

disclosure of assets and mutual legal assistance, though these countries' actual conformity with the FATF's standards varies. Few reputable financial centers offer bank secrecy as an option. Nevertheless, the visible enforcement of financial regulations aimed at the proceeds of organized crime has been modest. Moreover, the operational inability of police, prosecutors, and judges to handle cases involving financial investigations is still an institutional constraint in most countries. In short, experience in Chile, Italy, Mexico, and the United States shows that strengthened financial regulatory frameworks come hand in hand with lower levels of organized crime, at the same time that these frameworks are not easily adopted or implemented.

NOTES

1. For the text of the convention, see www.unodc.org/palermo/convmain.html.
2. The Falcone checklist gives an operational account of organized criminal groups working in a certain jurisdiction by describing the composition, structure, modus operandi, licit-illicit linkages, and other aspects needed for the investigation and prosecution of criminal networks. For more details, see Buscaglia and Gonzalez-Ruiz (2002).
3. This jurimetric study covers a large sample of countries, representing worldwide interregional diversity stratified by level of socioeconomic development. It deals with the following states and territories: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Mongolia, Netherlands, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yugo-

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slavia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and Zimbabwe. Political, governmental, socioeconomic, legal, and criminal justice factors are all tested for statistical significance in explaining the ups and downs in organized crime and public sector corruption.

4. In particular, Buscaglia and van Dijk (2003) compiled data on the smuggling of firearms (taking into account manufacturing, sales, imports, and exports—already computed by the UN); the estimates of cigarette smuggling, car theft, and consumer fraud victimization (ICVS); the number of homicides (UN, Interpol, World Health Organization); the size of the informal economy (Heritage Foundation); the business sector's perceptions of organized crime prevalence (World Economic Forum); the inflow of laundered money in millions of dollars per year as a part of the gross domestic product (Walker Index); and the trafficking in human beings by nationalities of suspects (UN Center for International Crime Prevention [CICP] Human Trafficking database). They ranked each country for each variable to compute the composite organized crime index as an average of the rankings that every country shows for each item mentioned above. Each component showed strong correlations with the organized crime index, with costs for business, homicide, and money-laundering being the best predictors.
5. Statistical tables showing the results of the study presented here can be found at www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/forum/stat_tables.pdf.
6. Refer to US Code Title 18 (RICO laws). On participation in a criminal association, see the French Criminal Code, Title V, articles 450-1–450-4; the Italian Penal Code, Royal Decree No. 1398 of October 19, 1930, articles 416, “Association for purposes of committing offences,” and 416 bis, “Mafia-type association”; and the Spanish Criminal Code, articles 515 and 516, on illicit association.

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