



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE PREVENTION OF CYBERCRIME

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Abstract

This article examines the recent emergence of cybercrime as a global problem, the importance of international cooperation in society, the existing legal and operational processes, the fundamental challenges and their practical solutions. The main objection is to propose concrete measures at the legislative, practical, and policy levels in order to enhance the effectiveness of national institutions and international structures.

Keywords: Cybercrime, fraud, international cooperation, practical solutions.

Introduction

Cybercrimes-such as fraud, ransomware, data theft, and DDoS attacks-are transnational in nature. These crimes are often carried out through networks, hosting providers, and payment channels operating in different countries, therefore, domestic measures alone are not sufficient and international cooperation is essential. In recent years, we have increasingly witnessed such cases in our society. The main sources of these processes are social networks, various providers, and bank card accounts. The theft and unlawful seizure of valuable data and information by cybercriminals can lead to global problems. However, it is impossible for a single state to resolve this issue on its own. Only through joint efforts across society can effective solutions be found. These processes are realized through fundamental documents and legal frameworks [1]. Two main legal instruments exist: the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime and the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs). Among the most important is the Budapest Convention, which aims to harmonize national legislation, establish



procedures for collecting electronic evidence, and create a foundation for direct cooperation among partners.

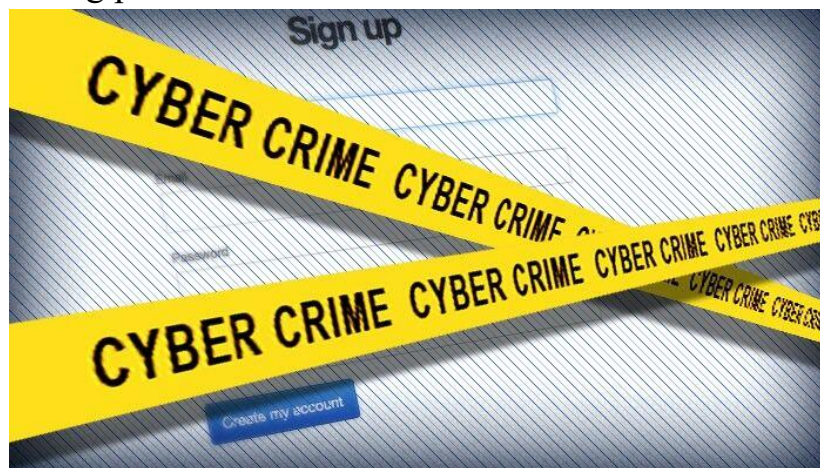


Figure 1. Cybercrime in data theft

The primary purpose of this convention is to ensure international cooperation in the social sphere. By consolidating various materials, it fosters joint actions. The Budapest legal instrument serves as both a form of operational cooperation and a legislative model for most countries. Different societies unite on the bases of this convention's legal principles in order to address the global problem. Other important framework include UNODC, various regional instruments, as well as Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) between states. The convention is used for legal assistance, the collection of requests and facts, as well as the transmission of emails and other forms of communication. However, in practice, delays, setbacks, and failures are often encountered. This demonstrates that the convention may not provide a comprehensive solution to all issues [2].

International organizations and regional centers play a central role in launching actions and facilitating information exchange against cybercrime. Examples include Interpol, Europol, and regional operations. These organizations coordinate the processes of processing, collecting, and implementing information. Interpol, as a global operations coordinator, carries out activities aimed at preventing the majority of fraud cases. In recent years, reports have highlighted thousands of arrests and the exposure of operations worth millions of dollars. Europol and Eurojust provide expertise at the European level in



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intelligence sharing, coordination, and and prosecutorial work. Europol's IOCTA reports annually assess trends and priority threats. The organization primarily functions on an annual scale, consolidating reports of all fraud and cybercrime incidents that occur throughout the year within its scope of activities. Statistics indicate that, in recent times, 43% of cybercrimes have manifested in the form of data theft. Another important legal initiative carried out in West Africa and other parts of Africa is regional operations [3].

These initiatives monitor and demonstrate the outcomes of operations conducted between local and international agencies. Such operations require close cooperation not only with law enforcement authorities but also with the private sector (including security companies, hosting services, and service providers). As with all processes, this one also faces a number of challenges. Legal Harmonization and Divergent Legislations. The Budapest Convention cannot resolve all issues, primarily because not all countries are parties to it. Each country has its own approach to combating cybercrime and imposes different penalties. As a result, difficulties and challenges arise in the collection of evidence and during judicial proceedings. MLATs: Delays and Bureaucratic Barriers. Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties (MLATs) are often slow and hindered by bureaucracy. Consequently, live evidence may be lost, or the accessibility of crucial data may be diminished. The international community has emphasized the importance of modernizing MLAT processes.

Technical Challenges. Encryption, data localization, and cloud services present further obstacles. Data may be stored across multiple jurisdictions, and the legal status of service providers, as well as the use of encryption, raise legal and ethical concerns. Resources and Capacity Gaps. Law enforcement agencies in developing countries, in particular, often have limited capacity in digital forensics and cyber capabilities. Reports by INTERPOL and other organizations frequently highlight these gaps. Solutions Alongside Challenges. Despite the difficulties, there are also solutions. One of the main approaches is legislative harmonization and regional agreements. Within this framework, the Budapest Convention can be complemented by regional treaties, creating additional mechanisms that allow for broader application of its principles. Modernization of MLATs and Rapid Request Mechanisms. Improving MLATs through electronic requests, priority



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“emergency” procedures, and the standardization of technical formats can reduce delays. International organizations consider the enhancement of MLAT processes a priority. Information Sharing and Public–Private Partnerships. Mechanisms for real-time information exchange with security companies, ISPs, and financial institutions increase both the speed and efficiency of reporting. Operations conducted by INTERPOL and Europol demonstrate the effectiveness of such cooperation and accelerate the processing of cases[4].

Capacity Building and Technical Assistance. Regular training programs, regional forensic laboratories, and information-sharing platforms are of vital importance for smaller countries. INTERPOL and UN bodies implement various projects in this field. Legal and Ethical Balancing. Another important solution lies in striking a balance between personal data protection and combating crime. Clear legal mechanisms are needed to address this issue. New technologies—such as artificial intelligence—must be considered within legal regulation. Given the increasing use of AI in society, its role has become particularly significant[5].

Conclusion. The effective prevention of cybercrime is possible not only at the national level but also through international cooperation. Thanks to such cooperation, the joint unity of all spheres of society can help address these challenges. As with any legal instrument, there are both advantages and limitations. Solutions can be found through the equal participation of all states. The Budapest Convention, INTERPOL, Europol, and regional operations provide successful examples; however, the improvement of MLATs, legal harmonization, capacity building, and the strengthening of public–private partnerships remain critical areas. Consistent policies and practical measures in these directions will enhance national security and international justice. Strengthening international justice, in turn, will make it possible to prevent global cybercrime.

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