ensure food security in Ukraine [4] and counteract the economy offshoring [3; 8] as important directions for the formation of a security environment.

It is worth noting that among representatives of the public and the scientific community, there is no unity in the interpretation of the concept of “security environment”. Moreover, sometimes this term is used in quite different meanings and variations. The need for such a study is because at all levels of government and business, security terms are used arbitrarily. This leads to different interpretations and perceptions of their content, which negatively affects lawmaking, organization and planning of security measures at different levels. Therefore, it is important to form a clear understanding of the concept of “security environment”, to determine its structure and related concepts, as well as to specify the logical and semantic connections between them. Such an approach will form the basis for the further development of theoretical and applied areas of scientific research on the study of ways to form the security environment of the state. For a deeper understanding of the essence of the security environment, its function, place and significance in modern security science, it is necessary to carry out a more thorough theoretical analysis, conducting a structuring and functional characterization of the security environment.

Materials and methods. To achieve the goal of the study, several general scientific research methods were used. In particular, the synthesis method was used to combine scientific ideas, concepts and analysis results into a single holistic system in the developed theoretical and methodological approach, which helped to create a consistent classification of the security environment and types of security activities. The method of theoretical analysis to characterize approaches to the classification of environments, made it possible to determine the

key concepts and parameters based on which a new classification of the security environment was proposed. The method of comparative analysis is to classify threats in different types of environments and to analyze the differences between different types of security activities. This made it possible to separate threat classes based on their predictability and liquidity. Methods of deduction and theoretical generalization to form general conclusions and generalizations based on the research conducted, made it possible to determine general patterns and basic principles of security science.

Results. As a result of the theoretical analysis of scientific research [1–4; 13–16], we conclude that the vital environment can be classified into three types:

- safe – indicates conditions that provide for the absence of risks to human life, health and well-being;

- dangerous – contains serious threats or risks that can negatively affect the individual, these can be armed conflicts, extreme natural phenomena, economic crises and other factors that threaten the safety and well-being of people;

- security – a hybrid type that contains protection mechanisms and tactics for countering potential or real threats, in this type of environment, attention is focused on active efforts aimed at ensuring security, which implies the presence of a management strategy and risk reduction.

A graphical visualization of the security type of the environment is presented in Figure 1.

Based on this position, the natural environment (in its original form) can acquire a safe and dangerous type. Instead, the safe type of environment is possible not within the limits of individual types of the environment (natural, social, man-made environment), but for social

and man-made environment types, as well as in terms of subtypes of the environment:

- ✓ socio-natural (socio-ecological);
- ✓ ecological-economic;
- ✓ man-made environment-ecological.

Accordingly, the natural environment and human, as a part of it, function within the limits of these laws, which makes it possible to distinguish two conclusions (axioms) on which the proposed theoretical and methodological approach will be based:

- ✓ natural environment – objectively exists, man is part of this environment and exists within the limits of objectively existing laws of development, accordingly, types of environment can be considered only from the position of a human-centric approach (the environment can be safe or dangerous only from the point of view of human perception);

- ✓ striving to ensure own safety, human created a social and man-made environment, respectively, it is these two types of environment that can acquire a security type.

Accordingly, the following algorithm is proposed for the implementation of the proposed theoretical and methodological approach to the characterization of the human life environment:

- to characterize the ecological and economic security environment;
- to classify security activities taking into account different classes of threats, which requires:
 - implementation of the theoretical characterization of security activities;
 - carrying out a critical and comparative analysis of approaches to the classification of threats according to the main criteria and substantiation of the feasibility of their classification depending on the degree of predictability and the level of liquidity;



Figure 1. Graphical representation of the security environment

Source: developed by authors

– designing a threat classification system in terms of the liquidity and predictability criteria of threats, dividing them into classes.

So, the most acceptable for security analysis, which will ensure the consideration of a wide range of influencing factors, is the subspecies of the ecological and economic environment. Therefore, the ecological and economic environment, which can be of different types – safe, dangerous and security, was chosen for further analysis. It is also worth noting that the outlined classification is carried out at the macro level. That is, at the level of forming a secure ecological and economic environment.

To substantiate the feasibility of using the proposed scientific and methodological approach to characterizing the security environment in theory and practice, it is worth more carefully characterizing security activity, its theoretical content and its role.

In the theory of security science, security activity is interpreted as an activity aimed at ensuring the security of a system, state or individual. Based on the essence and content of threats and dangers, it is worth noting that security activity also takes on different types, depending on the goals of the activity. That is, security activity includes various mechanisms, or at least one of them (prevention, detection and elimination of threats). In the case of the implementation of these threats, it also provides for recovery mechanisms that ensure the restoration of processes, functions and integrity of the system, as well as compensation for the damage caused. The main goal of such activity is to ensure the integrity of the system and protect various interests, in particular private, corporate, public and national. It is worth paying attention to the fact that there are different types of threats and approaches to their classification. Having analyzed theoretical approaches to the

classification of threats [5; 6; 11], we come to the conclusion that no classification would provide for the division of threats into types, depending on the degree of predictability and the possibility of eliminating threats and/or the consequences of their manifestation, which are key criteria. Given this situation, we consider it appropriate to classify threats according to these two criteria: the degree of predictability and liquidity. The results of the classification are presented in Table 1.

As a result of the classification, threats are divided into 4 types. Such a classification of threats according to key criteria allows us to rethink the content of security activities depending on the types of threats. After all, its main content is to counteract threats to ensure the progressive and effective development of the system and the formation of a security environment. The classification of types of security activities demonstrated the presence of threats that cannot be predicted and eliminated – unforeseeable-illiquid threats, as well as the type of threats – predictable-illiquid.

Given this approach to the classification of threats, it is also worth presenting the types of security activities, depending on the types of threats. So, the types of security activities are proposed to be presented as follows:

- proactive (aimed at counteracting predicted-liquid threats);
- reactive (aimed at counteracting unforeseeable-liquid threats);
- palliative (aimed at counteracting predicted-illiquid and unpredictable-illiquid threats).

The proposed classification involves the introduction of a new term into the theory of security studies – palliative security activities. This necessity is due to the proposed list of types of security activities. Let us dwell in more detail on the essence of the listed types of security activities (Fig. 2).

Table 1

Threats classification depending on the degree of predictability and level of liquidity

	possible to predict	impossible to predict
possible to eliminate (threats and consequences of manifestation)	forecasted-liquid	unforeseeable-liquid
impossible to eliminate (threats and consequences of manifestation)	forecasted-illiquid	unforeseeable-illiquid

Source: developed by authors

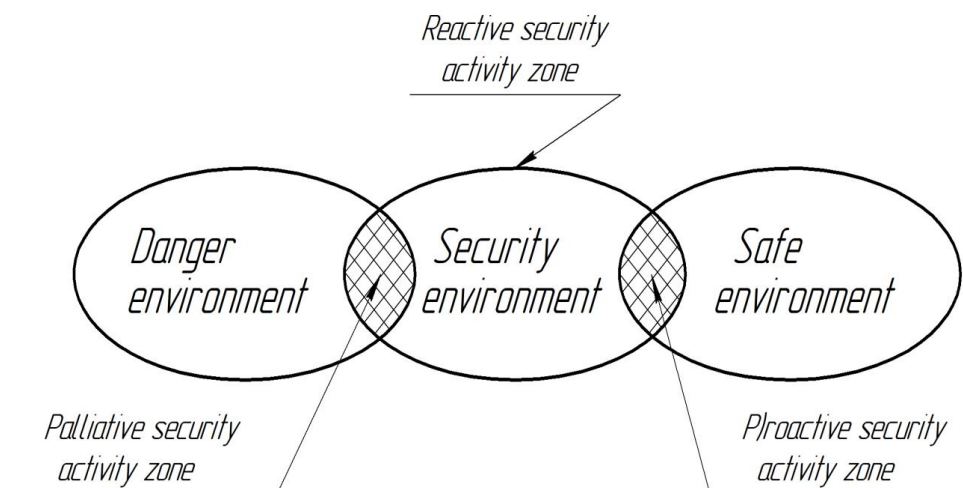


Figure 2. Visualization of the security environment and types of security activities

Source: developed by authors

Therefore, countering threats that are predictable and liquid involves the use of security mechanisms that consist of preventing, detecting and eliminating threats to the security environment. Such a list of security mechanisms forms the corresponding type of security activity – proactive. The essence of proactive security activity is to focus on early identification and prevention of threats and risks before they appear. Such activity involves regular monitoring, assessment of potential dangers, and preparation and implementation of preventive measures. In the event of an imminent danger, planning and implementation of measures to eliminate them (Fig. 3). After all, if threats are predictable and liquid, then their implementation and manifestation are caused by ineffective security activities. Accordingly, the main goal of proactive security activity is to ensure the security of the environment by responding promptly to potential threats. Given the “nature” of class 1 threats (forecasted-liquid), proactive security activities are aimed at countering them.

The essence of reactive security activities is to counter threats of the 2nd class, i.e. unpredictable-liquid. Its main goal is to respond to threats and dangers that have already materialized. This type of security activity mainly involves the use of mechanisms for detecting and eliminating threats, which requires analyzing the causes of events and implementing corrective measures

to reduce the likelihood of similar threats and dangers in the future. The main focus of reactive security activities is on reducing damage and restoring the normal functioning of the system or environment after the implementation of threats.

To counter threats of the 3rd (predicted-illiquid) and 4th (unpredicted-illiquid) classes, a palliative type of security activity is used. The essence of palliative security activities is to implement measures that help reduce negative impacts on environmental security where their

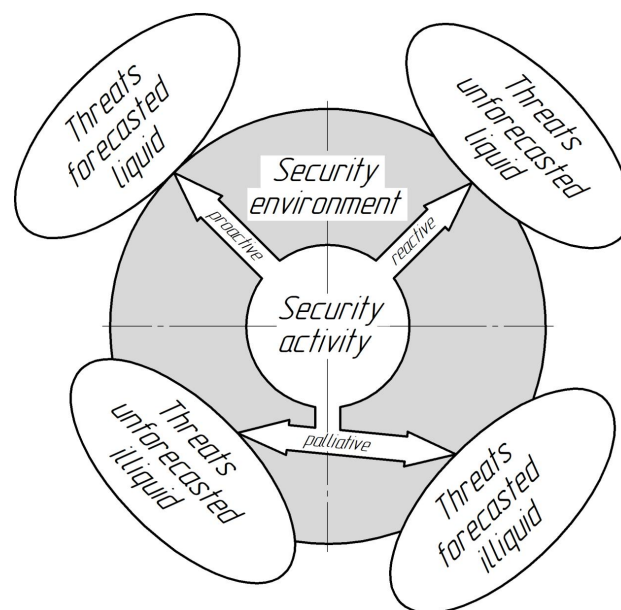


Figure 3. Visualization of security activities depending on different threat classes

Source: developed by authors

complete elimination is impossible. This type of security activity focuses on reducing risks and minimizing possible losses, not always striving to completely solve the problem due to resource limitations or other factors. The main goal of such measures is to achieve the maximum possible environmental safety and comfort in the implementation of illiquid threats or crisis situations.

For example, manifestations of illiquid threats of the 3rd and 4th class may be the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, environmental disasters, the demographic situation in the state (the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic, significant migration volumes and low birth rates, which will have long-term negative consequences). The consequences of the implementation of these threats have a long-term effect and make it impossible to eliminate them quickly. As a result, security mechanisms and the system of security measures in general cannot counteract them and quickly eliminate them. This situation necessitates the need for special type of measures to minimize the negative impact, and maintain

the functioning of the system and the security environment. Accordingly, the type of security activity identified as palliative security activity is used.

Conclusions. Russia's armed aggression has created several existential threats to Ukrainian statehood. Therefore, it is now important to focus on detailing the concepts of "security" and "security environment", as well as on improving practical mechanisms for ensuring security. In Ukraine, there is confusion in the interpretation of security terms, which limits the effectiveness of the legislative process and planning of measures. It is important to develop a single understanding of the concepts to improve security activities.

The article proposes a theoretical and methodological approach to the characterization of the security environment, which involves the structuring of security activities depending on the parameters of predictability and liquidity of threats; within the framework of the proposed approach, classification of types of security activities depending on the types of threats is provided.

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