ILLEGAL MIGRATION
APPROACH FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF
OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE (OSINT)

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ABSTRACT:
THE SECOND DECADE OF THE 21ST CENTURY IS MARKED BY THE INCREASE IN THE MAGNITUDE OF THE MIGRATION PHENOMENON, WHICH IS WHY INTELLIGENCE SERVICES ARE FACED WITH VARIOUS CHALLENGES.
OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE (OSINT) IS TRANSLATED INTO EFFECTIVE WORKING METHODS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELEVANT INFORMATION PRODUCTS. IN STUDYING THIS PHENOMENON, WE PROPOSE TO PRESENT THE CONCEPTUAL DELIMITATIONS OF THOSE USED CONCEPTS, NAMELY MIGRATION AND OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION, AS WELL AS TO ANALYZE THE INTERDEPENDENCIES BETWEEN THEM, ESPECIALLY FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MEDIA AND SOCIAL MEDIA.
OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE ARE NOW HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO PUT INTO PRACTICE THE PARADIGM OF OPENNESS THAT CHARACTERIZES CONTEMPORARY INTELLIGENCE. INCLUDING THE SENSITIVE AREA OF MIGRATION, IT IS NOTED THAT THE COLLABORATION IS INTENSIFYING AND DIVERSIFYING AT ALL LEVELS OF COMMUNICATION, USING ALL THE POSSIBLE TOOLS, FROM THE RAW DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS TO THE SHARING OF EXPERTISE AND TECHNOLOGY.
 (MAX. 250 WORDS)

KEYWORDS: MIGRATION; INTELLIGENCE; INFORMATION; OSINT (3-5 WORDS)

INTRODUCTION

We are witnessing today a large scale of the phenomenon of illegal migration; the approach on migration as a result of globalization tends to be in the field of history and has posed the problem, indefinitely, under the sign of instability, conflict and crime. Migration has become one of the most serious societal challenges; in the actual international context, illegal migration is part of the organized crime, representing the main risk factors on the national and global security. Proliferation of this phenomenon conducts to political, economic instability, because of the increasing corruption at any level with various effects inside the social life.

Illegal migration causes job instability, the strengthening of the underground economy, proliferation of organized crime. Combating the phenomenon of illegal migration represents a

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challenge for the intelligence services and becomes one of the main directions of actions of state authorities, both from migrant and transit countries from destination countries.

The importance of open sources information has increased as the information globalization expanded. A relevant experiment conducted by the American intelligence community revealed the importance of open source information in security field. This experiment from 1995, which is well-known in the open sources information field, had as a lead actor the researcher Robert David Steele[2], a pioneer and a consequent militant for the OSINT role. In 1995 The Aspin-Brown Commission[3], formally titled The Commission on the Roles and Capabilities of the United States Intelligence Community[4] was charged with reviewing the entire US international community and the experiment was suggested named open sources against secret sources[5]. Rober David Steele and his team obtained more information from open sources comparing with those who had access to secret sources about an impromptu question, Burundi in August of 1995: "Overnight, I got information with six phone calls. From Oxford Analytica, I got political military studies on Burundi; from Eastview Publications, I got Russian military maps of Burundi; from Spot Image, I got commercial imagery of Burundi, cloud-free, less than three years old; from Janes Information Group, I got order of battle information for the tribes, at a time when governments were only following the Burundi army; from Lexis-Nexis, the top ten journalists in the world, immediately available for debriefing; and from the Institute of Scientific Information, the top ten academics in the world, immediately available for debriefing. In other words, by knowing who knows what in the private sector, with six phone calls I was able to assemble a team that was vastly superior in knowledge about Burundi than any government intelligence community in the world"[6]. The conclusion was that open sources is important in intelligence activity. Robert David Steele considers that the big important value of OSINT is that is not expensive, because money corrupts, so is an absolute good, in part that is not expensive. His opinion is that OSINT has the capacity to educate[7] giving arguments in this way which he formulated with Alvin Toffler,

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[2] Robert David Steele is co-founder of the Information Warfare Conference, founder of the Open Source Solutions Conference, invited lecturer world-wide on topics of Cyber, Open Source Intelligence (OSINT), (All-Source) Intelligence Reform, and Applied Collective Intelligence inclusive of holistic analytics, true cost economics, and Open Source Everything Engineering (OSEE) focused on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), accessed June 12, 2019, https://robertdavidsteele.com/.

[3] The Aspin-Brown Commission was approved on 30 September 1994 as a bioartisan "Commission on the Roles and Capabilities of the United States Intelligence Community" and the president signed the bill on 14 October, setting a 1 March 1996 deadline for the panel's report. The incident that initially drove the establishment of the Aspin-Brown commission in 1994 was the military encounter in Mogadishu, Somalia, in October 1993 in which the soldiers of a Somali warlord killed 18 US Special Forces soldiers in an intense firefight. It was commissioned by United Stated Congress after the National Security Act of 1992 failed to be passed. The report was released in 1996, accessed June 13, 2019, https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/csi-studies/studies/vol48no3/article01.html.

[4] Johnson K Loch "The Aspin-Brown Intelligence Inquiry: Behind the Closed Doors of a Blie Ribbon Commission", accessed June 13, 2019, https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/csi-studies/studies/vol48no3/article01.html and L Britt Snider, "A Different Angle of the Aspin-Brown Commision", accessed June 13, 2019, https://www.cia.gov/library/center-for-the-study-of-intelligence/csi-publications/csi-studies/studies/vol49no1/html_files/different_angle_11.htm.

[5] Ella Magdalena Ciupercă and Ştefan Vlăduţescu, *Securitatea naţională şi manipularea opiniei publice*, (Bucureşti: Editura Didactică şi Pedagogică, 2010), 36.

[6] "Interview: Robert D. Steele", Frontline, , accessed March 9, 2019,
https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/hackers/interviews/steele.html.

[7] Roberts David Steele,"Open Source Intelligence, Seminar on Open Source Intelligent at Royal Danish Defence College", accessed April 21, 2019, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p9qLlSSHo7I

in order to sustain the fact that communication without intelligence is noise and intelligence without communication is irrelevant.

The author believes that the number of illegal migrants will reach 20 million over the next 5 to 10 years. Actually, in his second book[8] he predicted the phenomenon of illegal migration which we are witnesses today. In this context of illegal migration, he considers every human being as a source and he insist on the ethic aspect of open sources information: truth, transparency and trust, adding that OSINT is a foundation for enhancing integrity in all source intelligence and command.

Although there are many studies and research in the field of migration and OSINT, we found that the interrelation between the phenomenon of migration and the influence of open sources of information is very little present in the literature or in some studies. The influence of OSINT on the migration phenomenon is evident in the current informational context, our research having the precise purpose of demonstrating the usefulness of information from open sources in the process of managing migration, but also the effects it produces. Inside open sources information, media and social media have an important contribution on disseminating information to the public, as well to the other structures interested in public information. In all its forms, media coverage relates to the wider world, providing important sources of information that affect the way people act and think or how the agendas are prioritized by policymakers, also how migrants make decisions[9]. To formulate viable conclusions, our analyze presents few important theoretical delimitations of those two concepts, based on the actual status of specialized literature. Our research will demonstrate the tight interdependencies between the information from open sources, as part of intelligence products, in the process of combating the negative effects of illegal migration.

MIGRATION/ILLEGAL MIGRATION. CONCEPTUAL DELIMITATION

In order to analyze the effects of migration and illegal migration is necessary to define the term. The Explanatory Dictionary of Romanian Language defines migration as being "the mass movement of tribes or populations from one territory to another, determined by economic, social, political or natural factors[10]. Another definition is offered by the Cambridge Academic Content Dictionary: "movement from one region to another and often back again"[11]. From the sociological perspective, migration is "a complex phenomenon, which consists of moving of people from one territorial area to another, followed by change domicile and/or engaging in a form of activity in the area or arrival[12]. From a demographic perspective, by reference to a population once, we can observe two forms of migration: immigration and emigration, as a set of inputs and outputs of the persons. In fact, any migrant is at the same time an immigrant, for the destination country, and emigrant for the country of origin. Another definition important for our study is given by UNESCO: "any person who lives temporarily or permanently in a

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[8] Roberts David Steele, *The New Craft of Intelligence: Personal, Public&Political-Citizen`s Action Handbook for Fighting Terrorism, Genocide, Disease, Toxic Bombs&Corruption,* (AFCEA International Press, 2000), 128-134.
[9] "World Migration Report 2018", International Organization for Migration, , p. 199, accessed April 22, 2019, https://www.iom.int/wmr/world-migration-report-2018.
[10] Ion Coteanu, Luiza Seche and Mircea Seche, *Dicționarul explicativ al limbii române, Ediția a II-a,* (București: Univers Enciclopedic Gold, 2016), 720.
[11]"Cambridge Dictionary", accessed April 16, 2019,
https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/migration.
[12] Traian Rotariu, "Migrație", *Sociology Dictionnaire*, (1998): 351-353.

country where he was not born and who acquired some significant social connections with this country"[13].

Illegal migration is a specific form of organized crime that, due to its recorded amplitude and improved performance, has direct consequences on the economic, social and security situation inside the transit countries of migrants or refugees and from the countries of destination. In the actual context, it is important to clarify the difference between the terms refugee and migrant.

Refugees are persons who, due to justified fears of being persecuted by reason of their race, religion, nationality, belonging to a particular social group or their political opinions, are outside the country of whose nationality they have and cannot or, by reason of this, do not want the protection of this country, or who, having no citizenship and being outside their country of habitual residence as a result of such events, cannot or, due to that fear, do not want to return[14]. From the perspective on international public law, the main documents that aimed on protecting refugees involve the UN Refugee Agency through the 1951 Refugee Convention, ratified by 145 states to which is added 1976 Protocol (which removed the geographic and temporal limits of the 1951 Convention[15]. The document called Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees[16] states the role of UNHCR in promoting international instruments for the protection of refugees and supervising their application.

Migrants are those persons who intend to leave definitively in the state of origin in order to settle in another State and who effectively leave the territory of the state of origin[17]. The essential element of their definition is the ultimate departure intention. This phenomenon requires two components, emigration and immigration, both of which are governed by both national laws and by international law. Migrants generally choose to move to other countries to improve their living and education. If they want to return to their home country, they will continue to benefit from the protection of their government. Migration destination countries apply their immigration laws and processes.

Causes of migration are different, such as armed conflicts, economic deprivations, natural disasters, serious and massive human rights violations. People who migrate for reasons other than persecution are not refugees within the meaning of the 1951 Convention. These people are sometimes called de facto or economic refugees, because they do not abandon their country of origin because of the persecution, but because of the desire to have better conditions of life. Others, called ecological refugees, leave their country as a result of natural disasters, to which refugees are added because of armed conflicts, but neither, nor others, can motivate migration because of persecution[18].

OPEN SOURCE INTELLIGENCE (OSINT). CONCEPTUAL DELIMITATION

The field of intelligence has been overwhelmingly influenced by the changes that have characterized the security environment in recent years, which is why there is a reorientation of

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[13]"Migrant/Migration", United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, accessed March 12, 2019,http://www.unesco.org/new/en/social-and-human-sciences/themes/international-migration/glossary/migrant/.

[14] Stelian Scăunaș, *Drept intenaţional public, Ediţia 2,* (București: C.H. Beck, 2007), 228.

[15]"Protocol Relation to the Status of Refugees, 16 December 1966"*,* UN General Assembly, accessed March 12, 2019, https://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f1cc50.html.

[16] "Convention and Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees", United Nation Refugees Agency, available on https://www.unhcr.org/3b66c2aa10, accessed March 12, 2019

[17] Scăunaş, *Drept intenaţional public,* 230-231

[18] Stelian Scăunaş, *Introducere în studiul dreptului internaţional public şi al dreptului Uniunii Europene,* (Sibiu: Burg, 2008), 79.

research in this area to identify better formulas to capitalize on the existing potential. The USA Information Community established first steps in conceptual delimitation, making the difference between Open Source Information (OSINF) and the information obtained through these. OSINF represents the data available to the public, which could be electronic or printed and can be transmitted via television, radio, newspapers, databases, and portable media. These can be propagated to a broad audience, to heterogeneous public specific within mass-media, but also to well-defined groups. Specifically, OSINF is information that does not involve any specific activity of collecting classified information. Trying to complete this approach, Robert David Steele takes also into consideration the information from other technical means, as image satellites, because of the importance of unpublished materials obtained on legal and ethical grounds, such as electronic form erudite knowledge. This researcher identified the main component of open sources:

- All data in public circulation which can be legally obtained by any person on request or by direct observation;
- Data that have a limited circulation but can be used in an unclassified context without compromising national security. The author insist on the importance of human resources in the field of open sources information; he establish 10 targets as purposes for OSINT starting from the facts that the actual threats to the security field are asymmetrical and that open sources information has the most important role in decisions support for intelligence, to establish strategies and policies. Another classification belongs to Ian Wing, who makes the distinction between the information from open sources (OSI) and the classified information from open sources (OSINT)[19].

NATO Open Source Intelligence Handbook presents four distinct categories of open information and intelligence:

- Open Source Data (OSD) – data is the raw print, broadcast, oral debriefing or other form of information from a primary source. It can be a photograph, a tape recording, a commercial satellite image, or a personal letter from an individual;
- Open Source Information (OSIF) – OSIF is comprised of data that can be put together, generally by an editorial process that provides some filtering and validation as well as presentation management, being a generic information that is usually widely disseminated, such as newspapers, books, broadcast, general daily reports;
- Open Source Intelligence (OSINT) – OSINT is information that has been deliberately discovered, discriminated, distilled and disseminated to a select audience, generally the commander and their immediate staff, in order to address a specific question; it applies the proven process of intelligence to the broad diversity of open sources of information, and creates intelligence;
- Validated OSINT (OSINT-V) – OSINT-V is information to which a very high degree of certainty can be attributed. In can be produced by an all-source intelligence professional, which access to classified intelligence sources, whether working for a nation of for a coalition staff, also come from an assured open source to which no question can be raised concerning its validity (images of an aircraft arriving at an airport that are broadcast over the media)[20].

Categories of open sources contain:

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[19] Ian Wing, *Optimizing Open Source Information,* (Canberra: University College, 1999), 45.
[20] "NATO Open Source Intelligence Handbook"*,* p.2, accessed March 17, 2019, http://www.oss.net/dynamaster/file_archive/030201/ca5fb66734f540fbb4f8f6ef759b258c/NATO%20OSINT%20Handbook%20v1.2%20-%20Jan%202002.pdf.

- Public data as authorities reports, official data about budget, demographic data etc. These official public information sources are important from the perspective of the information guaranteed by the sender authority, being characterized by exact data, objectivity, and transparency[21];
- Traditional media such as press agencies, publications, radio, television represents the main provider of data inside the process of obtaining information from open sources;
- Libraries;
- New media and internet such as social networks, virtual worlds, photo-video portals, wiki encyclopedias, blogs, podcasts, online radio, online extensions of traditional media, specialized information and analysis groups, online libraries[22].

INTERDEPENDENCIES BETWEEN OSINT AND ILLEGAL MIGRATION

Relating to illegal migration phenomenon, open sources of information could offer information regarding the evolution from the origin countries, about the travel routes of immigrants, about the identification data of the registered immigrants in the reception centers. The main source of information comes from the international, regional or national organizations, such as the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), Eurostat, Eurobarometer, Europol, Interpol. Some of the advantages of the information from these open sources are that are relevant, accurate, in the form of databases, aspects well known by beneficiaries of OSINT. For example, Frontex had an initiative on October 2018 named "Invitation to Industry-Forecasting changes in the migration flows using Open Sources"[23]. The purpose was to explore the connection between open source data and migrant flow changes in a geographical context: places, routes and transit hubs. This initiative is a short review of how open sources information could contributes to final intelligence products, revealing data about discovering and assessing social media sentiment evolution related to migration flows, focusing in transit intentions in predefined tome periods; detecting places, routes and transit hubs where flow changes occurred; identify positive/negative sentiment and whether if social media posts refers to a legal or illegal activity; retrieve social media content to enhance the situational picture integrating, whenever possible, real time information, like time and location of migrants departure.

In this context, in the 2018 Consolidated Annual Activity Report of Europol it is shown that "in order to expand the Operational Centre's capabilities and be able to monitor open sources, including social media, licenses for a new tool were procured and the analysts in the Operational Centre made use. This software allows monitoring incidents in and outside Europe and alerting the concerned units at Europol[24]. In this report, as a prioritized initiatives is highlighted the need to improve processing of large volumes of data and varied types of data collected within operations and from open sources.

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[21]Ciupercă and Vlăduțescu, *Securitatea,* 13-18.

[22] Marius Sebe (coord.), *Open Source Intelligence,* Universitatea (București: 2010), 9, accessed 13 March, 2019, https://www.academia.edu/4547633/curs_OSINT.

[23]"Invitation to Industry-Forecasting changes in the migration flows using Open Sources", Frontex, accessed March 16, 2019, https://frontex.europa.eu/research/invitations/invitation-to-industry-forecasting-changes-in-the-migration-flows-using-open-sources-7uzal2.

[24]"2018 Consolidated Annual Activity Report Europol Public Information", Europol Public Information, 99, accessed June 7, https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/consolidated-annual-activity-report-caar-2018.

Other important open sources for the intelligence analysts regarding illegal migration is represented by the mass communication represented by mass-media, as well as the traditional – written press, radio and television, but also new media.

From our point of view, from media perspectives, there are some issues that could create disadvantages; media is more interested in presenting the sensational news, no matter what the subject is. Especially inside the illegal migration phenomenon, there are subjects that attract the audience, because of the delicate context. More than the sensationalism that characterizes the press; the entire migration phenomenon brings negative aspects that are more tasted by the public. In this context of illegal migration, violence and images with kids have a big effect, because of the social implication. Violence in news programs could exists – theoretically approach – only if brings a relevant information for some social themes or if is necessary to signal and to become aware of a hazard or a general risk, individually or collectively

For monitoring the illegal migration phenomenon an important source is social media. Social media have created a de-territorialized social space that facilitates communication among geographically dispersed people in migrant networks. Through internet applications, the users of the social media primarily generate their content. The concept of social media thus refers not only to social network sites such as MySpace and Facebook, but also to forums, weblogs, YouTube, Twitter, and so on. In fact, to a certain extent many online applications have become social media because they allow user contributions and are useful for networking purposes[25].

Migrants' communication practices provide an excellent opportunity to explore community in the context of new social media. People vary in the extent to which new technologies might have consequences for their lives and social relationships. At one end of the spectrum are those who live in localities in which their interaction with significant others (such family, extended kin, neighbors, work colleagues) is largely face-to-face; for such people, the effect of new technologies on social life is minimal. Towards the other end of the spectrum are migrants who leave the communities in which they were born but who try to maintain contact with friends and relations that they have left behind. We consider that collecting the information from open sources is suitable for combating unconventional threats, such as phenomenon of migration and could help the intelligence services; one of the arguments is that in certain geographic areas where migration is manifested are not covered by traditional sources of intelligence; another argument is that could be more easily shared to the public and/or media in order to inform about a risk situation; also OSINT is cheaper than others sources and also is legal and ethical information.

The main link between illegal migration and OSINT is focused on the effects of this phenomenon, because in order to deal with, the institutions needs information. From our point of view the consequences are reflected in transnational organized crime networks, because of that illegal migration and refugee crisis represents an important issue regarding the regional security and the effects at national level. For example, traditional media in the United States and Europe often cast migration as an issue of law of order or security[26].

We have presented before the categories within OSINT; during our research we observed that the most popular is related to internet, as a social medium, in a continue evolution and finding new forms of diversity, that allows the communication process to become more

[25] Rianne Dekker and Godfried Engbersen, "How social media transform migrant networks and facilitate migration", *Global Networks. A journal of Transnational Affairs*, 14, 4, (2014), 403.

[26] Roberto Suro, *Introduction in Writing Immigration: Scholars and Journalists in Dialogue*, (Berkeley: University of Californa Press, 2011), 1-17

widespread. In this field, social media has the power to make possible the access to a wider range of individuals, being organized in sites by acquaintance and social media organized around communities of interest converge and overlap[27]. The same researchers consider that inside the migrants' networks the information regarding the imminent legislation, informal jobs, accommodation or illegal ways of crossing borders can spread very quickly, thus affecting migrants` migration strategy.

Continuing the idea, we consider that this part of information from open sources – social media – represents an informal instrument for the intelligence service in order to build a database, as a positive element inside the final intelligence product. Recent research proved that social media has the characteristic to establish a formal and efficient infrastructure in order to exchange social capital inside the migration networks. This kind of information has an important role in migration decision-making, helping potential migrants weigh up the costs and the benefits of migration[28], but also is important because of the data about the potential migrants.

Although, in this context we identified a negative part linked to the veracity of the information from social media and to the imminent characteristic or purpose of social media to manipulate. Social media is also a platform for exchanging the information between illegal migrants, on exchanging such information on mainstream migrants' networks, "but this was less common and there was a higher risk attached to the exchange of illegal information. Social media do not seem to operate at the expense of offline networks but they are an extension of them, with migrants making strategic use of available communication systems[29].

Importance of open source information as a mainly data for intelligence products is proved by the Europol 2018 Report. Particularly in the context of the migrant crisis, European Migration Smuggling Center increased the focus on tackling the production on fraudulent documents, disseminating several intelligence notification on document fraud about 14 investigation related the facilitation of illegal immigration, using also information from open sources. "Regarding the take down of online content related to the facilitation of illegal migration, Europol's European Union Internet Referral Unit closely cooperated with the European Migration Smuggling Center and Joint Operation Team to detect relevant content. In total, 805 contents were assessed by the European Union Internet Referral Unit which focused on a small number of accounts but provided actionable intelligence, with a rate of 98% successful removals of content. (…). European Asylum Support Office provided Europol with tailored made Social Media Monitoring Reports allowing the European Migration Smuggling Center to focus on platforms and content where smuggling was openly provided. The European Migration Smuggling Center delivered relevant intelligence reports and investigation initiation documents"[30].

The same approach is specific to the traditional and new media, too, negative or positive information about migration being products to delivery to the public. The RAPORT shows that "given the media's largely negative coverage of migration and the extent of its influence, raises the question of how media should talk about such a complicated, diverse issue. One perspective argues that the ability to try to convince others of our own views and beliefs

[27] Rianne and Godfried "How social", 408.

[28] Thomas Faist, Dynamics *of International Migration and Transnational Social Spaces*, (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2004), 112.

[29] Rianne and Godfried "How social", 404.

[30]Europol Public Information, *2018 Consolidated Annual Activity Report*, 34, https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/consolidated-annual-activity-report-caar-2018

is a fundamental characteristic of democratic societies (…). Therefore, we should acknowledge the media in all their forms as playing important roles in public debate[31].

Media information and social media information, as part of OSINT, must be evaluated also from the perspective of the fake news concept; "producing false or at least questionable information for political ends is a standard propaganda technique. Furthermore, it is not a single object, but rather many objects with many purposes, from information that may unintentionally mislead, and material deliberately constructed to deceive, to a label we may attribute, rightly or wrongly, to idea we strongly disagree with[32].

It is clear that the media contribute to our thinking about migration, but the extent to which they drive actions in any direction depends on many factors that vary in different context. Indeed, consensus about the power of the media has shifted over the decades.

Illegal migration, as a form of organized crime, has grown and has consequences on the security, economical and social fields in the migrant transit countries and also in the destination countries. In this context, information from open sources provides data about area with political and military instability in regions with migration potential, about the living standards, about the members of the criminal networks interested in obtaining substantial income. Regarding the security risks, the migration phenomenon is presented in media or inside the institutional reports, national, regional or international, that we consider an important public source of information. Recently, media proved a negative attitude toward this phenomenon, which contributed in a certain measure to internal social problems as social upheavals, xenophobia or ethnic segregation. Another element revealed is represented by the effects of media message on public opinion, creating in some geographical area the increasing of population's discontent with migrants. The link between illegal migration and open sources information has effects when are released information as the involvement of migrants along with members of criminal groups in illicit activities such as tax evasion by phantom companies, drug trafficking and black work.

In this context the public information has an important role, as statistics and analyses about the illegal migration. According to the Europol and Interpol report[33] a big part of the illegal migrants were conducted by the members of the illegal migration networks, information, the funds obtained by these criminal structures being estimated at millions of dollars. For the ultimate goal of obtaining intelligence products from open sources to be reached, a very laborious and not very inexpensive process is necessary. This process involves the discovery, filtering and selection of those pieces of information that integrated and interpreted yield useful information about the illegal migration[34].

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[31] "2018 Consolidated Annual Activity Report Europol Public Information", Europol Public Information, 205, accessed June 7, 2019, https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/consolidated-annual-activity-report-caar-2018.

[32] Charlie Becket, *The Value of Networked Journalism, Polis Journalism and Society,* (London: London School of Economics and Political Science 2017), accessed April 12, 2019, www.lse.ac.uk/meida@lse/POLIS/Files?networkedjournalism.pdf and Charlie Becket, "Fake news: the best thing that's happened to journalism", accessed April 12, 2019, http://blogs.lse.sc.uk/polis/2017/03/11/fake-news-the-best-thing-thats-happened-to-journalism/.

[33] "2018 Consolidated Annual Activity Report Europol Public Information", Europol Public Information, 34, accessed June 7, 2019, https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/consolidated-annual-activity-report-caar-2018.

[34] Dan Plăvițu, "Surse și medii de culegere a onformațiilor, *Gândirea Militară Românească*, 6 (2006): 21-27.

CONCLUSIONS

Our overview on the illegal migration through the open sources information, applied on media and social media showed the powerful impact of the diversified media and social media message on migration coverage, especially on illegal migration. The coverage of illegal or irregular migration is mostly connected to the economic and socio cultural threats. We admit that public information from institutions is more suitable to be real comparing with the subjectivity of media message, or with the social media messages. We consider 'more suitable" because any institution has its own purpose to build a positive organizational image, reason for what is important to pay attention at the informational products delivered and to realize that the public relation field is an important element for organizations. Although, the organizations in the area of migrations remains important open sources, on national, regional and international level, especially because of the statistic reports and the human resource experience in this domain. The collaboration between these and intelligence services is crucial in order to manage the illegal migration phenomenon.

Regarding the media, from our point of view the situation could be characterized by a high subjectivity. As we showed before, the media has different perspective of presenting the migration, function of few dimensions: political, cultural, ideological, social, economical etc. Most of the media institutions are part of private sector, the commercial aspect being an important one. They have to sell the journalistic product in order to survive. And the most wanted subjects in contemporary society are the sensationalist ones. This is the reason why we consider that the media message in most of the situations produces more emotions instead of news. Especially inside the migration phenomenon with its illegal part, there are suitable subjects as: violence, children abused, poverty, broken family, the fight for life etc. which appeals to the public emotions. No matter the geographical area, no matter the cultural background, no matter the political pressure or the level of the media freedom in a country, this remains a common element. Our research conducted us to the idea that with all these considered negative aspects of media, but also from our desire to keep the research objectively, media has an important role inside OSINT, aspect which is recognized by the institutions dealing with the interrelation between illegal migration and open sources, as we showed before.

Social media inside the illegal migration phenomenon brings opportunities for individual migrants because establishes infrastructures for changing social capital in migration networks. Besides the general effects of social media, this interaction produces effects on the research in this field, because of the reconsidering the propagation of extremist ideas or false actions and of the interaction with already radicalized individuals.

Our research is able to provide suggestions for the intelligence services in order to manage, from open sources, the illegal migration phenomenon. First of all we consider that, even the OSINT role in recognized, this recognition is mostly theoretically. Although it produces effects, the open sources information doesn't benefits of an implemented organizational structure, national or international, with few exceptions we have presented in our study. Secondly we recommend compliance with the elements of the OSINT production process; all four steps have a specific information role: discovering assumes to find out who knows; discrimination consists in knowing what represents; distillation/filter is about knowing what is important; dissemination refers to who needs information. Third we believe that all three types of OSINT are relevant, with the remark that human resource is influencing others; the primary type – personal contacts are specific to open sources information and very helpful; direct and interpersonal communication, in a small and close environment, is crucial inside the illegal migration phenomenon, where the individuals are in the centre; our point of view is that this primary sources may act preventively; the secondary types – mass-media and public

institutional sites provides information mostly about the facts that are happening; the third type – technical is using satellite images and is specific to the actual technological age.

In the contemporary age is not more a matter about the quantity of information, but the importance of knowledge. Our further direction of research is to analyze the national situation of OSINT organizational implementation inside the country of Europe.

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