

MECHANISMS OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TO ENSURE NATIONAL AND INFORMATION SECURITY

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Abstract

In the article, features of formation of the system of national and information security of the state are examined. Implementation of the national security was formed, which includes subjects, objects, structure and external factors of influence. Structural elements of the national security system of the state were proposed. Using principles that are the basis for reforming the mesenchyme of public administration in the system of national and information security was justified. Methods, principles, and tools to form mechanism of public management of national security were identified. Measures were proposed to reform the public administration system in ensuring national security based on democracy, openness, transparency and accountability of state administration officials. Methods of forming the mechanism of public administration were considered.

Keywords: public administration, public administration paradigm, national security, information security, reform mechanisms, European integration processes.

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Introduction

Modern transformations in the public administration system are acquiring new features that are associated with changes in the external and internal environment of the state. The security situation in the country has led to the need to strengthen information security, which is a component of the overall security of the state. Today, information space is a springboard for managing many processes in political, social, and economic aspects. Modern paradigm of public administration in Ukraine is based on the concept of openness, efficiency, innovation, and public participation. Changes taking place in this area are due to both the internal needs of the state and external challenges, including European

integration, globalization, and development of digital technologies.

European integration affects distribution of players in the market in the international format, forms new policy of ensuring national and information security through implementation of innovative processes, emergence of new forms and methods of ensuring security at all levels. Development of information technologies and methods of information influence on public opinion requires development of other methods that are able to counteract negative consequences to preserve democratic principles of public administration. Therefore, the issue of reforming public administration in ensuring national and information security is relevant today.

Literature review

The issue of forming public administration mechanisms has been studied by many scholars. The authors (Durman M. et al., 2025; Kryshchanovych M. et al., 2024) investigate the role of digital technologies in ensuring information security in the public administration system, and also investigate accounting, analytical and information support of law enforcement activities in the context of ensuring economic security of public administration.

Diener M. et al. (2023, 2024) analyze the level of information security maturity of public cloud services used by public administrations and propose the instrumental approach for public administrations to ensure information security. Within the framework of the works (Salnikova O. et al., 2023; Nagy-Takács V. et al., 2022), the information and analytical methodology for public administration procurement in ensuring civilian control over the security sector was proposed, standards of the information security management system in public administration were analyzed, and conceptual principles of regulating public policy for development of public-private partnership were considered.

Studies (Jecheva V. et al., 2021; Edyta Karolina Szczepaniuk et al., 2020) have assessed the level of information security provision and awareness of these issues among state and local officials. Scientists (Banciu Doina Rădoi et al., 2020; Rehbohm T. et al., 2019; Marhasova V. et al., 2024; Jakubek P. et al., 2023) investigated awareness level of information security in public administration, and analyzed mechanisms of public management of development of digital technologies in the national security system. Scientific papers (Enaw, Ebot Ebot et al., 2018; Lopes Isabel Maria et al., 2016) consider applied aspects of ensuring security of information systems in public administration.

However, given the thorough research in this area, the issue of reforming public administration in ensuring national and information security is relevant and requires further research, taking into account variable external environment.

The purpose of the article is to study features of the mechanism for reforming public

administration in ensuring national and information security.

Results

Reforming the public administration system requires theoretical substantiation of this category from the point of view of ensuring national and information security. Foreign authors do not consider the category of “mechanism of public administration” separately, considering it more from the point of view of governments’ functions. Most authors consider the mechanism of public administration as a certain set of methods, functions, and ways of administrative influence on the regulation of performance of state functions.

If we consider methods of public administration, then, according to some scientists, it is the external environment that influences organizing citizens, which increases the need to apply methods of socio-psychological orientation.

Scientists also consider the mechanism of public administration as a set of relevant economic, political, and organizational means of influencing public authorities on objects of administration.

Some authors argue that modern methods of digital technologies, which are introduced into the public administration system, contribute to their flexibility by simplifying procedures for obtaining services. Accordingly, transformation of public governance into digital contributes to deeper transition from fixed administrative and command methods of public administration to more flexible methods based on encouraging and stimulating necessary actions of both citizens and public servants.

Today, one of the key aspects of the modern public administration system is decentralization, which has allowed to increase powers of local communities. This contributes to more flexible and adaptive decision-making, as local governments better understand needs of their communities in cities. At the same time, this process requires not only revision of the legislative framework, but also changes in management culture, which would contribute to the responsible and professional attitude to management processes.

The second important element is digitalization of administrative services, which

significantly increases efficiency of management decisions. Introduction of e-government, in particular through public service portals such as “Diya”, “E-government” has allowed to minimize bureaucratic barriers, reduce corruption risks and increase transparency. However, this process requires both technological modernization, and training of personnel who would have appropriate competencies for effective use of digital solutions.

The civil service reform has become another significant step towards building the modern public administration. It involves introduction of democratic principles, improving the level of professional training of civil servants, and creating competitive environment for attracting new personnel. Public participation in management processes is another important

element of the new paradigm of public administration. The Ukrainian society actively influences decision-making through mechanisms of electronic petitions, public hearings, and activities of anti-corruption organizations.

The important step in this direction is expansion of opportunities for civil control over the actions of authorities, which increases the level of trust in state institutions. It is necessary to take into account current realities of the security situation in Ukraine, since the state has been in the stage of military conflict since 2022, which imposes additional requirements for flexible management decisions. If we consider directions of ensuring state security, then its main structural elements should be distinguished (Fig. 1).

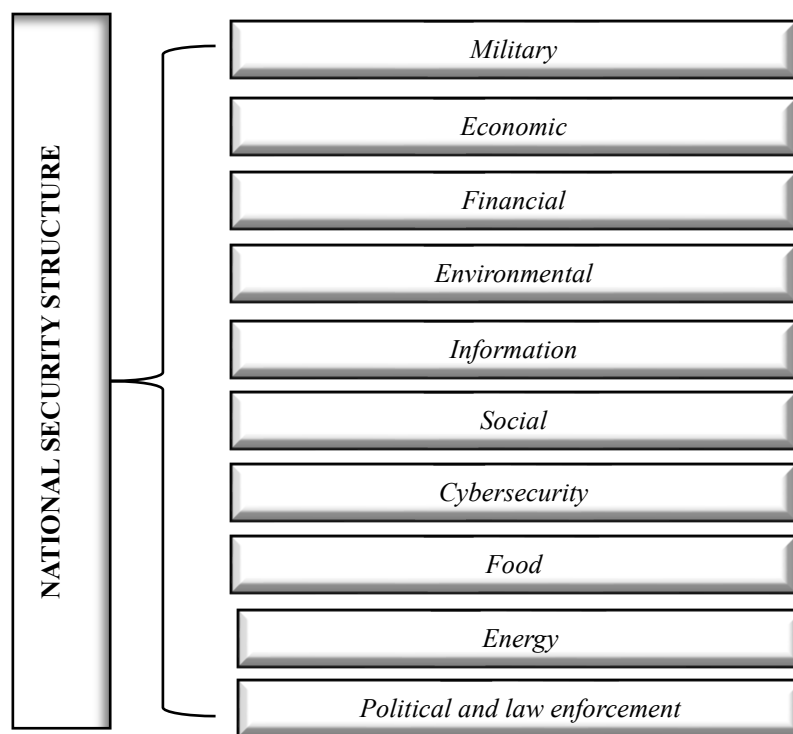


Figure 1. Main structural elements of the national security of Ukraine

**Source: summarized by the authors.*

The national security concept is much broader than the information security concept (which is a component of overall national security). The structure of the national security includes many components that ensure its development and stability.

The above components are basic and can be expanded in their list depending on needs of considering the national security system. All components of the security structure are interconnected, therefore, the impact on one component cyclically leads to the impact on other components of the system.

In general, the mechanism for reforming public administration in ensuring national and information security should be aimed at improving the following areas:

1. Regulatory and legal support, which should be aimed at amending legislative acts on issues of national and cybersecurity, harmonizing domestic legislation with international NATO and EU standards, and implementing control and liability for violations in information security at all levels of public administration.

2. Carrying out the institutional reform by optimizing the work of state authorities, strengthening coordination between law enforcement agencies and civilian control bodies, and expanding cooperation between public and private sectors in information security.

3. Implementation of modern technology and monitoring systems to respond to cyber threats, creation of the effective cyber defense system, implementation of artificial intelligence systems to analyze threats for timely prevention.

4. Increasing human resources potential in the security system by training specialists with necessary competencies, creating conditions for attracting IT specialists to the state security sector.

5. Improving the public control system by establishing cooperation with society, forming the mechanism for transparency and accountability of security agencies, which will contribute to improving public opinion and trust.

6. Development of international cooperation, which will allow for joint training in cyber operations, exchange of experience in modern technologies for countering threats and fraud.

The general system of functioning of the national security in Ukraine is shown in Fig. 2.

To reform the mechanism of public administration for ensuring national and

information security, it is advisable to examine in more detail components of its functioning system. Today, there are many definitions and categories of national and information security, different approaches to components of the national security of the state. Changing the paradigm of public administration for Ukraine is an important stage of the European integration and increasing trust from international partners. Since the shadow economy, development of corruption, and the low level of judicial power negatively affect integration of the state into the international space as an equal member of European society.

The main components of the national security system of Ukraine include subjective and objective components. The subjective component is represented by state authorities (the President, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine) which exercise general management of the national security of the state, create appropriate security environment by adopting relevant regulatory legal acts, developing international cooperation, and forming the general policy of the state in security.

Power structures that are aimed at preserving integrity of the state and borders, maintaining law and order in the middle countries, conducting intelligence to combat terrorism and sabotage. National security entities are influenced by external environmental factors that may pose risks and threats, which requires appropriate management decisions by authorities to neutralize or minimize threats.

The objective component of the national security of the state is represented by the state, which ensures sovereignty and integrity of the borders, by the society, which, on the basis of the formed cultural and ethnic principles, creates prerequisites for development of the national security system and identification of society.

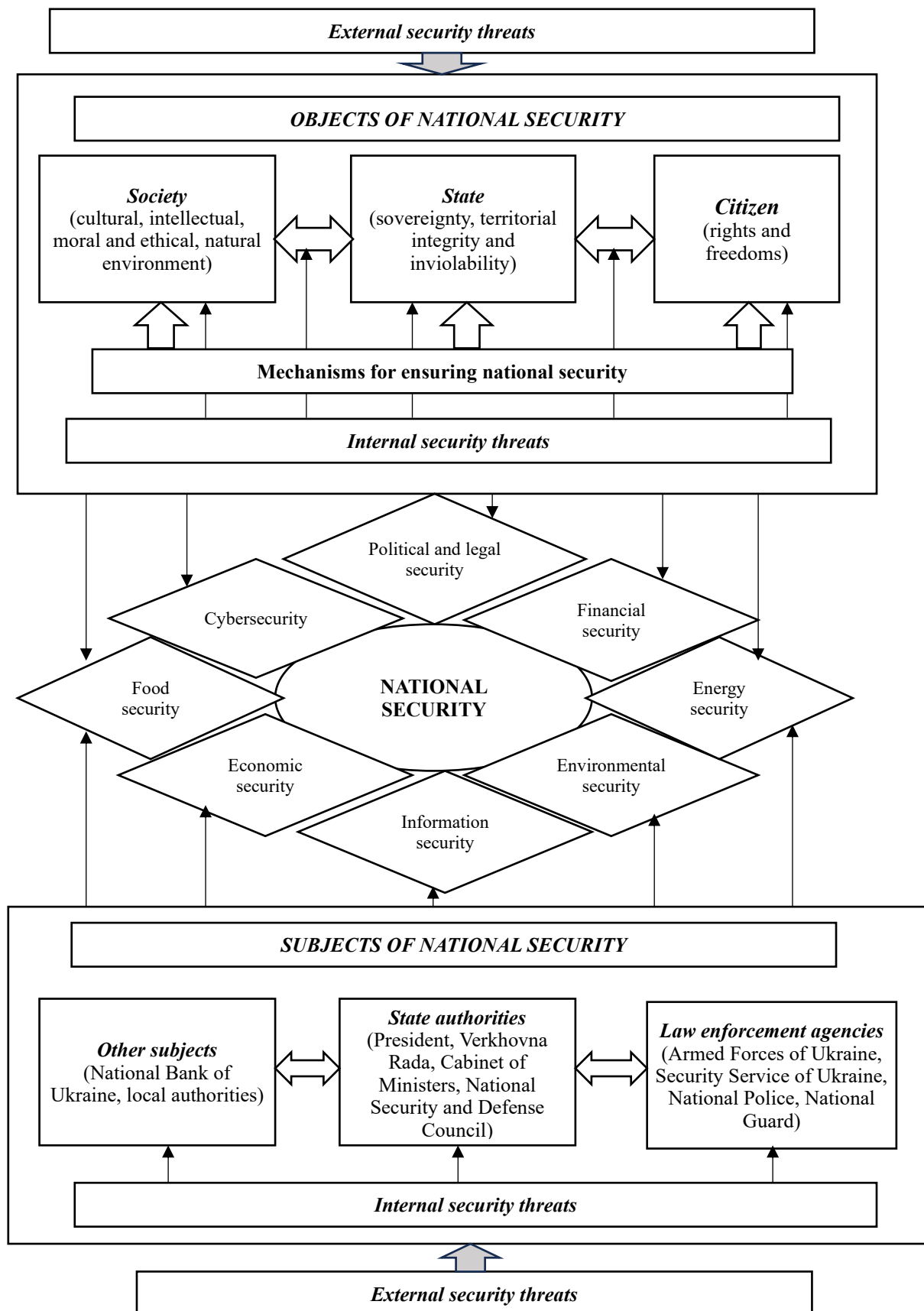


Figure 2. General system of ensuring national security

*Source: compiled by the authors.

Construction of the mechanism for reforming public administration in ensuring national and information security should include a number of principles, methods, and tools that ensure its effective functioning (Fig. 3). Thus, the main principles of building the mechanism for national security of the state include:

The principle of legality, which implies compliance with the Constitution, legislative norms, and international rules when forming the state's national security policy.

The principle of priority of national interests provides for implementation of measures that correspond to strategic priorities of the state (sovereignty, integrity of borders, economic stability, etc.).

The principle of systematicity and comprehensiveness, according to which ensuring security encompasses military, political, economic, informational, environmental and other components that interact with each other.

The principle of adaptability and flexibility, which allows the national security system to be flexible to challenges and threats, to respond quickly to changes in the external environment, and to adapt to new operating conditions with minimal costs and maximum efficiency.

The principle of parity and balance characterizes ensuring balance between human rights, democratic freedoms and security measures to prevent usurpation of power or excessive control.

The principle of unity of management and coordination, according to which activities of all state bodies, law enforcement agencies, and special services must be coordinated through relevant institutions, in particular the National Security and Defense Council.

The principle of cybersecurity development according to which the state must guarantee protection of critical infrastructure, information space, and digital communications from external and internal threats.

The principle of prevention, according to which when forming national security it is necessary to do emphasis on predicting risks and threats, with the aim of early prevention of negative consequences.

The list of principles can be expanded depending on needs of the current security situation in the country, external conditions, and the priority of tasks.

Functions of the public administration reform mechanism for ensuring national and information security primarily consist of classical management functions that are adapted to modern requirements of the development of digital technologies and the cybersecurity level. The planning function in the public administration system includes formation of strategies and programs in national security, which take into account identification of threats, development of strategic documents, and coordination with international partners.

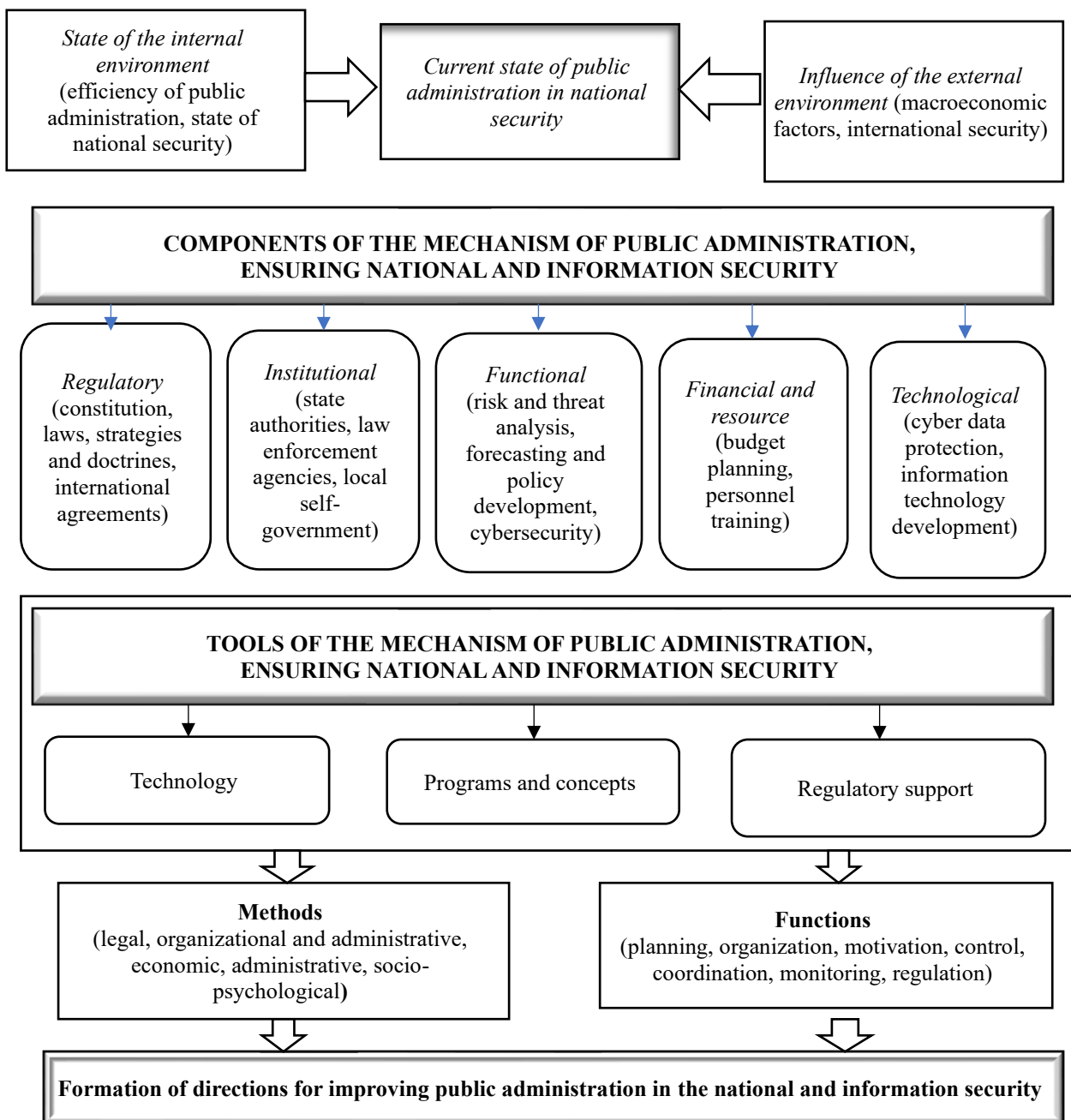


Figure 3. Components of the mechanism for reforming public management of national and information security

**Source: compiled by the authors.*

The function of the organization involves creation of structures, distribution of powers and effective interaction of state bodies, as well as coordination of actions between different levels of government. Motivation ensures high level of professionalism, responsibility and patriotism among security sector employees. The control function guarantees compliance of actions in

national security with approved plans and laws by conducting internal and external control.

In conditions of high variability and uncertainty of the external environment, the monitoring function is one of the key ones in preventing negative phenomena and processes, since timely response to negative events allows avoiding or minimizing their impact.

Ensuring effective functioning of the public administration mechanism is carried out based on methods that include legal forms, i.e. formation of the regulatory and legal framework to ensure the system of national and information security, methods of protecting intellectual property rights, commercial and state secrets. Determining the scope of responsibility for violations of national and information security at the state and individual levels.

Organizational and administrative methods that are means of influencing activities of subordinate bodies and individuals aimed at implementation of state functions and tasks. They are based on legally established powers and provide for mandatory implementation. These methods ensure effective functioning of the state apparatus, but their application must take into account democratic principles and rights of citizens to prevent corruption and abuse of office.

Economic methods of public administration in the system of ensuring national security are aimed at creating conditions for stable development of the country, strengthening its defense capabilities and reducing threats. They are based on the use of financial, tax, credit, investment and other instruments of the economic policy. Since it is economic methods that provide financing for critical sectors of the economy, especially during periods of crises and threats, war. Economic stability is closely related to national security, as it ensures competitiveness of the state in the international arena, stability of the functioning of critically important sectors of the economy. Reforming economic methods is aimed at changing the procedure for determining objects of state support, during periods of crisis phenomena it is necessary to review social security of special categories of citizens (civil servants, judges, prosecutors and others) directed to their pension provision, which will determine same rights for all categories of citizens.

Socio-psychological methods have the greatest impact on information security, since information security management is based on influencing public consciousness, forming stable psychological mechanisms of protection against disinformation, increasing the level of media literacy and creating trust in official sources of information. They are implemented on the basis of using social networks, awareness-raising

campaigns, monitoring public sentiment, neutralizing hostile information operations. Using socio-psychological methods is especially observed during election campaigns, crisis situations, when it is necessary to align the majority of social sentiments in one direction. Democratic principles are aimed at transparency of information, conveying it to society without imposing certain opinions and sentiments that can affect the choice or judgment of the individual. Transparency and accountability of officials in this aspect increases the level of trust in the state and government as a whole, which forms the more cohesive society.

Development of strategic development programs for the state in the relevant areas should be of an applied nature and not a formal one, since today there is no clear system of open public control over the use of state funds for the intended purpose. It is introduction of this system that will ensure transparency and accountability of officials to fulfillment of their duties.

Thus, the mechanism of public administration reform in national and information security is aimed at respecting the rights and freedoms of citizens, ensuring integrity and sovereignty of the state based on democratic principles. Using specified functions, methods and tools will contribute to acceleration of reforms in the system of public power, which will have positive impact on both national security and public trust in the government.

Conclusions

Today, new challenges and threats are observed in public administration and national security. Particularly relevant for Ukraine are issues of ensuring all components of national security (information, economic, food, military, force, and others) taking into account military aggression from Russia. Considering experience of foreign countries in the conditions in which Ukraine found itself is impossible due to lack of this experience in development of digital and defense-capable technologies. The mechanism of public administration must ensure effective functioning in direction of national and information security, while taking into account public opinion.

Since it is interaction of the state administration with society that can ensure

stability in the state. Today, the main problem of public administration in security is high level of corruption, which affects the level of trust in authorities. Ineffective social policy in relation to law enforcement agencies, economic crisis, which leads to decrease in the standard of living of the population, negatively affect the overall level of trust and effectiveness of public administration.

Directions of the public administration reform should be aimed at improving the regulatory framework, which will take into account modern changes in the European vector of development. Carrying out institutional reforms aimed at improving the system of responsibility and punishment of civil servants for violating current legislation and abuse of office. Changes in the legal framework is necessary in matters of hiring officials of various branches of government, to reduce bureaucracy and corruption.

Implementation of cyber protection systems, improvement of digital products (Diya, e-government) that significantly simplify provision of public services by society, increase

the level of transparency and openness of the public administration system.

Increasing and updating human resources to reduce the level of corruption, improving forms and methods of management with elements of innovation, which is implemented on the basis of attracting highly qualified employees and young people to the public service apparatus. Development of the public control system will contribute to increasing trust in government bodies and the cohesion of society to address urgent social needs.

As Ukraine's experience has shown, international support in crisis situations is extremely important to preserve and function the state. It is thanks to international partners that Ukraine can today counteract external threats and provide appropriate level of social and economic support.

The results of these reforms should be, first, optimization of state spending on defense and security. Development of integration processes to accelerate Ukraine's integration into the international security system.

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