

RESEARCH ON PERSONS THE ORGANIZED CRIME WITH THE DARK TRIAD QUESTIONNAIRE

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Abstract: *The report presents for the first time in Bulgaria a psychological characteristic of convicted persons from the organized crime, who are subject to effective punishment by imprisonment with the help of the main scales of the Dark Triad questionnaire.*

For the purposes of the empirical research, the short version of the Dark Triad questionnaire was used, with 27 statements, 9 items each, of the personality characteristics studied: Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy.

The statistical processing of empirical data with SPSS includes frequency analysis, comparison of the Dark Triad average values with data of the convictions, the education and the age, as well as the calculation of Pierson's correlation coefficient. 30 convicted men were surveyed, 20 of whom were first-time convicts, and 10 of the prisoners examined had two or more convictions. Of these, 56.6% were over 35 years of age.

Under the conditions of penitential isolation, forced cohabitation and total control, such as those in the places of imprisonment, narcissism and psychopathy manifestations in the behaviour of the convicted are limited and they are indirectly realized through Machiavellianism and the manipulative scenarios inherent to it. The increase in the age of prisoners from organized crime further strengthens this trend.

The results of the study enrich the views on the psychological characteristics of offenders from organized crime, which are important for the police and penitentiary activities implemented on them.

Keywords: Machiavellianism; narcissism; psychopathy; convicted from the organized crime; Dark Triad; prisoners.

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Contribution:

Emil Madzharov – Summary, Relevance of the research, Metodology, Results analysis, Conclusion.

Yoanna Andonova-Tsvetanova – Relevance of the research, Data processing, Results analysis, Referents.

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RELEVANCE OF THE RESEARCH

Contemporary Bulgarian research on the phenomenon of organized crime (Stankov, 2002; Paunova & Datsov, 2010; Nedev, 2005; Pushkarova, 2011) are mainly criminological, forensic or related to the subject area and research competencies of criminal law. The main attention therein is focused on commenting on the essence and the main structural and functional parameters of the organized criminal group (Paunova & Datsov, 2010; Nedev, 2005; Pushkarova, 2011).

At the same time, much less and on the basis of individual publications or fragments of them (Madzharov, 2006; Pushkarova, 2011; Stoychev, 2016), appearing after significant time intervals, the issues of personal and psychological characteristics of persons actively involved in the realization of the organized criminal activity are developed. In this sense, the research of the persons from the organized criminal groups with the dark triad questionnaire, which covers the constructs of Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy, is very useful for the modern police and penitentiary practice.

Paulhus & Williams, 2002 claim that all three dark triad constructs share common socio-destructive characteristics associated with behavioural trends such grandiose self-esteem, emotional coldness, duplicity, manipulative behaviour and aggression. In parallel, they found that despite some overlapping, the constructs represented relatively independent personality traits. According to Peney & Spector 's research hypothesis (2002), narcissistic individuals generally have an increased expectation of aggression and disqualification from others, perceived as a threat to the balance of their own selves. This expectation is expressed in a great tendency to react negatively to the arising negative emotions, such as anxiety, frustration and anger. The difference between the dynamics of narcissism and that of Machiavellianism according to Paulhus & Williams (2002) is that the immoral behaviour in Machiavellianism is not so much driven by the desire to protectively maintain a grand self-image as

a regulator of self-esteem and inner psychic balance, but rather from the intention to gain personal benefits through dishonest means and to the detriment of others.

In a similar direction are the findings of Cooper and Peterson (Flynn, Richard & Slane, 1987), according to which people with high Machiavellianism are more likely to use fraud in competitive situations with low risk of detection and anonymous participation. Researchers believe that the deviant repertoire of individuals with predominantly Machiavellian attitudes, is usually expressed in "hidden" violations which are difficult to establish as externally manifested behaviour. These include corruption, embezzlement, falsification or deletion of important data, the spread of malicious rumours or discrediting information, secret collaboration with the competition, etc.

According to Lilienfeld and Widows (2005), the construct of psychopathy is the most difficult to define because its parameters cover an extremely wide range of cognitive, emotional-affective, and behavioural characteristics. Some of the models described in the literature present psychopaths as impulsive, immature, naive, frivolous, and devoid of stable goals. Others characterize them as clever, flexible, well-informed, educated, creative and capable of generating sophisticated plans by which to cheat and exploit others (Lilienfeld & Widows, 2005). In the Minnesota Multifactor Personality Inquiry (MMPI-2), the construct of psychopathic deviation encompasses traits and behaviours ranging from social alienation, non-adaptability and emotional depression to imperturbability, activity, self-confidence, pursuit of power, control and open opposition to the authorities (Butcher & Williams, 1992). All this makes it difficult to differentiate an exhaustive number of criteria with universal descriptive and classification weight.

A bigger problem is the differentiation of Machiavellianism and psychopathy as separate and independent constructs. A number of authors (Paulhus & Ray, 1982; Mchosney, Worel & Szyarto, 1998; Ray & Ray, 1982; Skinner, 1988) support the thesis that in theoretical terms the two constructs overlap.

Lilienfeld and Widows (2005), on their part, bring out Machiavellianism as a factor within psychopathy and include it as a subscale in the revised version of their Psychopathic Personality Research Inquiry.

One of the possible explanations for these differences in the individual descriptive models from a neuropsychological perspective is related to the individual specifics in the ability for cognitive and emotional-affective self-control. The diagnostic criteria for antisocial personality disorder set out in the DSM-IV-R link the psychopathic personality dynamics to both poor self-control over impulses and impaired executive functions of the self. It is a question of the impaired ability to predict the consequences of one's own behaviour and to structure long-term life goals. On the other hand, the Machiavellian-typical relatively good social skills and flexibility, the ability to rationally plan and predict objective circumstances outline a personal organization in which such basic deficits are significantly less common (Gao & Reine, 2010). This leads to the reasonable assumption that persons with manifest Machiavellian traits have most likely been able to build better mechanisms for psychic control over impulses, negative emotional experiences and cognitions in the course of individual development, compared with psychopathic (antisocial) individuals. This helps their behaviour not to go beyond the generally accepted norms and standards on a formal and superficial level.

In the context of the theoretical review, persons from organized crime have express mercenary demands, have attitudes of permissiveness, high aggressive predisposition, excessive egocentrism and skills to use physical force and verbal manipulations. They easily dehumanize their victims, maintain their own attitudes of superiority over others and readily cross the existing prohibitions (Madzharov, 2006, 289; Stoychev, 2016, 172). These personal qualities correspond directly to the content of the main scales of the dark triad: Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy (Koleva, 2017)

Offenders of organized crime are too narcissistic, characterized by increased tendency

to manipulation, to be able to gain trust, to blackmail, respect and make certain victims dependent who have the appropriate resources (Madzharov, 2006). The arrogance, brutality, direct and indirect aggression, cynicism and ruthlessness of the persons from the organized criminal groups are a direct expression of their psychopathy, i.e. of the complete disregard and ignoring of the existing moral and legal norms, regulating the property, financial, interpersonal relations, interests and rights (Madzharov, 2006, 289; Stoychev, 2016, 172; Navarro & Painter, 2016).

METHODOLOGY

The aim of the present study is to create an enriched psychological characterization of persons from organized crime with the help of the short version of the dark triad questionnaire.

The tasks of the empirical study are arranged in the following sequence:

- testing of 30 convicts of organized crime, serving sentences related to imprisonment in the Sofia city prison;
- interpretation of the correlations between the results of the three scales of the dark triad for the persons from the organized criminal groups;
- establishing the existing relationship between the age of those convicted of organized crime and the size of the values on the scales of Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy;
- marking and analysing the relationship between the number of convictions and the educational qualifications of prisoners sentenced for participation in organized criminal groups and the values on the scales of Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy.

Subject of the study are the personality traits characteristic for the offenders of organized crime, represented by the scales of the dark triad – Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy.

The object of the study are 30 convicts for participation in organized criminal activities

and groups serving prison sentences in the Sofia city prison in January 2018.

The research hypotheses are as follows:

1. We assume that in the conditions of penitentiary treatment of those convicted for organized crime their narcissism and psychopathy are manifested not directly, but by strengthening the Machiavellianism, due to which the existing relations between them are intensified.
2. We presume that the presence of penitentiary isolation, forced coexistence and total control of organized crime prisoners, the immediate expression of their inherent narcissism and psychopathy in their behaviour will be seriously limited which in compensation will increase the importance of connections between them.
3. We assume that with the age increase of those convicted of participation in organized crime, their Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy will not change, and therefore they will retain their criminogenic potential.
4. We presume that as more convictions of organized crime accumulate for the offenders, they will more consistently and effectively cover up the rise and stabilization of Machiavellianism, narcissism, and psychopathy to avoid problems, conflicts, and tensions.
5. We assume that the low education among some people from organized crime can weakly limit and to some extent neutralize their psychopathic orientation and manifestations.

Egorova and her co-authors conducted a study with the short dark triad questionnaire of a sample of 571 people aged 16 to 84. They derived mean values and standard deviation for each scale (Egorova, Sitnikova, Parshikova, 2015). The short version of the dark triad questionnaire was adapted to the Bulgarian conditions by P. Kalchev, K. Hancheva, St. Koleva (2017).

The verification of the research hypotheses was carried out with the help of the short version of the dark triad questionnaire. It contains a total of 27 statements, and for each of

the studied personality traits: Machiavellianism, narcissism, psychopathy, 9 items were provided. The criminals convicted for organized crime activity participating in the study evaluated each of the allegations included in the construct of the dark triad using a five-point Likert scale, ranging from “completely false” to “completely true”.

The convicted offenders were in different penitentiary groups in the prison building in Sofia. With the help of their inspectors of social activities and educational work, we received their consent to participate in the study. Despite the assistance provided to us by the penitentiary staff, some of the persons envisaged for examination did not show a desire for contact, which led to a serious reduction in the sample originally planned for examination. At our first contact with them, they were reserved, suspicious and refused to cooperate.

Of those surveyed, 56.7% were over the age of 35, with 60.7% of those convicted in the entire sample effectively serving their first sentence of imprisonment. This inevitably led to certain modifications of the obtained results and caused difficulties in the empirical data comparing.

All subjects were male aged 22 to 53, with a mean age of 35.9 for the whole group (8.52 SD). For the purposes of the study, two age groups were distinguished – persons up to 35 years of age (13, or 43.3% of the sample) and persons over 35 years of age (17, constituting 66.7% of the sample). The distribution of the participants in the study on the basis of the indicator ‘number of past convictions’ led to the formation of two groups. In one of them, are the convicts with one previous conviction, which are 20 people and represent 66.7% of the presented sample. The other group includes offenders with more than one previous conviction. They are 10 people, or 33.3% of all the studied ones.

For statistical processing purposes, all values are expressed as mean value and standard deviation (M+SD). Pearson’s correlation analysis was applied to establish the relationship between the studied variables. For inter-group comparisons of individual indicators based on group averages, analysis of variance

was used. The intergroup analysis of the percentage distribution by individual indicators was performed using the XI-square method.

RESULTS ANALYSIS

The data from the Pearson correlation analysis applied showed a significant correlation between Machiavellianism and narcissism ($r=.65, p=.000$) and of moderate correlation with psychopathy ($r=.54, p=.002$). Regarding the presence of correlations to the other analysed variables such as age, number of previous convictions and educational qualifications, the data obtained by us indicate a moderate correlation only in terms of psychopathy scale and level of education, whereas its sign is negative ($r=-.38, p =.037$), i.e. the lower level of educational qualification among the surveyed persons is associated with higher average values on the psychopathy scale. The data are presented in Table 4.

The significant statistical correlation between Machiavellianism and narcissism of offenders reveals the compensatory increase in narcissistic readiness to react negatively due to the intense anxiety and frustration caused by deprivation and depersonalization in penitentiary institutions. This destructive orientation cannot be directly manifested as

a result of the regime’s restrictions, which activate Machiavellian intentions for profit, anonymous combinations and covert violations. Machiavellianism grows in parallel with narcissism and limits its external demonstrations related to direct aggression. The moderate correlation between Machiavellianism and psychopathy in those convicted of organized crime presupposes the control of immature, frivolous and impulsive manifestations in the conditions of constant control and regulation of prisoners’ behaviour. Existing penitentiary restrictions narrow the direct manifestations of narcissism and psychopathy and strengthen their links with Machiavellianism, through which they are realized in an indirect form.

In the analyses made, we found that the mean values on the Machiavellianism scale, in general, though without a level of statistical significance ($p>0.05$) were higher than the average ones on the scales of narcissism and psychopathy, both as regards the variables of age (Table 2) and the educational qualification (Table 3) and the number of previous convictions of the surveyed persons (Table 4). The findings confirm the validity of the first research hypothesis. It receives further confirmation also in the processed results, presented in Table 2.

TABLE 1
RESULTS OF PEARSON CORRELATION ANALYSIS ON THE DARK TRIAD SCALES,
NUMBER OF CONVICTIONS, AGE AND EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

		Machia- vellianism	Narcis- sism	Psycho- pathy	Edu- cation	Age groups	Previous convictions
Machia- vellianism	Pearson Correlation	1	,648	,428	,061	,211	,259
	Sig. (2-tailed)		,000	,018	,750	,263	,167
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30
Narcissism	Pearson Correlation	,648	1	,534	,064	,147	,329
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,000		,002	,738	,437	,076
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30
Psychopathy	Pearson Correlation	,428	,534	1	-,383	-,141	,089
	Sig. (2-tailed)	,018	,002		,037	,456	,641
	N	30	30	30	30	30	30

TABLE 2
MEAN VALUES (\pm SD) ON THE SCALES OF THE DARK TRIAD QUESTIONNAIRE,
ACCORDING TO THE FORMED AGE GROUPS

Scales	Age	N	M + SD	F (p)
Machiavellianism	Up to 35-years of age	20	30,38 \pm 7,73	F(28)=1,30, p=0,26
	Over 35- years of age	10	33,06 \pm 5,09	
	Total	30	31,90 \pm 6,39	
Narcissism	Up to 35- years of age	20	25,08 \pm 5,48	F(28)=0,62, p=0,44
	Over 35- years of age	10	26,82 \pm 6,38	
	Total	30	26,07 \pm 5,98	
Psychopathy	Up to 35- years of age	20	22,00 \pm 5,10	F(28)=0,57, p=0,46
	Over 35- years of age	10	20,41 \pm 6,12	
	Total	30	21,10 \pm 5,66	

TABLE 3
MEAN VALUES(+SD) ON THE SCALES OF THE DARK TRIAD QUESTIONNAIRE, ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF
CONVICTIONS OF THE SURVEYED PERSONS

Scales	Number of conviction	N	M + SD	F (p)
Machiavellianism	With 1 previous conviction	20	30,75 + 7,21	F(28)=2,01, p=0,17
	With more than 1 previous convictions	10	34,20 + 3,61	
			31,90 + 6,39	
	Total	30		
Narcissism	With 1 previous conviction	20	24,70 + 6,27	F(28)=3,40, p=0,08
	With more than 1 previous convictions	10	28,80 + 4,44	
			26,07 + 5,98	
	Total	30		
Psychopathy	With 1 previous conviction	20	20,75 + 5,92	F(28) =0.22, p=0,64
	With more than 1 previous convictions	10	21,80 + 5,35	
			21,10 + 5,66	
	Total	30		

The data, shown in Table 2, demonstrate that the average value on the Machiavellianism scale for the entire group was 31,90 (SD 6,39), on the narcissism scale - 26,07 (SD 5,98), and on the psychopathy scale - 21.10 (SD 5.66), although the reported differences did not reach a significance level ($p > 0.05$). Apparently, the restrictions imposed in the penitentiary institutions to a certain extent reduce the manifestations of narcissism and psychopathy, as their external expression is manifested indirectly, by increasing the degree of Machiavellianism expression.

The significant correlation between narcissism and psychopathy of organized crime offenders (Table 1), obtained by applying Pearson's correlation analysis, shows that de-

spite the strict regime norms and sanctions, they have a strong self-esteem, self-confidence, pursuit of power and control, causing high readiness for counteraction, violation of norms and ignoring of authorities. These psychological trends fuel Machiavellianism in the persons of organized crime, and it transforms them into disguised, conspiracy acts, whereas an apparent subordination is externally demonstrated. Despite the limitation of direct presentations of narcissism and psychopathy, the links between them and their mutual influences are strengthening. This, to some extent confirms the validity of the second research hypothesis.

The age increase of offenders leads also to the acquisition of maturity, experience,

accumulation of frustration, dissatisfaction, fatigue and greater restraint. If it influenced convicts of organized crime in this way, then there must have been a respective connection between their age and the dimensions of the dark triad scales – Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy. In the course of the study we did not find significant correlations between them (Table 1), and the mean values on the scales of the dark triad did not change during the transition from one age range to another. Obviously, age is not a moderating factor and the characteristics of the dark triad scales and the relationships between them remain constant and unaffected by age dynamics. This confirms the legitimacy of the third research hypothesis.

The results contained in Table 3 and Table 1 indicate the absence of statistically significant associations between the increased number of past criminal records of offenders of organized crime and the Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy increase in them. This is due to the higher homogeneity of the studied sample on the previous convictions indicator. On the other hand, this result shows that convictions do not affect the indicators of the dark triad, as they are shorter, realized in the presence of serious external support and often with better living and material provision. In this sense, the indicators of Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy are

kept on a certain level, evidencing only partial confirmation of the fourth hypothesis.

The results in Table 1 registered the presence of a negative correlation between the psychopathy scale of the dark triad and their educational qualifications among those convicted of organized criminal groups who are effectively serving sentences. Rising values of psychopathy correspond to lower levels of education. The described trend can be traced in the analysis of the data in Table 5. This does not necessarily mean that those convicted of organized crime with primary education are impulsive, recklessly unrestrained and spontaneous in conflict situations. Our own practical observations on this category of prisoners, as well as the consultations with the inspectors on social activities and educational work regarding the respondents with primary education, confirm the finding that in their daily activities in prisons they are cunning, flexible, covert and resourceful. In cases where prisoners with low educational qualifications are subjected to pressure from administration officials, they demonstrate imperturbability, calmness and self-control. Persons from organized criminal groups, with primary education, are meticulous, active and consistent in participating in various criminal subcultural activities, without having developed abilities for rational planning and forecasting of their own behaviour. Indeed, their lower education does not limit

TABLE 4
MEAN VALUES (+SD) ON THE SCALE OF THE DARK TRIAD QUESTIONNAIRE,
ACCORDING THE EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION OF THE SURVEYED PERSONS

Machiavellianism	primary	6	29,67 ± 4,32	F(28)=0,74, p=0,49
	vocational	11	33,54 ± 7,93	
	secondary	13	31,53 ± 5,78	
	total	30	31,90 ± 6,39	
Narcissism	primary	6	25,00 ± 3,58	F(28)=0,12, p=0,89
	vocational	11	26,45 ± 7,13	
	secondary	13	26,23 ± 6,15	
	total	30	26,07 ± 5,98	
Psychopathy	primary	6	23,33 ± 4,68	F(28=3,00, p=0,07
	vocational	11	23,09 ± 6,53	
	secondary	13	18,38 ± 4,33	
	total	30	21,10 ± 5,66	

TABLE 5
 PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION (N-NUMBER) OF THE SUBJECTS ON THE SCALES OF THE DARK TRIAD TEST,
 ACCORDING TO THE EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS OF THE SURVEYED PERSONS

Scales	Levels of manifestation	Age groups		Previous convictions		Education		
		Up to 35 years of age	Over 35 years of	With 1 previous conviction	With more than one	Primary	Vocational	Secondary
Machiavellianism	Above the average	40,9% (N=9)	59,1% (N=13)	59,1% (N=13)	40,9% (N=9)	22,7% (N=5)	36,4% (N=8)	40,9% (N=9)
	Average	50% (N=4)	50% (N=4)	87,5% (N=7)	12,5% (N=1)	12,5% (N=1)	37,5% (N=3)	50% (N=4)
	Below the average	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
<i>Pearson Chi-Square</i>		$\chi^2_{(1)}=1,97, p=0,66$		$\chi^2_{(1)}=2,13, p=0,14$		$\chi^2_{(2)}=4,21, p=0,81$		
Narcissism	Above the average	33,3% (N=3)	66,7% (N=6)	44,4% (N=4)	55,6% (N=5)	22,2% (N=2)	33,3% (N=3)	44,4% (N=4)
	Average	47,4% (N=9)	52,6% (N=10)	73,7% (N=14)	26,3% (N=5)	21,1% (N=4)	36,8% (N=7)	42,1% (N=8)
	Below the average	50% (N=1)	50% (N=1)	100% (N=2)	0%	0%	50% (N=1)	50% (N=1)
<i>Pearson Chi-Square</i>		$\chi^2_{(2)}=5,29, p=0,77$		$\chi^2_{(2)}=3,42, p=0,19$		$\chi^2_{(4)}=5,87, p=0,96$		
Psychopathy	Above the average	50% (N=4)	50% (N=4)	62,5% (N=5)	37,5% (N=3)	25% (N=2)	62,5% (N=5)	12,5% (N=1)
	Average	43,8% (N=7)	56,2% (N=9)	62,5% (N=10)	37,5% (N=6)	25% (N=4)	25% (N=4)	50% (N=8)
	Below the average	33,3% (N=2)	66,7% (N=4)	83,3% (N=5)	16,7% (N=1)	0%	33,3% (N=2)	66,7% (N=4)
<i>Pearson Chi-Square</i>		$\chi^2_{(2)}=3,90, p=0,82$		$\chi^2_{(2)}=9,38, p=0,63$		$\chi^2_{(4)}=6,24, p=0,18$		

their psychopathic orientation, but they also disguise, conceal and show a certain level of primitive conformity in penitentiary institutions. This gives us reason to claim that the fifth research hypothesis is confirmed.

CONCLUSION

those convicted of organized crime, while serving their sentences, are subject to the powerful influence of isolation, forced cohabitation and total external control. As a result of these intense influences, prisoners suppress, reduce, and disguise their own narcissism and psychopathy. These are manifested

in their immediate behaviour in more indirect, secretive, conspiratorial forms. In practice, narcissism and psychopathy do not undergo a serious correction in the penitentiary context, as it seems, but are realized by strengthening the manipulative scenarios, which in the empirical study was registered with the increase of the values on the Machiavellian scale of the dark triad.

The strict regime requirements of prisons only activate the narcissistic predispositions of those convicted of organized criminal groups, related to expressed self-esteem, overconfidence and the desire for domination, as well as their psychopathic attitudes to op-

posing norms and institutional authorities. These mental tendencies of organized crime offenders foster their Machiavellianism, which modifies them into covert, conspiratorial actions, outwardly portraying obedience and conscientiousness.

Despite the blocking of direct manifestations of narcissism and psychopathy among those convicted of organized crime in prisons, their mutual influences are intensifying, which inevitably leads to the intensification of various conspiratorial scenarios of criminal subcultural activities in the penitentiaries themselves or in preparation for the development of future criminal activities in the conditions of free life.

The age increase of offenders from organized crime does not lead to changes in their Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy. The three personal constructs are bearers of a certain criminal potential, which is preserved and is able to ensure the continuation of their criminal career after serving the sentence. In this way, the effective implementation of imprisonment in today's social situation not only does not cause positive changes in persons of organized crime, but also stimulates their further criminal activities.

The conducted empirical study of the convicts from organized criminal groups did not establish the existence of a statistically significant connection between the increase in the number of their past convictions and the increase in their values on the scales of Machiavellianism, narcissism and psychopathy. This result is a consequence of the homogeneity of the sample of offenders studied on the parameter of previous convictions, as a large number of prisoners from organized crime refused to participate in the study. We should also take into account the fact that many convicts from organized criminal groups are serving their sentences in more benign and comfortable conditions, due to the low size of penalties, significant external support, good material provision and living conditions. For the reasons stated, the impact of sentences on specific offenders is reduced and they retain their antisocial Machiavellian predispositions, narcissistic features and psychopathic readiness.

When processing the results of the present empirical study, we registered the presence of a negative correlation between the values of the psychopathy scale in the convicts from organized criminal groups and their educational qualifications. Higher psychopathy is typical of offenders with a low level of education. This result is not a sufficient basis for us to believe that the convicts for whom it is typical, are too impulsive, spontaneous and unrestrained in complicated situations. The practical observations and consultations show that they are characterized by cunningness, flexibility and ingenuity. Offenders with more limited educational qualifications form organized criminal groups have good self-control, demonstrate resilience to pressure, active involvement in subcultural prison activities and future criminal activities, demonstrating more primitive forms of secrecy and conspiracy.

The increasing age and amount of past convictions does not reduce crime potential of offenders from organized crime and their readiness to participate in new criminal activities. The lower educational qualifications of some people in organized crime correspond to effective self-control, resilience to frustration and the use of simpler conspiracy scenarios.

Convicted of organized crime better adapt and are poorly corrected by the penitentiary context. They do not really change their basic personal characteristics, presented in the scales of narcissism and Machiavellianism of the dark triad. The increase in values on the Machiavellian scale allows them to covertly and manipulatively realize their narcissistic and psychopathic predispositions in their immediate behaviour, while maintaining their internal balance.

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