

## THE EXTERNAL INFORMATION FLOW OF THE STRATEGIC AND NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

Carmen POSTELNICU

“Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy, Romania

*Abstract:* Modern intelligence services have constantly improved their analytical function, which allows them to develop relationships with the main social partners. Due to the position these key partners have within the structures of power, they intervene in a decisively manner into the national security policy, extending to the international one.

*Keywords:* information, flow, expertise, security, beneficiaries, providers.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In the democratic countries, the intelligence services are institutions of the state, that achieved an increasingly degree of relevance, having the role of a social partner for the power factors who are entitled to make decisions on the national security plan, extending to the international one. One of the finalities of the specific activities conducted by the intelligence services is to support a prevention process conducted by the body legally entitled to obtain information products. The institutional collaboration established between the providers/services and the beneficiary/decision makers are achieved through an external information flow that is generated by the services and captured by the beneficiary.

The generic name of beneficiaries include people occupying key positions within the institutions of the state, the highest level being held by the state president and the prime minister, according to the form of government, by the presidents of the Chambers of the Parliament, by the ministers or the representatives of local administration. Although all the states have precise regulations in this field, in reality there have always been dissensions between the intelligence services and the political factor. “The difficulties arise, according to the intelligence services, from the

trend of the decision makers to pay no attention to those information products that do not support the political strategies they want to adopt, or those ones they already adopted and to which they made a commitment [1]”.

Complex information products are disseminated to the beneficiaries, products that passed, within the services, through different phases of processing. The most important phase that information to be transmitted to its recipient is passing through is the analysis. “The analysis refers to the process of transforming the information collected in any manner into a product that can be used by decisional factors and military leaders” [1]. The analytical function increased its weight in all the types of intelligence organizations, considering that the information bombardment is excessive and the information is not properly filtered, and all these can cause adverse effects. In the upper class of the intelligence services more and more emphasis is put on the maximal use of the analytical function, both as a process and as an optimal distribution of the staff who has expertise in this area. Optimizing the analytical capacity is a priority of intelligence services, which are forced to adjust their capacity of response and intervention to the coordinates and the expressions of aggression factors or threats. The strength of analysis and anticipation will represent the success of the intelligence

activity in the next years, given that aggression difficult to predict must be anticipated and reported in terms and time allowing an effective removal capacity. While traditional threats have diluted their dangerousness potential, the asymmetric or unconventional ones, with cross-borders symptoms, won a repudiated kind of celebrity, because of their aggressive potential, their pulling-back ability and their element of surprise, which, together with the anonymity of the authors, represents a destructive gear with a large capacity of proliferation and propagation.

These categories of threats will be able to be anticipated and effectively removed throughout the efficient combination of gathering the information and analyzing the information.

Intelligence services will adapt and make

flexible their strategic and tactical activity and will develop the analytical capacity of the field workers, things that will lead to the increase of the anticipation potential on all levels of intervention.

## 2. EXTERNAL INFORMATION FLOW AND ITS MAIN FEATURES

The relationship between information providers and its recipients is based on external information flow, which is a continuous process.

In general, information flow is the amount of information exchanged between the transmitter and the beneficiary of the information and assigned the following characteristics: length, speed, reliability, cost and laden degree (Fig. 1).

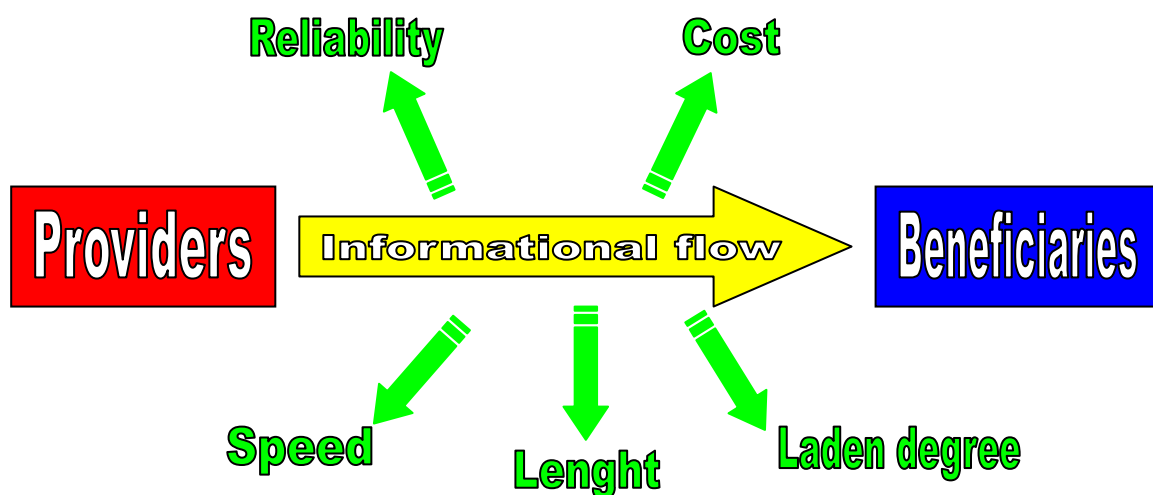


Fig. 1 Information flow

Applying this path to the relationship between the intelligence services in Romania and the legal beneficiaries leads to the assumption that information is a highly perishable product.

The length of information flow between the provider and the beneficiary must fit within the tolerance limits designed to ensure the transfer of information, without any jam along the circuit, to the intermediate structures. In the Romanian formula, there is only a single link between the providers and the beneficiaries, the NIC – National Intelligence Community, which operates a filtrate volume of information, that have already been subject

to some corroboration and analysis activities, conferring them accuracy and adhesion. Regarding the NIC, it operates with national security information that meet certain criteria, the final form being assigned by the issuing services. We can argue that the primary type information referred to the NIC is already a complete one, verified and therefore safe. As a consequence, NIC is favored because it accumulates only information with a high degree of relevance, which improves the analytical process. Analytical work is accessible, in terms of reducing the ballast elements, those which duplicate the contents and the redundant data.

In any collective type system there is also the risk of waste accumulation, bypassing the process, and information services are no exception. The appropriate management projects and programs, along with the internal procedures adapted to the modern business intelligence requirements, helps to increase the quality and to reduce the unnecessary treasuriness of unnecessary information.

The speed of information movement towards the beneficiaries is in a congruent relationship with the length of the information flow. If there are more intermediate links between the information provider and the beneficiaries, those links can hamper the development within the circuit and the shifting speed decreases. For these reasons, between the providers and the beneficiaries there must be the fewest possible superstructures, in order to disqualify the information and its subject to perishable character. Returning to the idea exposed above, in Romania, the information flow has a speed which is unconditioned by external elements, NIC being the only intermediary entity, but one that doesn't intervene across the path of all the information categories issued by the services the service. In case of threats, aggressions or imminent risks, the information can be sent both to NIC, in order to achieve the integration process, and to the beneficiary, in order to promptly achieve the act of prevention as it must be done.

The reliability of the information flow represents the measure of intelligence services professionalism within the institutional relationship they have with the beneficiaries. The request of maintaining viable the information flow and to exclude any malfunctions that may intervene at a particular moment, and under specified conditions, is placed on the provider, who must build his own internal mechanisms very well, in order to create the information finished product, which falls outside his own system. From this framework, the beneficiary's contribution, which helps maintaining the reliability of the process, should not be excluded. If the beneficiary does not intervene to ensure the preventive function, it means that the ultimate goal of the intelligence activity is not achieved. Reliability, in this context, is not

reduced to a kind of staff office correspondence but it is assimilated and integrated into the final purpose of intelligence activity, as an integrating process.

One of the problems of modern intelligence services is subject to costs, which are included in budgets, and subject to accounting purposes which does not exceed any field of activity. Information costs as much as each state wants to offer to obtain them. The real cost of information is not always reflected by the available budget of the service producing it. The intelligence services never receive the budgets they wish for, and this fact can lead to the occurrence of dysfunctions in the activities they undertake. In fact, the budget allocated to the intelligence services is one of the hottest topics that are debated by the political class and by the civil society representatives. Those who talk the least about their own budgets are the intelligence services themselves, which are in a defensive position to the other social partners and do not claim for any possible failures that might occur because of the poverty or the lack of financial availability. In the secret services zone is it a known fact that an added value of the information is obtained by the professionalism of the workers who successfully compensate for the lack of money.

In 2010 Romania allocated SRI – Romanian Intelligence Service a budget of 957,201,000 lei [3,5], compared to the 2009 preliminary implementation of 958,726,000 lei, which director George Cristian Maior considers as satisfactory for carrying on daily activities and assuming obligations to the international partners: "It's a crisis budget, reduced from 2009 and from previous years at around 98%. We can also find a decrease in value of the share of GDP budget from 0.3% to 0.23%. We hope we can maintain at a strategic and operational level, the continuity of our mission on anti-terrorism, counterespionage, or service's mission on the field of country cybernetic defense.(...) It is a satisfactory budget in these days of crisis, we have adapted ourselves to the rigors of the situation". SRI Director confirmed that, according to the evaluation of the service for

the coming years, some categories of security risks and threats are growing, “next year in particular, increasing risks related to organized crime at the strategic level”, but also “a growth related to the terrorist threat in Euro-Atlantic area, foreseen by us”. Maior noted that external partnerships of SRI are “very important” and said he was pleased that there are budgetary resources for further participation in operations alongside other “very strong services”.

For SIE – Extern Intelligence Service, the allocated amount is 214,300,000 lei [3,4], and the Chairman of the joint activity control commission decided to support the director’s request to supplement the initial amount, in order to sustain the technical segment. It can be said, when talking about the year 2010 budget of the intelligence services in Romania, to be an adapted to the specificities of the crisis one, but still being able to respond to the requirements for ensuring the national security.

As a characteristic of the information flow, the laden degree is a volumetric representation of the ability distribution that intelligence services have in their relation with the beneficiaries. The laden degree needs to be adherent to the needs of the beneficiaries, which can not be excessively demanded, because of the risk of not succeeding in establishing priorities. As in any type of communication, the laden degree of the message must have a good dispersion, in order to avoid altering the finality of the original purpose, the one of ensuring national security. An abundant, excessive flow can induce turbulence into the system, which loses also in

reliability and, not at last, generates additional costs.

### 3. CONCLUSIONS

If we place the strategic information in the context of the current marketing nowadays, we can assign its appropriate result with the degree of satisfaction of the beneficiary who is using it. The relationship between the services and the beneficiaries is an interesting and legally postulated one, with obligation directed towards the services that inform the decisional factors of the state, and they, at their turn, are presumed to occur through the enforcement of those measures that remove the threats to the security or achieve prevention by another way of expression, namely undertaking actions with positive impact on security: creating favorable alliances, assuming international commitments, cooperating with other international structures and organizations with prerogatives in the security field, etc.

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