Challenges in Building a Secure Sustainable Society Amid Global Risks and Threats: Theoretical and Practical Aspects

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ABSTRACT:
The development of society must be based on its sustainability. The current geopolitical situation is linked to extensive security challenges, new extremist manifestations, and threats at international and national levels. In today's circumstances, the classic conventional threats are complemented by new global threats: hybrid threats, terrorism, cybercrime, and transnational organised crime. The multiple factors affecting public security and its sustainable development are changing. The new types of threats destabilise international policies in the implementation of the strategy for the sustainable development of society, which requires an objectively determined need for their interdisciary study. The study process should take into account that the geopolitical situation is highly dynamic, and the perception and evaluation of its transformation are variable. The study results show that people face feelings of insecurity, anxiety, and depression in current socio-political settings. International global security index scores generally show adverse patterns in these parameters for countries and cities. The study uses a variety of information sources and cognitive tools to identify the state of security and its threats. Its results will contribute to the development of practical conceptual frameworks for the further development of a sustainable and safe society, taking into account global risks and threats. In a turbulent era characterised by risks, one needs to learn how to understand, anticipate, assess, manage, and mitigate their potential negative impacts. This requires appropriate action, technological solutions, and changes in attitudes.

Keywords: Security, society, sustainable development, threats

1. Introduction

The current global environment is largely determined by the fact that the international security environment is facing significant and unpredictable challenges: Russia's war in Ukraine continues, which is the biggest long-term security threat, violence and conflicts spread in the Middle East and Europe, uncertainty for the global economy is growing, including technological change, which represents the greatest credibility challenges for national and societal security, sustainability and development. According to the Report of the Analysis and Research Team of the European Council (Forward Look 2024. Managing uncertainty) on the outlook for the future, the dominant influencing factor in global developments will be the link between insecurity and uncertainty caused by global conflicts and exacerbating competition between countries, economic variability and new

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political trends, which are likely to be driven by many major elections in 2024. The EU Security Union Strategy 2020-2025 identifies hybrid threats, terrorism, violence, cybercrime, and organised crime as the main current global threats. As the world's geopolitical balance is shifting, current security risks require constant revision. This is also noted in the NATO Secretary General's Annual Report 2023, i.e., the current global situation is described as dangerous, not only in light of the aforementioned threats, but also due to the spread of new threats that, in turn, cause wide-spread anxiety among the public.

The challenge of hybrid threats has become a central aspect of security policy discourse. Hybrid threats are considered one of the most widely discussed types of threat on the political, media and public agendas of the country. The concept has been given increasing importance in raising awareness of the multidimensional nature of the security phenomenon. Hybrid threats are camouflaged in nature and variable in intensity. Such activities can be carried out in the political, economic and information environment, as well as in other areas of social life. For example, threats of information (including propaganda and disinformation and manipulation of the media); leaks of strategically important information; support for anti-regime NGOs; support for rebels (including organisation of mass protests); support for paramilitary organisations; cyber threats (including cyber espionage, attacks, manipulation); economic threats; threats to the financial sector; corruption; financing of political parties; diplomatic pressure tactics; support for militants; terrorism; support for terrorists; sowing insecurity; diversion; energy policy; cooperation with criminal organisations; influence on the electoral process (Treverton, 2018).

Given the constantly evolving nature of hybrid threats, constant vigilance is required. One needs a more strategic approach to tackling hybrid threats, the implementation of national adaptations (to embrace "whole of government" and "whole of society" approaches), greater EU-NATO cooperation and greater engagement of our societies (Bajarūnas, 2020).

The modern world is not more uncertain than before, but the current "era of uncertainty" is different because it has a new context of uncertainty. This context in the global environment makes it necessary not only to define emerging threats, to assess their impact on societal sustainability, but also to develop and implement adaptation and prevention measures. A shared vision of peace, justice and prosperity is not enough for democracies to develop as a geopolitical and economic whole and to be able to achieve global sustainable development goals. At the societal level, we must learn to identify, anticipate, assess, manage and mitigate the negative impacts of the potential risks. At national level, structural changes are needed in the security architecture of the whole community and in the development of even stronger cooperation formats.

2. Materials and Methods

The topic of the study on global risks and threats to the development of sustainable and secure societies has an interdisciplinary nature, which determines the authors' use of a complex set of methods of information acquisition and processing. In the process of drafting the article, integrated quantitative and qualitative data have been

used. The theoretical basis of the work is rooted in an extensive analysis of previous studies and sources of literature related to security concepts and threat and risk prevention strategies. The authors base the conceptual foundations of the study on the analysis of the goals and sub-objectives of the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development for 2030 and the European Union Security Strategy 2020-2025. The materials that are essential for the development of a sustainable and secure society in the context of global threats include the exploration of factual data on Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, Hamas and Hezbollah's terrorist activities in Israel. Research into the emerging global security threats makes it possible to identify factors that affect increased risks to the sustainable development of society in the political, defence, public, socio-economic and information sectors. The chosen research methodology, the materials and sources of information used will ensure robust and reliable research into security threats and risk prevention in various areas, contributing to the implementation of recommendations for sustainable development of society.

3. Theoretical aspects

The development of a sustainable and secure society in a context of global risks and threats is examined as a phenomenon consisting of two interrelated parts, covering the theoretical and practical aspects of the topic. The authors will focus on the analysis of the content and essence of sustainable society and security concepts in the theoretical context, while paying equal attention to the emerging security threats.

3.1 The concept of sustainability in the context of global risks and threats

The genesis of the concept of sustainability can be found both in its etymology (the Latin verb sustinere, meaning to hold, limit, protect) and in international documents. The Bruntland Report (1987), drafted by a dedicated UN Commission, is rightly seen as the first source of the modern concept of sustainability. Given the current international context, sustainability is defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future. United Nations 1987).

Sustainability is not merely a goal or a state of being, but rather a guiding principle that must permeate every policy-making process. Methodology is therefore particularly important in deepening and broadening the concept of sustainability. A researcher must be able to examine this concept broadly and comprehensively, and be able to see the relationship between actions and consequences. Sustainability is a cross-sectoral discipline, as its components cover the widest spectrum of relationships and build a bridge between many sectors – security, law, politics, economy, environment, technology, etc. It is evident that, due to the changing security environment, the development of a sustainable society is increasingly interlinked and depends on the impact of global risks and threats.

Traditionally, the idea of sustainability is based on three pillars, and one of the ways to illustrate it in the chart is three symmetrically connected circles, one representing economic viability, the other representing environmental protection, and the third one social justice (Thacker, 2015). The idea of sustainability is clearly marked by three fundamental dimensions and a range of challenges: 1) economic development and growth;

2) environmental protection and climate change; 3) social problems (increase of quality longevity, reduction of violence and crime, protection of human rights).

In today's context of global risks and threats, sustainable social development can no longer evolve as a part of a single country or exist regionally. It must be active at the EU level, depending both on the performance of separate member states of the EU, and the EU's common efforts. In fact, sustainable development was recognised as one of the long-term objectives of the European Union under Article 3(3) of the Treaty on European Union (Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union). Today, the European Commission has promoted further policy implementation and a strategic approach to achieving sustainable development in Europe and worldwide. In 2015, the international community adopted the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030, which set 17 Sustainable Development Goals and related sub-objectives to respond to international environmental trends and security challenges. The next steps at the EU level in the context of the Sustainable Development Agenda were related to the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into the European Consensus on Development 2017 and the current priorities of the European Commission, as well as the development of a long-term vision and sectoral policy priorities.

The main expectations of a society are focused on three vital factors: well-being, security and sustainability. There are several scenarios for the growth of the international community, but a peaceful, just and inclusive society free of fear and violence (Goal 16 of the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development – Peace, Justice and Good Governance) is one of the key prerequisites for moving closer to the other goals defined in the UN Agenda and, to some extent, acts as a pendulum seeking balance. Similarly, sustainable development is not possible without peace, while peace is impossible without sustainable development.

Security is one of the most important social needs of an individual. Its deeper meaning includes the highest order, eternal harmony, and happiness, but attempts to quantify it remain relative. It must be recognised that the development of a sustainable society holds at least two perspectives on potential or present threats. One is objective – it reflects the regularities between phenomena and processes, development trends (reduced crime, reduced all forms of domestic and child violence, effective and accountable institutions at all levels of the state, protected rights and fundamental freedoms of every individual). The second perspective is subjective. It reflects individual perceptions of threats, level of fear and knowledge of the impact of a particular threat on it (e.g., people feel safe in their country, public security and the trust in law enforcement authorities increases). Obviously, subjective security perceptions and objective assessments may vary, however, as demonstrated by the changing nature of the security environment, at present, any security issues and global risks in the context of societal sustainability need to be viewed through a forward-looking and future-oriented perspective.

3.2 Emerging security challenges

Today, the global context in Europe and the world is changing rapidly. With the adoption of the EU Security Union Strategy in 2020, hybrid threats, terrorism, cybercrime and organised crime were identified as the main threats to today's world; four years later, in addition to the already defined threats, the modern world encountered new global

threats. The public is witnessing global violence, the spread of political disinformation, fake news and deep fakes (European Parliament resolution of 28 February 2024 on the implementation of the common foreign and security policy – annual report 2023 (2023/2117(INI)). Human security issues – freedom from deprivation, freedom from fear and violent state interference – have returned to the international agenda. There are several reasons for this, one of the main being that global conflicts, wars and terrorism primarily threaten the individual's right to life, health and physical security. Until recently, the 21st century was considered one of the most peaceful periods in human history, but in recent years there is no longer the question of whether the global balance will change. It is already changing along with the changes in the world order, the new centres of power, as well as the growing hybrid, military and other destabilising activities of several countries posing a constant threat to the world and to the sustainability of society. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, talking about the future security dimension and NATO's 2030 Strategic Concept, noted that a strong military alliance was needed to protect democratic values. Yet, military force is only part of the success

In assessing the international security situation from 2020 onwards, the COVID-19 undoubtedly played a key role in all aspects. The negative impact of the pandemic on the global economy, with the rapid response of many countries closing borders, limiting the free movement of people, goods and services, and imposing a number of other restrictions on individual rights, provided a clear indication of how fragile freedom and security can be. However, this may seem paradoxical, but at a time when the world learned, to some extent, how to coexist with the new reality created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the international security environment was marked by new, increasingly serious threats and challenges.

4. Practical aspects of global threats and risks to society
4.1 The threat posed by Russia

One of the main factors that shocked Europe's security is the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Admittedly, it was difficult for the world to believe that, in the 21st century, Europe could experience the bloody and cynical conventional war that Russia prosecuted. The Russian regime has for years violated the basic principles of international organisations and undermined international security. Referring to fundamental values, the French academic and author Nicholas Tenzer notes that the world no longer could close its eyes and pretend that this is only an internal military threat directed against the Ukrainian state. Russia's war is at the same time a war against Western society and has turned into an enemy of democracy through the brutality of its invasion (Pszczel, 2022). Violations of the territorial integrity of Georgia, Ukraine and Moldova, unfair presidential elections, human rights violations, misrepresentation of history and spread of disinformation to an unprecedented extent are just a few examples of this. Ukraine, with the support of allied countries, has stopped Russia's military expansion, protected Ukraine's statehood, but Russia is not ready to abandon its imperialist ambitions. It renews and reinforces its military capabilities, which means that the international community today needs to step up its efforts to strengthen common peace and security.

Security is a sense that each person experiences individually, conditional on different factors. In the context of the Russian-Ukrainian war, it should be noted that the

priorities for the survival and development of society are likely to have changed significantly. Since the invasion of Ukraine by Russian troops on 24 February 2022, the overall security situation changed, unquestionably changing the subjective security perception of the population, putting economic, health and physical security determinants of human survival, development and quality of life at the forefront.

When discussing sustainable development of a society in the context of global threats, one must note the growing influence of the 'sharp power' on the international security situation. By 'sharp power' researchers mean the informative impact of authoritarian and totalitarian regimes on social and political processes in democratic countries. A direct analysis of methods of deception is at the heart of researching such an approach. In the past, the influences of authoritarian regimes were characterised by the so-called 'soft power' through which the attractiveness of their cultures and values was projected with the aim of creating a sufficiently favourable attitude towards them by other countries (Kudors, 2023). In 2017, US experts Christopher Walker and Jessica Ludwig presented the theory of transformation of the authoritarian states' soft power into the sharp power, aimed to penetrate the political processes of democratic states in an attempt to distort democratic institutions.

The 'sharp power' is associated with the influence of hybrid trolls – the sharp power fights for people's minds and attitudes. Media and social networks not only justify aggression, warfare, but also encourage destructive movements (Dobson, Masoud, Walker, 2023). There are also the so-called "troll farms" and "troll factories" in Russia. They are relatively well-remunerated information technology specialists who profusely spread entries on news portals and social media sites with the aim of supporting Russian imperial policy. The operation of these "troll factories" is based on a purposefully developed strategy and practices, distorting the information available online. It is noteworthy that the highest officials of the Russian Federation routinely come up with threats to use nuclear weapons, inter alia, linking them with the warfare in Ukraine and the support provided by the Western countries. Such threats must be taken seriously in the context of strengthening global security (Russia-NATO relations and the likelihood of confrontation).

4.2 Potential terrorism threats

Apart from Russia's war of aggression in Ukraine, the range of emerging threats and risks continues to intensify the dynamics of global threats. As early as 2006, the UN General Assembly Resolution 60/288 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy identified terrorism as one of the most serious global threats. The European Parliament resolution also stresses that international terrorism (and its ideology) poses a major threat to the security, peace, stability and democratic values of the international community, in particular a direct threat to European citizens, EU member states, democracy and the rule of law.

Nothing has changed, and terrorism and violent extremism continue to remain relevant on the international agenda. On 7 October 2023, Hamas terrorists carried out a brutal attack on Israel. Terrorists killed more than 1400 people, mainly civilians. Neither young children nor women were spared from brutality. Torture, rape and humiliation is the usual terrorist modus operandi.

Following the invasion of the Hamas terrorist group on Israel's territory, the conflict in the Middle East erupted with a new force. This claimed a large number of victims, creating tensions across the region, with the risk of escalating into a wider conflict with global consequences. In 2024, Russia also experienced the largest terrorist attack in the last 20 years. The Russian Committee of Inquiry confirmed the death of at least 144 people in the shooting and fire which took place in the "Crocus City Hall" in the outskirts of Moscow.

The relevance of terrorism is also reinforced by Europol's annual report (European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend report 2023), which states that the main purpose of terrorist attacks is to spread chaos and fear in society. In 2022, sixteen terrorist attacks took place in Europe, leading to the killing of four people. Another twelve attacks were prevented. Jihadist terrorists, whose ideology contributes to the radicalisation of European Muslims and their involvement in terrorist activities, continue to pose a major threat to European security. Several attacks were also carried out by the so-called domestic terrorists, who mostly radicalised under the influence of propaganda by terrorist groups but are not directly related to these groups.

4.3 Challenges of the digital world

In today's context, where the world faces global violent conflicts, several countries are pursuing aggressive rhetoric, information operations and disinformation with a devastating impact on the sustainability of an individual. It should be noted that the digital security dimension is also undergoing the next technological revolution and an unprecedented breakthrough (Evolution of AI technology. European Commission), enabling AI tools to create deep fakes, botnets and other information manipulations. The 21st century is the era of information. Perception of the impact of information warfare and disinformation on the individual and society as a whole needs to change at all levels of governance and society. According to Europol's Internet Organised Crime Threat Assessment (IOCTA) 2023, cybercrime, disinformation and artificial intelligence threats are developing faster than ever. Because of their global nature, cybercrimes are currently among the most difficult to detect.

Artificial intelligence and cyber technologies can improve security measures. By interacting with different aspects of national security, it can become a versatile tool for national defence. This includes: AI-powered surveillance systems improve surveillance capabilities by automatically analysing video feeds and identifying potential threats, thus increasing the efficiency of surveillance processes. Cyber security protects against cyber threats by detecting unusual patterns and potential breaches in real time, providing a robust line of defence against cyber-attacks. Threat detection and response – one can quickly assess and respond to physical or digital threats, ensuring that appropriate actions are taken immediately to mitigate risks. Intelligence analysis helps analyse intelligence data from different sources, identify trends and provide practical insights for security agencies (AI in National Security: A Comprehensive Guide).

Concerns about the devastating impact of the information war and disinformation on democracy and society have increased significantly following Russia's unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine, which brought continued strategic spread of disinformation for various political and military purposes, not only in Ukraine but also in other countries.

Looking beyond the context of global conflicts (apart from the Russian war in Ukraine, the war between Israel and Hamas), it can be concluded that disinformation is a disruptive tool for influencing public opinion.

Disinformation is mainly implemented at a cognitive level. The perception of reality in society is not the same as the actual reality, thus the peculiarity of an individual's mental activity opens up a wide range of opportunities to use disinformation to target public opinion in certain interests (Wang, 2020). The construction and dissemination of a false world view has far-reaching harmful consequences for the development of a society's sustainability, for instance, causing confusion and risks to health, forming indiscriminate attitudes towards security risks, undermining trust in democratic political institutions, etc.

In Russia, there are countless organisations and individuals engaged in disseminating Kremlin's messages using modern technologies, including machine translation, artificial intellect, and deep fake technologies. In 2023, the French agency responsible for combating external digital influence recorded a significant Russian disinformation campaign, in which hacktivists had created almost identical copies of the websites of state-run newspapers (The Constitution Protection Bureau Activity Report 2023).

When thinking about strengthening national cyber defence capabilities and fighting disinformation, policy-making, cooperation, responsible media conduct and public awareness building are major factors. The European Parliament resolution of 9 March 2022 on foreign interference in all democratic processes in the European Union, including disinformation, was a major turning point. The resolution stresses that foreign interference, including disinformation by Russia and other international policy actors, needs to be addressed through an EU coordinated strategy based on a whole-of-society and government-wide approach. Technological innovations, hybrid warfare, disinformation, and cyberattacks have undoubtedly and dramatically changed the impact of other threats.

The EU Cybersecurity Agency predicts that the digital security environment will continue to undergo new multidimensional changes (Foresight Cybersecurity Threats For 2030 – Update 2024: Executive Summary). Therefore, in order to prevent digital platforms from becoming a tool for disinformation and politically motivated manipulation, cybersecurity priorities need to be further focused on promoting public awareness, education and research, as well as building comprehensive resilience and cooperation in countering cyber threats.

4.4 Ensuring human security in the face of global threats

The concept of human security focuses on ensuring the basic needs of each individual, described as freedom from fear and freedom from deprivation (Human Development Report). Among the most prominent security researchers who successfully initiated the expansion and deepening of the security concept, was Barry Buzan. He pointed to the existence of threats in a number of areas and extended the scope of security from military security to political, economic, ecological and public security. In his work "People, States and Fear", Buzan devoted one chapter to individual security issues, which was an innovative approach focusing on the role of human beings in security policy (Buzan, 1991).

The genesis of human security has shown a trend of wave-like development – from the growing interest in the broad content of the concept in 1990s to moderate relevance in other periods. In the context of today's global risks and threats, human security has become particularly important. The security challenges of the 21st century undeniably embody the nature of the international dimension and act as a catalyst for many processes with negative consequences for each country individually. But the central element in this dimension is the individual who interacts with the state. Threatening the physical and mental health of an individual leads to negative consequences for the sustainable development of society, social well-being and the domestic policies of the state as a whole.

Although the conventional view of human security implies that an individual's life, health and physical security are at risk as a result of non-military threats, it must be concluded that today, society and individuals are exposed to existential fears, and they worry about the preservation and development of their identity due to various global risks and threats. For democratic countries, there is no doubt that what is happening in Ukraine is an aggressive war contrary to all basic principles of international law accepted by civilised states. It is clear that targeted killings of civilians and mass destruction of civilian infrastructure, obstruction of medical and humanitarian assistance and other actions by the Russian army constitute war crimes against humanity. The UN Commissioner for Human Rights reports nearly eleven thousand civilian casualties, indicating that the actual number of casualties is likely to be five times higher (Number of civilian Casualties in Ukraine during Russia's invasion verified by OHCHR from February 24, 2022, to February 15, 2024). Over five million Ukrainians have fled the country (Ukraine Refugee Situation: UNHCR Data Explanatory Note – 14 June 2023).

In democracy, online space has become as important as physical space. High-quality, sustainable and transparently funded independent media and professional journalism are essential for media freedom, pluralism and the rule of law, and are therefore a pillar of democracy and the best weapon against disinformation. Countries that have engaged in external interference and manipulation of information to destabilise the EU should pay for their decisions and be prepared to face economic and/or reputational and/or diplomatic consequences (Ārvalstu iejaukšanās visos Eiropas Savienības demokrātiskajos procesos Eiropas Parlamenta 2022. gada 9. marta rezolūcija par ārvalstu iejaukšanos visos Eiropas Savienības demokrātiskajos procesos, tostarp dezinformāciju (2020/2268(INI)).

Threats to democratic values, global violent conflicts, terrorism, the rise of hybrid warfare and disinformation have exposed society and individuals to the highest level of risks and threats. The changing security environment of the 21st century has completely transformed the perception of the state and society about security priorities, security policy-making and the essence of military power. There is no doubt that many countries have focused their security policy over the last few years on increasing military power and strengthening their response capabilities (Military Balance 2022. Edited: Robert Wall) however, it should be stressed that integrating human security issues into the national internal and external policies serves as an important factor for the sustainability, security and stability of society and integrates individuals into security policy.

5. Prospects for sustainable and secure societal development in the context of global risks and threats. Threat prevention options.

The prospects for the development of a sustainable and secure society must be assessed from two major points of view. Firstly, building a safe and sustainable society should address new emerging threats and risks. Secondly, it is also necessary to analyse the possibilities for innovative prevention of these threats and risks.

The results of some studies show a relatively new and specific type of threat that has been designed and used for several years by the Special Services of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation (Military Intelligence Service). The new type of threat is related to the use of kinetic (energy) acoustic weapons against U.S. government personnel (Bailey, Harward, Wolkov, & Barros, 2024). As a result of the use of these technologies, they have experienced an 'anomalous health incident' of varying severity (also known as the 'Havana Syndrome' (Anomalous Health Incidents (AHI)). Havana syndrome was first recorded in 2017 due to the strange diseases affecting more than twenty CIA and State Department officials seconded to Cuba. All attacks targeted five to ten percent of the highest-level staff of the Defence Intelligence Agency (DIA). The collected materials show that several U.S. officials who experienced Havana Syndrome suffer from serious injuries, with a significant impact on their life and future careers. The spouses and children of many U.S. officials also experienced the Havana Syndrome while abroad. In total, more than 100 AHI cases have been reported globally, affecting American special service staff, diplomats, military officers, contractors and, in some cases, their spouses, children, and even domestic animals (Dobrokhotov, Grozev, Weiss, 2024).

The new acoustic non-lethal weapons in the Russian Federation were developed under the Advanced Military Research Foundation. The Foundation was established in 2012 to develop "innovative weapons, including [those] based on new physical characteristics", "to bridge the gap in cutting-edge research with the Western partners". Within the framework of a separate project, the Foundation carried out the development of "the potential capability of non-lethal acoustic weapons in urban combat". The essence of the Havana Syndrome is related to microwave effects on living organisms (humans) through microwave energy. Ultrasound, a form of high-frequency inaudible acoustic energy, is directed to penetrate the human body through the ear canal or other parts of the head (nose, eyes), causing possible disturbances in the central nervous system, especially in the inner ear, where the sound is perceived. Both microwave and ultrasonic energy can damage brain cells, as well as open the hematoencephalic barrier, causing the damaged cell protein to leak into the spine fluid and then into the bloodstream. These so-called biomarkers are metabolised by the body within a few hours or days, which means that someone hit with an acoustic weapon should be taken blood samples almost immediately after the attack to detect signs of this type of injury. The Havana Syndrome shows all signs of Russia's hybrid warfare operation, which constitutes a new type of security threats and can have a significant impact on global security in the future.

When examining innovative threat and risk mitigation options, planning a safe social environment is essential. One of the most popular and comprehensive planning initiatives is the use of the elements of Crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) in tackling societal threats. This is a multidisciplinary approach to preventing

potential risks and illegal behaviour through environmental design and urban planning. Existing structures (e.g. buildings, roads, lighting, public spaces, etc.) and the environment (e.g. high shrubs, 'blind spots', etc.) are used to prevent potential societal threats. The aim of spatial planning is to create a balanced and sustainable environment for people. In order to achieve this objective, the spatial planning process is public and therefore involves conflicting interests regarding the use of the site in question and the need to harmonise and reconcile these interests (CPTED Handbook for Police Officers 2016). Three pillars of action have been developed to tackle crime and other socially dangerous manifestations: 1) measures to improve the quality of life of children and prevent them from living in a criminal environment; 2) programmes and policies aimed at improving social conditions and institutions affecting offences; 3) transforming elements or systems of the physical environment to reduce the chances of daily occurrence of crime (Welsh and Farrington, 2012). The CPTED approach uses the following key principles: 1) territoriality; 2) supervision (informal and formal); 3) access control; 4) image/maintenance; 5) support of the operational programme; protection of targets. This approach is merely one of the options for the development of a sustainable and secure society in a context of global risks and threats.

Finally, there is no doubt that each country is primarily responsible for its domestic sustainability and security, but today, most problems do not respect national borders. In recent years, there has been a growing awareness that national and public security is a shared responsibility and that the security of one member state means the security of all member states. The idea of international citizenship is also highlighted by the politician and academic Gareth Evans, pointing out that international responsibility is based on the willingness of countries to engage in international cooperation in order to maximise global societal benefits, enhance the development of society and cope with the challenges of globalisation (Evans, 2016).

By linking this valuable insight into the current global threats and challenges, the authors emphasise the need for unity of European countries in all dimensions. The development, the rule of law, security, equality and respect for fundamental rights form the core of the values of the EU democracies (EU Security Union Strategy). Its political and economic potential makes an invaluable contribution to a strong European security ecosystem and delivering integrated assistance.

The multi-faceted security threats can only be overcome on the basis of open and reliable international cooperation. It is therefore the responsibility of each country to encourage new discussions and formats in the planning and effective management of targeted and coordinated international cooperation. The exchange of information, on the other hand, would be based on a thorough threat and risk assessment, as well as on reliable strategic intelligence to underpin EU security.

6. Conclusions

In a rapidly changing world, it is difficult to predict the security situation in Europe and the world even after a few months, but it is clear that the geopolitical instability and uncertainty will continue to be the hallmarks of global policy in the near future. In a

changing and dynamic environment, the development of a sustainable society is increasingly interlinked and depends on the impact of global risks and threats.

The most important threats to today's world are the hybrid threats, terrorism, cybercrime and organised crime. In the new socio-political context, these threats are complemented by political disinformation, comprehensive fake news, deep fakes and the use of artificial intelligence in creating hybrid threats.

The global and European security is considerably affected by Russia's military invasion of Ukraine, Hamas and Hezbollah's terroristic activities in Israel and the Middle East. Officials of the Russian Federation are routinely threatening to use nuclear weapons, linking them with the course of the war in Ukraine and the support provided by the Western countries, which raises socio-political tensions and prompts to reassess the global security situation.

The digital security environment is constantly undergoing new multidimensional changes. In order to prevent digital platforms from becoming a tool for disinformation and politically motivated influence, there is a need to further develop society's digital awareness, and to improve the education and research system in this area.

The dominant position in the development of a sustainable society is an individual. Threatening the physical and mental health of an individual leads to negative consequences for the sustainable development of society, social well-being and the domestic policies of the state as a whole.

The new global security challenges have highlighted the true values of the society and, at the same time, things that require much greater attention in the future. Global events confirm how misleading it is to consider security as a self-evident value and emphasise the importance of democracy, the formation of public attitudes and the unity of international politics.

The EU's security, peace and prosperity are closely intertwined with the strong transatlantic ties. The public sentiment and the common understanding of peace, prosperity, and growth play a crucial role. The international community must be able to adapt to the new challenges and threats, which in today's era of systematic competition are not only geopolitical by nature but also affect all global developments.

The prospects for the development of a sustainable and secure society need to be explored and analysed in the light of new potential threats and risks, as well as innovative options to address them.

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