

IS MONEY LAUNDERING THE MAIN FUNDING SOURCE FOR SMUGGLING?

Ligita Gaspareniene*

Mykolas Romeris University, Ateities str. 20, Vilnius, Lithuania

Rita Remeikiene

Mykolas Romeris University, Ateities str. 20, Vilnius, Lithuania

Greta Gagyte

Mykolas Romeris University, Ateities str. 20, Vilnius, Lithuania

Published 21 September 2020

ABSTRACT

Money laundering is the process of hiding or disguising the unlawful origin of property and hiding or disguising the true nature, origin, source, location, disposal, ownership or title of property. In other words, money laundering means “laundering” dirty money until it becomes clean. Corrupt officials and other criminals use money laundering techniques to hide the true nature of their income. Research shows that cigarette smuggling is linked to money laundering. The purpose of the article is to determine how money laundering is related to cigarette smuggling and which public authorities have a key role in combating these phenomena in Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine and Serbia. Methods used in the study: Literature analysis and Focus group methodology. An effective factor in the fight against smuggling is to increase the population's intolerance to illicit goods and services, therefore, it will seek to extend the empirical study to the population's perspective on money laundering and cigarette smuggling.

Keywords: Money laundering, Cigarette smuggling.

*Correspondence to: Ligita Gaspareniene, Mykolas Romeris University, Ateities str. 20, Vilnius, Lithuania, E-mail: ligitagaspreniene@mruni.eu