

Corruption Risks in the System of Providing Economic Security of the State

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Abstract

At the current stage of globalization and European integration of Ukraine, the aspects related to the effective fight against corruption in the system of economic security of our country are receiving more and more attention, as they become a prerequisite for continuing reforms based on international funding. In order to consider this issue and solve this problem, the necessary step is to develop and implement real mechanisms of the system for detecting and preventing corrupt behavior, which are based on international anti-corruption standards. The leading component of this system is the management of corruption risks in the system of economic security in order to identify them and implement measures to reduce them.

This study analyzes the corruption perception index in Ukraine in recent years, which showed a positive, albeit somewhat slow dynamics of its growth, indicating a gradual increase in overcoming corruption through the introduction of a number of anti-corruption measures and changes. It is proved that the current stage of socio-economic development of the country contributes to strengthening the processes of combating corruption and preventing corruption risks, creating an effective and efficient anti-corruption system of the state. The concept of "corruption" was studied, it was found that in the field of public administration it is considered from different positions and is closely related to the concept of "corruption risks". The essence and features of corruption risks are studied, the preconditions of their occurrence are formulated, the relationship between the causes of corruption risks and economic security in the field of public authority has been established. The system of corruption risk management is considered and its components are characterized. It is proposed to increase the effectiveness of anti-corruption policy through the implementation of measures aimed at investigating the causes of corruption risks, as well as developed effective and effective means of reducing corruption risks within the system of economic security

Key words:

corruption, corruption risks, economic security, economic security system, antitrust policy, corruption risk management system.

1. Introduction

Corruption is a danger that, regardless of the state and level of economic development of the state, affects all countries of the world without exception. Currently, corruption is a factor of real threat to the national security of our country, the rule of law, an obstacle to the development of democracy. Manifestations of corrupt actions form a negative image and perception of our country in the international space, harm the functioning of the state apparatus, diminish civil liberties and rights, plunder the system of social, moral, ethical standards and values. In view of this, among the priorities of anti-corruption policy of our country should be highlighted the formation and implementation of a quality effective system of analysis and monitoring of corruption risks in public administration, which will help find shortcomings, miscalculations and shortcomings in public administration. representatives of public authorities. Thus, the urgent tasks of applying appropriate anti-corruption measures to organize effective anti-corruption measures include research into the causes and conditions of corruption, monitoring of potential corruption risks in public administration, development and implementation of anti-corruption strategy. Thus, the study of the process of corruption risk management is currently relevant and timely.

The purpose of the article is to study and determine the nature and features of corruption risks in the economic security of the state and develop effective measures to reduce them.

2. Literature review

Issues of anti-corruption policy, corruption risks and the impact of these processes on economic security of regions and the country as a whole, especially in the

current context of digital development, are becoming increasingly important, indicating the need for further research and analysis. Among the scientists who have studied this issue, it should be noted: Abramova A. (2021) [1]; Arefieva O. (2021) [2]; Blatt F. (2021) [3]; Boly A. (2018) [4]; Brody R.G. (2021) [5]; Bühren C. (2019) [6]; Cosmulese C. (2019) [7]; Derhaliuk M. (2021) [8]; Dubyna M. (2021) [9]; Esoimeme E.E. (2019) [10]; Fedyshyn M. (2019) [11]; Grigoraş-Ichim C. (2018) [12]; Huss O. (2021) [13]; Ivanova N. (2016) [14]; Kublitska O. (2021) [15]; Jiang G.F. (2021) [16]; Kazachkova Z.M. (2020) [17]; Kholiavko N. (2021) [18]; Popelo O. (2021) [19]; Kosach I. A. (2019) [20]; Lacatus C. (2020) [21]; Liu J. (2021) [22]; Maggio P. (2020) [23]; Mahmud N.M. (2021) [24]; Min K.-S. (2019) [25]; Pohrebniak A. (2021) [26]; Tkachenko T. (2021) [27]; Garafonova O. (2021) [28]; Samiilenko H. (2021) [29]; Samoiloanych A. (2021) [30]; Shedy M. (2018) [31]; Shkarlet S. (2017) [32,33]; Gonta I. (2016) [34]; Tarasenko A. (2017) [35]; Strand C. (2019) [36]; Tulchynska S. (2021) [37]; Tulchinskiy R. (2021) [38]; Villeneuve J.-P. (2020) [39]; Vovk O. (2021) [40]; Vyas L. (2020) [41]; Wolf S. (2021) [42]; Žuffová M. (2020) [43] and others.

The aim of the research [24] is to study the impact of the government on the corporate anti-corruption policy of public companies in Malaysia. Using the methods of analyzing the content of annual reports and company websites, the authors examined the characteristics of the board and found that they have little connection with corporate communications in the fight against corruption. The research highlights the specifics of corporate obligations in order to ensure proper procedures in accordance with the Law on Corporate Responsibility.

As part of the research [3], scientists analyzed the impact of civil society on Ukraine's anti-corruption policy after Maidan in 2014. According to the study, the authors prove that changes in anti-corruption policies have led to changes in official legal powers to make political decisions.

The authors of the article [22] study the impact of corruption in government on energy efficiency in terms of energy regulation. Scientists have analyzed the mechanism of the impact of corruption on energy efficiency. The authors argue that state corruption in general has a negative impact on energy efficiency in China. Researchers have found that the introduction of energy dispatching regulatory agencies in eastern China could significantly reduce the negative impact of corruption on energy efficiency.

According to the authors' research [5], the problem of corruption in public institutions in developing countries has been studied. The article examines that corruption is prevalent in most developing countries. As a result of the research, the peculiarities of the formation and implementation of anti-corruption policy in developing countries are analyzed.

The authors of the article [42] study German anti-corruption reforms, which are based on a multi-stream approach. Researchers analyze the parametric characteristics of the three main anti-corruption reforms. The article argues that the study of anti-corruption reforms should not ignore coalition parties and desirable policy options.

In scientific work [13], the authors prove that presidents use anti-corruption policies to legalize and institutionalize political dominance. The authors argue that corrupt practices and anti-corruption policies become two sides of the same coin and are pursued to maintain unequal political conditions. The authors analyzed the use of corruption under the three presidents of Ukraine on the basis of interviews, press polls, content analysis of the speeches of the Presidents, as well as a critical assessment of anti-corruption legislation.

The aim of the research [16] is to analyze the impact of corporate anti-corruption policy on the foreign investment strategy of multinational companies. According to researchers, differences in the motives of foreign investment mitigate the expected deterrent effect of anti-corruption policy. The results of the research presented in the article reveal the peculiarities of the fight against corruption in international business and outline the importance for corporate self-regulation in general.

Researchers [39] have studied the main elements for a comprehensive and effective typology of anti-corruption policy. The authors consider it appropriate to consider three main groups of variables for the classification of anti-corruption initiatives, namely: the type of benefit, the mechanism of intervention and the type of political instrument. As a result of the study, the authors outlined the main features and boundaries of existing anti-corruption classifications.

The aim of the article [41] is to analyze the anti-corruption strategy in China and India. The authors study that anti-corruption agencies with law enforcement powers play an important role in China, while in India a significant emphasis is placed on the role of civil society. As a result of the study, the need to reduce the influence of political parties, especially in India, and strengthen e-government in both countries will be noted.

The authors of the article [43] propose an empirical study of the relationship between open government data on freedom of information laws and corruption. According to researchers, the impact of open public data on corruption depends on the quality of the media and freedom of the Internet. The authors also study that factors such as free and fair elections, independent and accountable judiciary or economic development are important in the fight against corruption.

3. Methodology

In this work, to achieve this goal used such research methods as: method of analysis and synthesis to formulate the definition and identification of the features of the concepts of "corruption" and "corruption risks"; statistical - to determine Ukraine's place in the Corruption Promotion Index and to clarify its dynamics; systematization - to group and justify the causes of corruption risks; generalization - to formulate and substantiate conclusions; graphic - to visualize the relationship between the causes of corruption risks and economic security in the public sphere, as well as the main institutions of anti-corruption policy in Ukraine.

4. Results

Corruption today is a complex multifaceted phenomenon, which is characterized by its structure, dynamism, trends, scale. Corruption is a social phenomenon, the origins of which have a very long history. Its presence in a country cannot be linked to the political and social system or form of government, as corruption is present in all countries without exception. However, many researchers believe that corruption is more prevalent in countries with totalitarian regimes, while democratization of the state leads to a decrease in its degree, while others note the correlation between government corruption and poverty and market underdevelopment. Noting that in the

process of economic development and GDP growth, the dependence of entrepreneurial activity decreases, society and its citizens from officials and government officials. In addition, researchers note a historical tendency to bribe in some countries, and the existence of moral rejection of corruption and its condemnation - in others. The principles in each case are economic, political, legal, social, psychological, administrative conditions, circumstances and phenomena.

The development of our state as a democratic country, striving to build a legal system and a developed economy, is negatively affected by corruption and its spread, deteriorating and hindering the functioning of the civil service, threatening Ukraine's economic security and damaging its attitude to the international community.

The problem of identifying the causes and preventing corruption is an urgent task for public authorities at all levels, as in recent years, since 2013, the results of the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) of Ukraine are improving every year (Figure 1). In 2013, Ukraine received 25 points and took 144th place among 177 countries, and in 2016, when anti-corruption policy became the main priority of state power, it took 131st place out of 176 countries; in 2020, Ukraine rose to 117th place among 180 countries [44], which is still its best result.

That is, the current conditions for the development of domestic society are favorable for deepening the process of combating corruption risks, the formation of a strong anti-corruption system in public power.

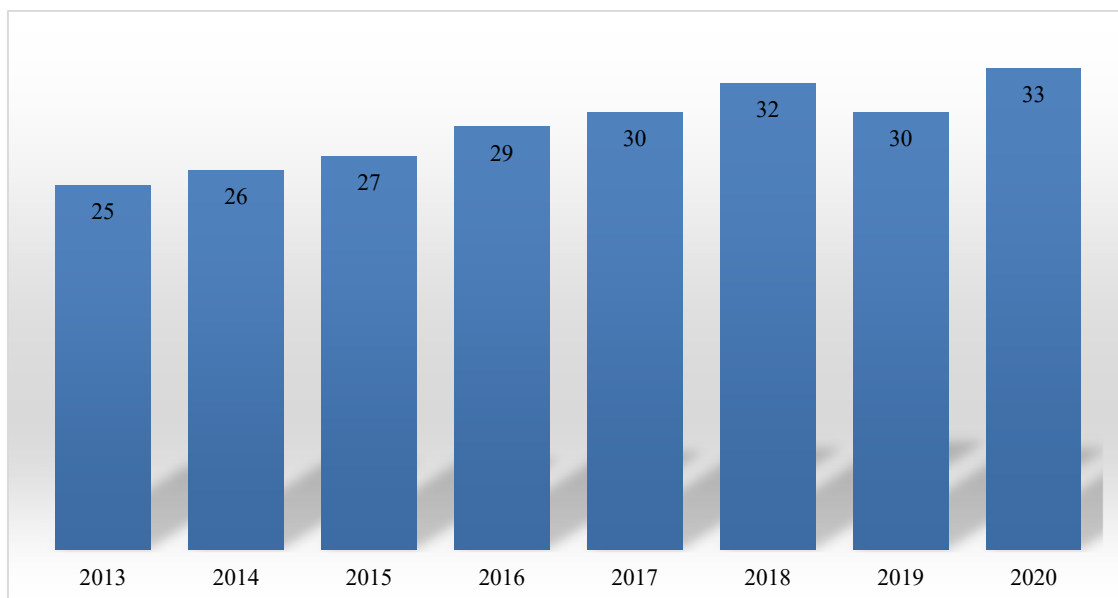


Fig. 1 Dynamics of the Corruption Perceptions Index for Ukraine, 2013-2020

Source: built on data [45].

According to the global movement Transparency International, which develops and implements changes to reduce corruption at the global level, the growth of Ukraine's position in the Corruption Perceptions Index was due to the Global Insight Country Risk Ratings study (as much as 13 points), which examines the risks that people or companies will face bribery or other corrupt business practices [44].

That is, in the realities of the domestic fight against corruption, it is at the level of causes that positive changes are taking place.

The environment of public authority shows that today corruption as a concept is considered by scientists in various aspects [46]:

- economic and political: corruption is the misappropriation of public or private property and other benefits by officials through the authorities;
- criminal law, where corruption is a socially dangerous act, the subject and bearers of which are officials who arbitrarily use their official powers in order to enrich themselves or gain social status;
- criminological: the importance of corruption is a crime committed by relevant officials, exceeding their own powers as defined by law and acting only for their own useful purposes, such actions have antisocial, criminal and socially dangerous properties;
- social: corruption is the use by an official of the powers and opportunities provided by law for illicit personal enrichment, which has consequences for the development of the country's social infrastructure.

Thus, the study of the essence of the concept of "corruption" shows its multifaceted nature, causal links with the activities of public authorities, personal attitude of officials to such a phenomenon and deepens understanding of the causes of corruption risks.

The nature of corruption risks is characterized by certain features, which are related to the fact that the decision-making process is influenced by the environment, and usually a person has a clear idea of the results of decisions and can individually assess the cost-benefit ratio. In the general sense, corruption risks are the risks of corruption situations, the emergence and formation of corruption conditions and (or) the emergence and manifestation of corruption phenomena and events that lead to violations of both national and international anti-corruption legislation.

Thus, corruption risks in the public administration system should be understood as a set of conditions, causes and factors that are formed in this system, cause possible corruption and affect the negative consequences and

results of the importance of personal, social and public aspirations and abilities.

Based on this understanding of corruption risks, we note that they can be divided into two groups such as:

- internal institutional corruption risks, which should be considered as factors that negatively affect the behavior of civil servants and transform them into what is considered corrupt, the process of overcoming which falls within the competence of the organization, institution or body with which the employee has an employment relationship;
- external (system-wide) corruption risks, which are related to the general shortcomings of the public administration system.

Prerequisites for the emergence of corruption risks in our country are:

- low cultural, legal and moral and ethical level of society, low consciousness of citizens;
- low level of welfare and quality of life;
- lack of methods for assessing the response to corruption;
- lack of real responsibility for the committed crimes;
- numerous legal conflicts;
- permanent transfer of powers in the field of prevention and fight against corruption from one control body to another;
- incomplete implementation of the control function and administrative procedures;
- Insufficient financial control, and sometimes its absence for persons - representatives of public authorities;
- protection from punishment for corruption offenses of individuals and promotion of the interests of certain (relatives).

Corruption risks in the field of public administration are also reflected in the level and state of economic security of the country, enterprises and individuals. This is due to the reasons for their occurrence, which include the causes, conditions and environmental factors that shape public power and corruption (Fig. 2). In such conditions, it is necessary to ensure the availability of effective mechanisms at the state level to prevent corruption and corruption risks, which may be the result of anti-corruption management policies. To achieve such goals, it is necessary to use an approach that will combine preventive, analytical and legislative methods of combating corruption. Accordingly, the use of the proposed methods creates sufficient economic and legislative prerequisites for an effective mechanism of public administration to prevent corruption in public authorities to ensure economic security.

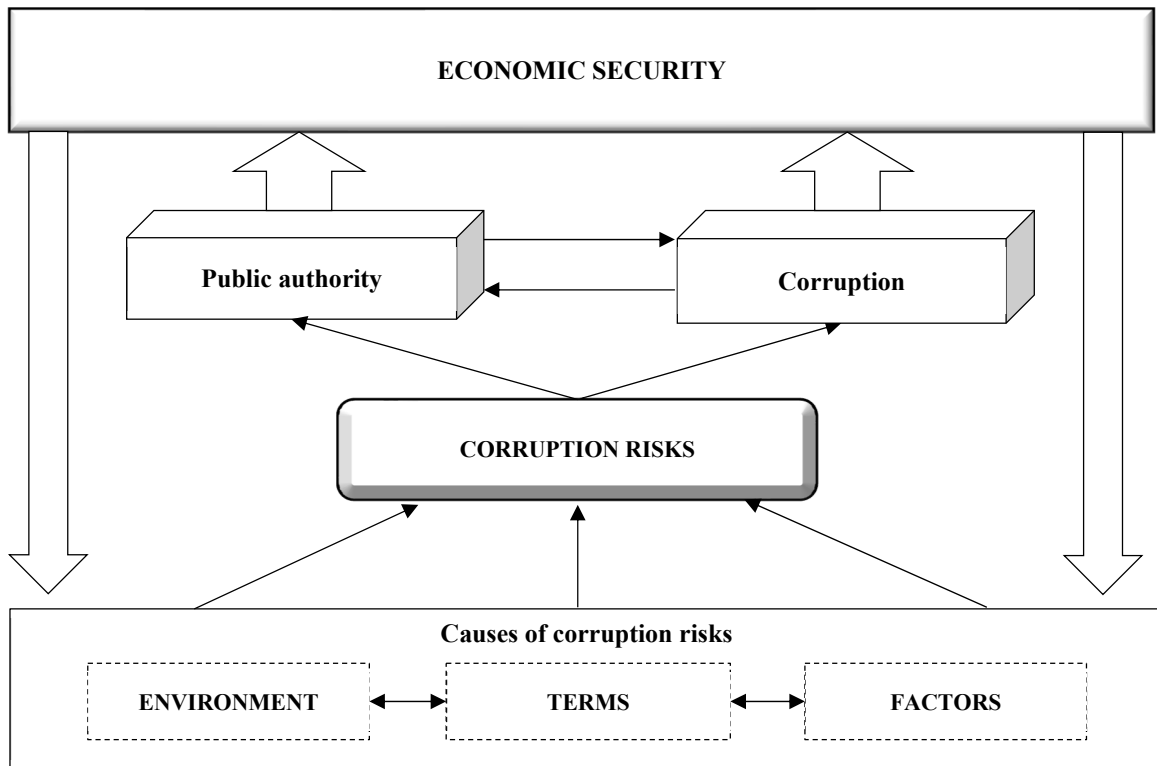


Fig. 2 Schematic representation of the relationship between the causes of corruption risks and economic security in the field of public authority
Source: built by the authors.

Today, experts from around the world in the field of anti-corruption policy are developing real effective mechanisms to reduce corruption risks, as well as ways to combat corruption at all levels: from national to local levels. Summarizing the proposed approaches, we note that the main stages of implementation of corruption risk management include the following: recognition of corruption risks; implementation of their assessment, which consists in determining the consequences (potential and actual) in relation to areas of activity; delineation and selection of measures for prevention and overcoming; implementation of planning and control functions regarding the implementation of specific anti-corruption plans and programs.

An important element of the corruption risk management system is their identification. At this stage, the factors of the external and internal environment of the

government are analyzed in order to identify factors of corruption risks in legislation and the functioning of the government. Carrying out corruption risk assessment consists in conducting analytical work to identify and calculate the probability of occurrence of consequences, the regularity of corruption. The stage, which consists in the development and implementation of measures to minimize and subsequently eliminate corruption risks, has a significant connection with their recognition, as the cause of corruption risk affects the development of anti-corruption strategy, plan, program.

Research shows that modern anti-corruption policy in Ukraine focuses primarily on (Fig. 3):

- permanent monitoring of anti-corruption policy,
- punishment for corruption,
- preventive anti-corruption activities.

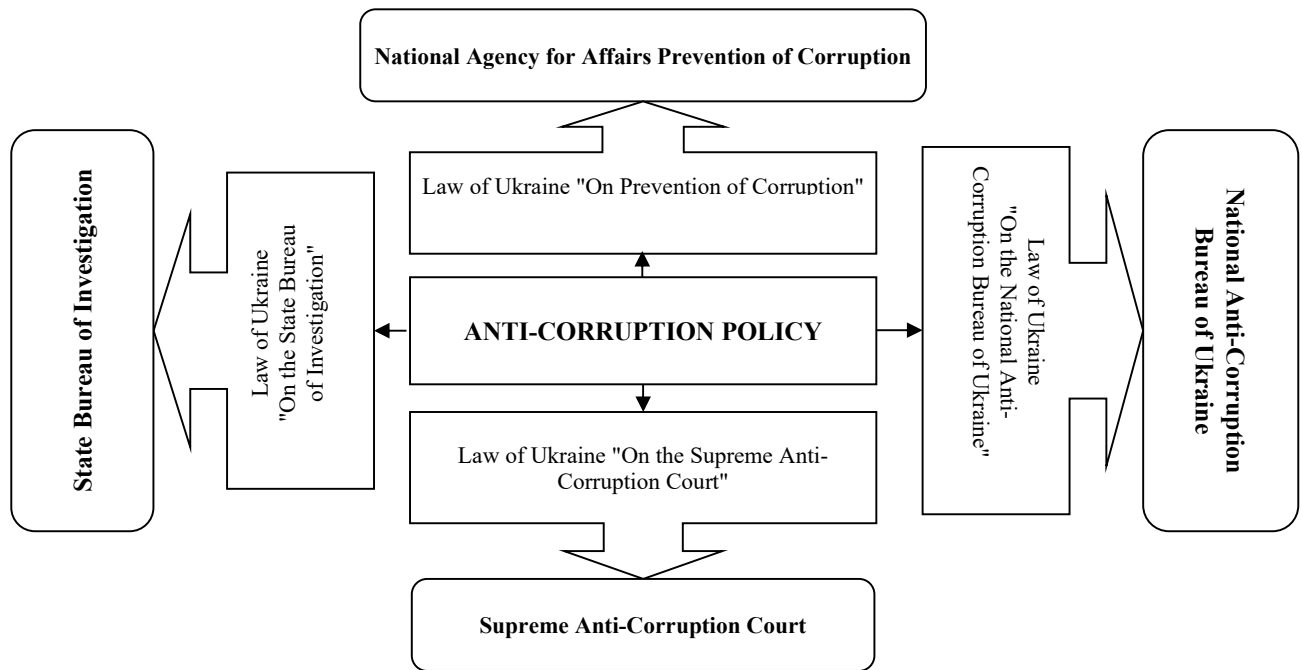


Fig. 3 The main institutions for the implementation of anti-corruption policy in Ukraine

Source: built by the authors.

We believe that in order to increase the effectiveness of anti-corruption policy, it is necessary to take measures to commit acts of corruption, i.e. to focus on preventive measures, the priority of which is to study the causes of corruption risks. To this end, it is necessary to use the following institutions.

4. Conclusions

Thus, the risk of corruption should be considered a set of factors, phenomena and conditions that appear in the process of public authorities and contribute to the danger of corruption. Among the prerequisites for the emergence of domestic corruption risks should be noted a set of such factors, phenomena, conditions and circumstances as: economic, political, social, legal, psychological, managerial. The study showed the lack of a single mechanism for managing corruption risks and a formalized approach to the process of finding and assessing corruption risks. In order to change the existing situation, it is necessary to introduce an increase in procedural forms of cooperation between individuals and government officials, a clear division and consolidation of the level of competencies of specific public administration entities,

Thus, based on the above, it should be noted that the effective and effective means of reducing corruption risks within the system of economic security include:

- participation of the public in the discussion of legislative acts, its active position on this issue;
- increasing the level of anti-corruption expertise of legislative acts;
- application of the principle of subsidiarity in relation to the rules of law;
- ensuring information transparency of government bodies;
- implementation of permanent, systematic internal control.

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