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PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION IN GOVERNMENT BODIES

The issue of a comprehensive analysis of the problem of corruption in Ukraine, a critical reflection on existing approaches, the formulation of one's own vision of ways to overcome it, and the identification of directions for further scientific research in this important area are raised. The essence and manifestations of corruption in state authorities, its causes, consequences and ways of prevention are considered. Particular attention is paid to the analysis of the relationship between corruption and institutional inefficiency, lack of transparency and accountability, as well as socio-economic factors.

The importance of forming a legal culture of civil servants and developing preventive measures is emphasized. A comprehensive approach to preventing and combating corruption in the public administration system is proposed. The main attention is focused on strengthening the transparency and accountability of government activities, the introduction of effective legal and organizational mechanisms. The emphasis is on the importance of educational influence as a tool for long-term prevention of corruption, as well as the need to implement modern digital solutions to detect and prevent offenses. The study substantiates the feasibility of creating a unified system for monitoring and analyzing anti-corruption measures, which will ensure an effective response to potential risks and contribute to increasing the level of public trust in government institutions.

Keywords: *corruption, public administration, anti-corruption policy, civil servants, transparency, accountability, legal culture.*

Statement of the problem. Corruption always hinders the progress of society and negatively affects the lives of its citizens. It manifests itself in various forms, is directly related to the effectiveness of state institutions and can destroy the public's trust in them. One of the key causes of corruption is the lack of transparency and accountability in government. Politicians and administrators can use their positions of power for personal gain, which complicates effective anti-corruption efforts. In addition, weaknesses in governance and loopholes in laws and regulations create the conditions for corruption. The intertwining of personal interests and public administration often leads to corrupt practices.

Counteracting corruption in government bodies involves a set of measures that are strictly regulated by Ukrainian legislation and implemented by authorized state authorities. However, statistics do not show a dynamic reduction in corruption in the current conditions of state formation in Ukraine. That is why it is important to find alternative ways to combat corruption among civil servants, which will effectively shape the legal culture of the latter,

thereby reducing the spread of this social vice in society.

The problem of this study is the lack of dynamics of a significant reduction in corruption manifestations in Ukraine in the conditions of modern state formation, despite legislative regulation and the activities of authorized state bodies.

Analysis of recent research and publications.

The works of such scholars as G. S. Buriak, S. D. Dubenko, S. O. Kokhan pay attention to the study of general and special aspects of combating corruption in Ukraine at the present stage. The authors highlight the mechanisms, responsibilities, and ways to prevent corruption among civil servants. However, the aspects of educational prevention and prevention of corruption among civil servants in the context of the realities of the development of modern Ukrainian society remain insufficiently researched.

The expected results of the study are to identify effective mechanisms for combating corruption, substantiate areas for improving state anti-corruption policy, and formulate practical

recommendations for preventing corruption in the public sector.

The purpose of the article is to analyze the main approaches to preventing corruption in public authorities, identify effective mechanisms and tools for preventing corruption offenses, and justify the need to strengthen anti-corruption policy to ensure transparency and integrity of public administration.

The research methodology combines the analysis of regulatory legal acts and international anti-corruption instruments with the content analysis of scientific works and publications that raise issues related to combating corruption. A comparative analysis of national and foreign anti-corruption practices is applied in order to identify effective approaches that can be adapted to Ukrainian realities.

Summary of the main material. Corruption covers all sectors – public, private and social. It manifests itself in many forms, such as bribery and embezzlement, but also includes other practices that are not related to money, such as unfair favoritism and nepotism. Each form of corruption provides improper and illegal benefits.

Moreover, corruption is a phenomenon that permeates different layers of society – from significant political and economic abuses ("grand corruption") to everyday petty bribes, dishonest performance of official duties, and nepotism ("petty corruption"). The common feature of all corrupt acts is the breach of trust and the harm to the general interests of society [1]. This statement, in the authors' opinion, is well-founded, as it reflects both the diverse manifestations of this phenomenon and its common destructive nature.

Basically, corruption is defined as an illegal activity that consists of officials using their rights and official positions for personal enrichment. Corrupt relationships arise between an individual and a public servant when the former offers a reward for distributing a limited public resource in his favor, and the latter uses his powers to meet the needs of an individual and receive a reward for it [2]. The authors of the article agree with this opinion, since the definition is basic and covers the key elements of corruption: illegality, abuse of official position, the goal of personal enrichment, and the often two-way nature of corrupt relations that arise in the process of improper distribution of state resources.

Control by personnel services also plays an important role in preventing corruption. According to O. Y. Buchynskiy, it is advisable to establish a single analytical center to generalize statistical

material on corruption offenses and their analysis and systematization, taking into account the link to specific state bodies, their structural units, and specific positions throughout Ukraine. A detailed analysis of official corruption actions will allow identifying the reasons for their commission and "weak points" in the regulatory legal acts that regulate the activities of employees in positions where several similar offenses were committed, as well as develop a set of measures to prevent such manifestations in the future. The acquired experience in combating corruption, which concerns a separate position or state body, together with the developed set of anti-corruption measures, must be disseminated among similar state institutions, bodies, who have the positions under consideration. Such materials can be distributed using electronic means of communication and made available for public control [3]. The idea O. Y. Buchynskiy's is promising, since the centralization of the analysis of data on corruption can significantly increase the validity of anti-corruption strategies. However, for its successful implementation, it is necessary to carefully consider the technical, organizational, and methodological aspects, as well as ensure the effective use of the knowledge gained in practice.

Therefore, the main principles of counteracting and combating corruption are: the rule of law, the presumption of innocence, equality of all citizens before the law and ensuring free access to justice, and respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms. In preparing and implementing such reforms, it is advisable for civil servants to actively master new forms of communication: dialogue, consensus, and social contract.

The consequences of corruption are far-reaching and affect various aspects of society. In economic terms, corruption leads to the misallocation of resources and hinders the development of the country's economy. This deters foreign investment and reduces the confidence of employers and international organizations in the country's business environment. In addition, corruption undermines the rule of law and contributes to the formation of a culture of impunity, when those who engage in corruption often remain unpunished [4]. The author's opinion is correct in essence, but somewhat generalized. In our opinion, for greater depth of analysis, it could be supplemented with specific mechanisms of corruption's impact, an assessment of the extent of this impact, and a mention of a broader range of consequences, including social and political ones.

To combat corruption, it is necessary to strengthen control and enforcement mechanisms. The government should establish effective anti-corruption bodies and mechanisms for citizen participation. In addition, creating a strong legislative framework, combined with the provision of technical and financial resources, can enable officials to better combat corruption and punish those involved in it.

One of the main causes of corruption is the lack of accountability in public administration and government institutions. When there is no transparency and control, people in positions of power often feel that they can get away with corrupt acts without any punishment. This impunity leads to a culture of corruption, where bribery and embezzlement become the norm [5].

Another reason for corruption is the close relationship between politics and business. In many countries, political leaders and government officials have control over economic resources and public funds. This imbalance of power can create opportunities for personal gain and bribery. In addition, the lack of transparency and accountability in political financing often allows corrupt funds to infiltrate the political system, further exacerbating the problem [6]. Weak legal and judicial systems also contribute to the spread of corruption. In countries where the rule of law is not effectively enforced, corrupt individuals are rarely held accountable for their actions. Slow and ineffective judicial processes allow corrupt individuals to avoid punishment or receive lenient sentences.

The correlation between the level of poverty and the commission of corruption offenses has a significant impact. Society is faced with the satisfaction of basic life needs, which can lead to corruption schemes. In our country, this is perceived as limited access to resources and social guarantees.

Lack of awareness of the negative effects of corruption is another contributing factor. In many societies, corruption is seen as a normal part of everyday life, and people may not fully understand the costs and consequences it has for their country. In this regard, raising awareness and promoting a culture of integrity and accountability are important in the fight against corruption.

Socioeconomic inequalities and poverty also play a significant role in fostering corruption. When there is a wide gap between the rich and the poor, people may resort to corruption as a means of gaining wealth and power. This is especially true in countries where a large portion of the population

lacks basic needs such as food, health care, and education. In such contexts, corruption can be seen as a way to circumvent bureaucratic barriers and gain access to basic services.

To combat corruption, it is important to adopt a multifaceted approach that addresses both the root causes and the immediate consequences of corruption. This may include strengthening institutions, promoting transparency and accountability, and empowering civil society and the implementation of effective anti-corruption measures. International cooperation and support can also play a crucial role in assisting countries in their efforts to combat corruption and promote good governance [7]. The statement is correct in its main idea, but it is of a general nature.

Ways to prevent corruption

1. Training and resources. Governments should provide training and resources for civil servants, policymakers, and public officials to equip them with the knowledge, skills, and tools needed to combat corruption. This includes educating them about the negative consequences of corruption, the legal framework, and the importance of ethical behavior. By doing this, people can be better equipped to identify and report corrupt practices.

2. Transparency and accountability. Governments should ensure transparency in decision-making processes and hold public officials accountable for their actions. This can be achieved through measures such as financial disclosure requirements, asset declaration systems, and whistleblower protection laws. By promoting transparency and accountability, governments can deter corruption and promote good governance.

3. Strengthening institutions. Governments should focus on strengthening institutions and improving the management of public resources. This includes establishing effective anti-corruption bodies, such as ombudsmen's offices and anti-corruption commissions, that have the authority and independence to investigate and prosecute corrupt individuals. Governments should invest in building the capacity of civil servants in areas such as financial management, procurement and auditing to address weaknesses that corrupt actors can exploit.

4. International cooperation. Corruption is a global problem, and therefore combating it requires international cooperation. Governments should cooperate and share best practices, experiences and information with other countries. This may include sharing information on corrupt practices, trends, and the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures. International cooperation can also help in

identifying and recovering stolen assets that have been moved across borders [8].

Preventing corruption is an ongoing effort that must involve all levels of society. By addressing root causes, promoting transparency and accountability, and empowering citizens, governments can reduce corruption and its negative impact on economic growth, social development, and political stability [9].

Unfortunately, there are cases of corruption in Ukraine among high-level government officials who benefit from infrastructure projects, the sale of their country's resources, government procurement, etc. The proceeds from such transactions are easily hidden in secret bank accounts, usually in the name of opaque corporate structures registered in offshore centers, the sole purpose of which is to hide the identity of the true owners. The pervasive level of corruption during Yanukovich's presidency led to protests and revolution. Corruption was a key issue [10].

The OECD Convention states that "bribery raises serious moral and political concerns" [11]. Bribery is a fundamental violation of ethical norms and principles of integrity. It distorts fair competition, undermines fairness and equality of opportunity. When officials accept or demand bribes, they betray their duty to act in the public interest, putting personal gain above official duty. It destroys trust between citizens and authorities, as well as between participants in economic relations.

Bribery also leads to a distortion of moral values in society, where illegal benefits begin to be perceived as the norm. This means that the influence of the law is weak and must be supplemented by ethical convictions. Therefore, in the current situation in Ukraine, it is also necessary to emphasize moral or ethical issues.

The organizational and legal factors that contribute to the spread of corruption in Ukraine are: insufficient control over the activities of civil servants, which leads to impunity for corrupt acts; lack of a code of professional ethics in state bodies, as well as excessive secrecy of internal regulatory and legal documents; lack of a system for forming patriotic feelings, moral and professional qualities among employees, understanding that corruption is a threat to the authority and strength of the state, and ethical principles of public consciousness [12].

Since the "Revolution of Dignity" in Ukraine, significant efforts have been made to combat corruption. However, no one is satisfied with the progress made so far. Focusing solely on legal reforms is not enough to overcome the culture of corruption. A broader societal effort is needed to create a new culture. A new culture is essential to replace the endemic corruption that many believe is a legacy of the Soviet Union and its aftermath. A new culture will reflect a love for Ukraine as a distinct national community, distinct from its Soviet past [13].

Table 1 – Causes of corruption and ways to prevent it

No.	Causes of corruption	Ways to prevent corruption
1	Lack of accountability in public administration and state institutions	Strengthening transparency and monitoring
2	The close relationship between politics and business	Ensuring transparency of political financing
3	Weak legal and judicial systems	Improving the efficiency of legal proceedings
4	Poverty and income inequality	Overcoming social and economic inequality
5	Insufficient awareness and education about the consequences of corruption	Raising awareness and promoting a culture of integrity

State support is an indispensable condition for this reform. New social values must be generated that create a new culture, such as reliability, openness, transparency, active participation and responsibility. In modern Ukraine, these words and values are repeated like a mantra in the context of legal and governmental reform. However, success requires a deeper societal effort that would involve not only the government, but also business leaders, universities, schools, and families.

A culture of integrity needs to be developed. This development can take many forms. For example, the business community can take the lead and express new values in action, or MBA programs can teach business leaders a business culture based on integrity (this is taught as a source of competitive advantage in Western Europe and North America). The school system should teach that personal values influence happiness and success and that corruption is not only bad for society but also distorts the inner lives of those involved in it. Non-governmental organizations can use their membership and unique activism to engage in practical actions to overcome corruption and replace it with a new Ukrainian culture and honesty [10]. The idea of the need to develop a culture of honesty is strategically important for the long-term overcoming of corruption. It correctly identifies key areas of influence. However, its practical implementation requires the development of specific mechanisms, ensuring leadership and consistency, and taking into account the complexity and duration of this process.

Legal and judicial reforms are essential to reducing corruption. However, the law is only part of the effort needed. A large number of anti-corruption measures are listed in a recent report on legal and governance reforms in Ukraine. Some of them need to be implemented immediately, including:

- introduction of comprehensive protection for witnesses of corruption acts;
- requirement to disclose information about the ultimate owners of the enterprise (obscure offshore structures should become transparent);
- strengthening public oversight and independence of the anti-corruption agency;
- public pressure to continue the reform of the state prosecutor's office system in order to ensure its objectivity and transparency [14].

The scientist's opinion is correct, but insufficient emphasis is placed on the systematic nature of reforms, issues of their implementation

and execution, dependence on political will, the need to overcome resistance, interconnections with other areas, and the broader role of public pressure.

Conclusions

To succeed in the fight against corruption, the current culture of corruption must be replaced by a new culture of honesty. The Ukrainian revolution revealed that many Ukrainians yearn for change, as demonstrated by nonviolent activism and a willingness to sacrifice (including their own lives) for change. Creating a new culture requires action from the business community, schools and universities, families and NGOs. Moving from a state where corruption permeates all aspects of daily life to one where citizens and businesses encounter corruption only in very rare cases requires a broad societal response.

In the context of scientific research into the problem of corruption in public authorities and the development of scientifically based strategies for its minimization, it is proposed to focus attention on the analysis and assessment of the potential of the following comprehensive mechanisms: strengthening the institutional capacity and independence of control and supervisory bodies, implementing and optimizing digital tools for transparency and accountability, reforming the civil service system on the basis of integrity and professionalism, and activating mechanisms of public control and involvement of civil society, deepening international cooperation in the field of combating corruption.

Conducting a comprehensive scientific analysis of these mechanisms will make it possible to empirically assess their contribution to reducing the level of corruption in state authorities and develop scientifically based recommendations for further improvement of anti-corruption policy.

A promising direction for further scientific research is the study of comprehensive reforms aimed at eradicating the root causes of corruption in Ukraine, strengthening anti-corruption institutions, and forming a new social culture based on integrity and the rule of law.

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ПРОФІЛАКТИКА КОРУПЦІЇ В ОРГАНАХ ВЛАДИ

Порушено питання комплексного аналізу проблеми корупції в Україні, критичного осмислення наявних підходів, формулювання власного бачення щодо шляхів її подолання та визначення напрямів для подальших наукових досліджень у цій важливій сфері. Розглянуто сутність та прояви корупції в органах державної влади, її причини, наслідки та шляхи запобігання. Особливу увагу приділено аналізу взаємозв'язку корупції з неефективністю інституцій, браком прозорості та підзвітності, а також соціально-економічними чинниками. Важливим елементом статті є визначення перспективних напрямів для подальших наукових досліджень у цій сфері, що підкреслює її актуальність та практичну значущість.

Наголошено на важливості формування правової культури державних службовців та розвитку превентивних заходів. Запропоновано комплексний підхід до запобігання та протидії корупції в системі державного управління. Головну увагу зосереджено на посиленні прозорості та підзвітності діяльності органів влади, упровадженні ефективних правових і організаційних механізмів. Акцентовано на важливості освітньо-виховного впливу як інструмента довгострокової профілактики корупції. Підкреслено необхідність упровадження сучасних цифрових рішень і технологій для підвищення ефективності виявлення та запобігання корупційним правопорушенням. Розглянуто можливості використання електронних систем документообігу, онлайн-платформ для звітності та інших інноваційних інструментів.

У межах дослідження обґрунтовано доцільність створення єдиної системи моніторингу та аналізу антикорупційних заходів, яка забезпечить ефективне реагування на потенційні ризики і сприятиме підвищенню рівня довіри громадськості до інститутів влади.

Ключові слова: *корупція, державне управління, антикорупційна політика, державні службовці, прозорість, підзвітність, правова культура.*

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