

## Implementation of anti-corruption policy of Ukraine in the context of ensuring state security

*Serhii Sokyрко* \*

Received: 2023-01-19

Accepted: 2023-02-21

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10984873>

**Annotation.** The article analyzes the implementation of the anti-corruption policy of Ukraine, which is based on the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2021-2025 in the context of ensuring the state security of Ukraine. It is shown that instability in the state, conflicts, and corruption are closely interrelated. Corruption is closely related to state security. Theoretical studies have described in detail such a connection between corruption and conflicts, as well as corruption and political instability.

It was determined that the Anti-Corruption Strategy of Ukraine for 2021-2025 was developed taking into account the interests of all stakeholders in combating corruption. This became possible on the basis of a significant number of consultations with the public, experts, and representatives of the business environment. It has been established that, in terms of its focus, this strategy involves optimizing the functions of state authorities and local self-government, in particular regarding the prevention of duplication of powers among; implementation of digital transformation of the activities of authorities at the national and local levels; ensuring transparency and openness of data; development of law-adaptive ways of meeting the relevant needs of people; the use of norms regarding unavoidable legal responsibility for manifestations of corruption; stimulating the negative attitude of society towards corruption. Judicial and law enforcement agencies are the priority spheres of corruption prevention; land relations and construction; taxation and customs affairs; health care; state regulation of Economy; Social Protection. The results of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine regarding the implementation of anti-corruption policy measures require special attention. According to the results of the analysis and assessment of data in the mass media in 2021, which related to anti-corruption topics in the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, 299 messages were found that were characterized by a negative tone. In anti-corruption reports, the information mainly concerned: phenomena of corruption and dishonesty of officials in the implementation of construction and procurement; procurement at the highest prices of low-quality samples of military equipment and weapons, equipment and medical drugs; receipt of illegal remuneration by individual officials; abuse of official position, illegal acquisition of land plots. Such information formed the basis for the implementation in the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine of mechanisms aimed at reducing corruption risks, as well as eliminating the conditions for violations of anti-corruption legislation.

**Keywords:** anti-corruption policy, state security, state policy, state authorities, legal support, regulatory mechanisms.

---

\* National University of Civil Protection of Ukraine (Kharkiv, Ukraine), postgraduate, ORCID ID: 0009-0003-4819-2291

## INTRODUCTION

Implementation of anti-corruption policy covers state security, socio-economic, political, ecological, humanitarian spheres of social development. The scale of the spread of corruption is a target reference point for state security institutions based on the implementation of the state's existing capabilities through the formation and implementation of its main and special functions for effective forecasting, timely identification, prevention and minimization of the impact of threats on the development of the entire society and each person, satisfying their socio-economic interests and needs.

As a significant threat to the rule of law, corruption actually destroys social institutions and undermines public trust in public administration. The consequences of corruption are reflected beyond the immediate environment in which such actions take place.

A significant contribution to the substantiation of the theoretical and methodological provisions of the formation and implementation of anti-corruption policy in Ukraine was made by such scientists as: O. Bereza, O. Bondarenko, V. Vishnevskaya, I. Dragan, Y. Dmitriev, O. Leonova, V. Nonik, O. Rudenko, I. Suprunova, Y. Shpak, T. Yarovoi and others.

The purpose of the article is to analyze the implementation of Ukraine's anti-corruption policy in the context of ensuring state security.

## RESULTS

Instability in the state, conflicts, corruption are closely interrelated. Corruption is closely related to state security. Theoretical studies have described in detail such a connection between corruption and conflicts, as well as corruption and political instability. In support of this, an example can be given regarding the results of changes in the Global Peace Index and the value of the Corruption Perception Index [3; 23; 24].

The corresponding indicators of Ukraine have significantly improved since 2012. This is confirmed by the inclusion of Ukraine in those 25 countries that have achieved adequate growth over a 10-year period (Armenia, Greece, Italy, etc.). This dynamic is a consequence of the changes that took place after the Revolution of Dignity. However, since 2018, Ukraine's growth in this direction has slowed down significantly. This was facilitated by a set of events that nullified individual anti-corruption achievements.

Since 2021, positive developments regarding the implementation of the anti-corruption policy have been observed again. In particular, this concerns the restoration of the powers of the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption, the functioning of the Whistleblower Institute, the updating of the legal framework for the activities of the Agency for Investigation and Asset Management and the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, dozens of verdicts were handed down by the High Anti-Corruption Court, and the mechanism of civil confiscation became more effective.

Positive results regarding the Corruption Perceptions Index were obtained on the basis of the introduction of Politdata (an electronic register of reporting of political parties), which was implemented in the second quarter of 2021. However, first due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and then due to the martial law in Ukraine, electronic reporting was not sufficiently effective. Regarding the Peace Index, in 2022 in Ukraine it decreased by 16% from the previous year, which was the worst indicator among the studied countries.

There is a significant deterioration of the mortality rate due to the impact of conflicts due to the full-scale military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. The average life expectancy in Ukraine has decreased by almost 10 years.

Since 2008, the level of militarization has significantly decreased in 113 countries of the world. At the same time, the tendency to commit terrorist crimes is increasing. In particular, in 2021, only 70 countries of the world did not experience relevant terrorist attacks. A certain increase in defense spending has had a negative impact on solving food security problems, as well as ensuring political stability for the entire world. At the beginning of 2022, the global negative consequences of acts of violent nature were estimated at the level of about 16 trillion US dollars, which is 10% of world GDP [19].

Corruption affects the level of state security in the following way: it causes public dissatisfaction and reduces the legality and rationality of the activities of state institutions. In addition, corruption contributes to the emergence of political and international conflicts. Therefore, efforts to ensure peace must be accompanied by anti-corruption mechanisms and methods.

According to the calculations of the Ministry of Economy of Ukraine at the end of 2021, the level of shadowing of the Ukrainian economy was 31% of GDP, which is 1% less than the previous year, but remains at a high level [19].

The analysis of the main indicators of the state security and anti-corruption policy of Ukraine made it possible to determine that a certain reduction in the shadowing of the economy occurred as a result of the adaptation of Ukrainian business to the conditions of unpredictability of conflicts and optimistic expectations of the development of the economy on the basis of supporting the foreign economic situation by the end of 2021.

Based on the results of a sociological survey in 2021, an assessment of the state of corruption in Ukraine was conducted and its impact on state security was determined. According to the data, corruption ranked third among the main

problems, along with the high cost of living and military actions by the Russian Federation since 2014. In 2021, the problem of corruption in the rating moved from the second place in the previous year to the third due to the increase in prices in anticipation of a military conflict.

Businesses and the public believe that it is the state authorities with the involvement of specialized institutions that are responsible for overcoming corruption. Anti-corruption strategy is the main regulatory document that defines the directions for overcoming corruption. In general, Ukraine had only one effective anti-corruption strategy, the implementation of which had an economic effect, because the GDP increased by 6% (180 billion UAH). The results of the implementation of such a strategy were the creation of the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, the Prozorro system, the operation of which has positive results. According to preliminary estimates, the predicted economic effect of the anti-corruption strategy for 2021-2025 will be up to UAH 200 billion [15].

The main goal of the Anti-corruption Strategy for 2021-2025 is to ensure the promotion of the socio-economic development of Ukraine, the improvement of the system of neutralization and prevention of corruption, the implementation of coordinated activities at various levels of management of representatives of the authorities and the non-governmental sector in this direction. Thus, Ukraine systematically works to minimize corruption. However, the EU and other international partners of Ukraine expect more active work in this direction, which requires effective implementation of the tasks of the Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2021-2025.

The main tasks of the Anti-corruption Strategy for 2014-2017 were the formation of institutions and tools for the implementation of anti-corruption policy. After the formation of specialized institutions, the implementation of such a strategy was completed. This caused a

certain imbalance in anti-corruption activities in the country.

The current Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2021-2025 was developed taking into account the interests of all stakeholders in combating corruption. The main principles of the implementation of this strategy are defined as:

1) comprehensive optimization of functions for representatives of state authorities and local self-government, primarily prevention of duplication of powers among government institutions;

2) integration of digital transformation opportunities into the activities of authorities at the national and local levels;

3) ensuring maximum transparency and openness of data;

4) development, in contrast to usual corrupt practices, adaptive to legal methods in order to meet the relevant needs of people;

5) the use of norms regarding the inevitable due legal responsibility for manifestations of corruption and various related offenses;

6) stimulation of intolerance and a negative attitude of society towards corruption, formation of a culture of respect and integrity in relation to the norms of legislation [12].

The priority spheres for combating and preventing corruption are defined as: law enforcement agencies and courts; land relations and construction; customs affairs and taxation; state regulation of Economy; health care; Social Protection; defense sector.

As for the predicted effectiveness of the Anti-corruption Strategy for 2021-2025, it foresees the following: in the field of construction, land relations and infrastructure, it will lead to an increase in revenues of the state and local budgets from the payment of fines (estimated amount of revenues 286 billion hryvnias; in the field of health care and social protection - will provide additional budget savings by reducing procurement costs due to the prevention of corruption schemes

during the procurement of medicines and medical products, as well as due to the expansion of competition among suppliers, effective procurement [7]; in the field of judicial and law enforcement activities - provided a set of measures to implement guarantees of the independence of the High Anti-Corruption Court and create conditions for its proper functioning, the formation of an effective system for combating economic crimes and reducing tax pressure on taxpayers, optimizing the structure and number of law enforcement agencies in the field of economy, creating the Bureau of Economic Security of Ukraine [5; 9]; in the field of state regulation of the economy - improvement of the system for providing/receiving electronic public services is foreseen [14]; in the field of taxation and customs payments - the creation of 80,000 new jobs, the growth of the creative industry market [10], the regulation of customs clearance of vehicles taking into account the interests of all segments of the population [4] are foreseen; in the defense sector, a set of measures is provided to increase the safety and stability of critical infrastructure against threats of a natural and man-made nature, illegal actions, which will ensure the continuity of the provision of vital services and functions for citizens [13]; in the area of activity of anti-corruption bodies, it is envisaged to form an information and telecommunication system for collecting, analyzing and storing reports of whistleblowers of corruption with an appropriate level of information protection [6], ensuring independence guarantees for the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine [8].

We will present separate results of the analysis of the activities of state authorities regarding the implementation of anti-corruption policy in Ukraine in the context of the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2021-2025. In particular, in the State Bureau of Investigation, the workload of investigators of the central apparatus doubled. It took considerable effort to conduct a pre-trial

investigation into criminal offenses committed by representatives of law enforcement agencies. Systematic work is also carried out regarding the investigation of corruption criminal offenses. Among the criteria for evaluating the activities of the State Bureau of Investigation, indicators of compensation for damage from criminal offenses are highlighted, which are marked by a significant increase [2].

In the process of reforming anti-corruption bodies, a total of about 8,000 prosecutors from the prosecutor's office of Ukraine passed certification. Those of them who did not pass such certification were dismissed [22]. In addition, in 2021, the High Council of Justice adopted a number of decisions regarding the appointment of 109 judges and the dismissal of 194 judges; making a decision on responding to offenses, in particular of a corruption nature (provision of appropriate information on the detection and investigation of crimes; the propriety of submitting a report to the relevant authorities about detected violations and bringing to justice certain persons who have directly committed illegal actions or allowed various types of inaction) [16].

At the end of 2021, the High Anti-Corruption Court had 233 criminal proceedings against 519 persons (of which: 230 are proceedings based on various indictments, 2 - based on requests for exemption from criminal liability, 1 - based on a request for the application of coercive measures of a medical nature). As for the types of criminal offenses, they are distributed as follows: 57 in the field of property (24% of all criminal proceedings), 23 in the field of economic activity (10% of proceedings); 153 in the sphere of providing public services (66%).

The results of the activity of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine deserve special attention regarding the implementation of the anti-corruption policy. The development strategy of the state enterprise "Medical Procurement of Ukraine" for 2021-2023 envisages increasing the efficiency of procurement,

promoting the development of anti-corruption tools (obtaining ISO 37001:2016 certification, etc.). Such an enterprise is a national agency that ensures the centralized purchase of the necessary high-quality drugs and medical products at the expense of the state budget. The efficiency of this enterprise is equal to 30% of the state budget savings on the purchase of medicines and medical products [21].

Positive results were also presented by the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine regarding the improvement of social standards and guarantees, namely: support for insured persons; increase in the level of pension provision; provision of quality social services; support for persons with disabilities; strengthening family values, culture and ensuring the protection of human rights and freedoms [22].

According to the results of the activities of the State Tax Service of Ukraine, as of the beginning of 2021, the relevant divisions for the prevention and detection of corruption have considered 1,677 appeals and complaints regarding possible violations by employees of tax authorities of the requirements of anti-corruption legislation. 1049 inspections and official investigations were conducted). 288 employees were brought to disciplinary responsibility, and 116 materials were sent to specially authorized entities in the field of anti-corruption and relevant law enforcement agencies to make a decision on bringing to administrative or criminal responsibility [1].

The results of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine regarding the implementation of anti-corruption policy measures require special attention. According to the results of the analysis and assessment of data in the mass media in 2021, which related to anti-corruption topics in the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, 299 messages were found that were characterized by a negative tone. In anti-corruption reports, the information mainly concerned: phenomena of corruption and dishonesty of officials in the implementation of construction and procurement;

procurement at the highest prices of low-quality samples of military equipment and weapons, equipment and medical drugs; receipt of illegal remuneration by individual officials; abuse of official position, illegal acquisition of land plots. Such information formed the basis for the implementation in the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine of mechanisms aimed at reducing corruption risks, as well as eliminating the conditions for violations of anti-corruption legislation [17].

### CONCLUSIONS

An analysis of the implementation of the anti-corruption policy of Ukraine, based on the provisions of the Anti-Corruption Strategy for 2021-2025 in the context of ensuring the state security of Ukraine, was carried out. It was determined that this strategic document was developed taking into account the interests of all stakeholders in the fight against corruption. This became possible on the basis of a significant number of

### References

1. Derzhavna podatkova sluzhba Ukrainy. [Online], available at: <https://tax.gov.ua/diyalnist-zapobigannya-proyavam-korupts/rezultati-roboti/564563.html>.
2. Derzhavne biuro rozsliduvan' Ukrainy. [Online], available at: <https://dbr.gov.ua/assets/files/zvit/zvit-sajt.pdf>
3. Drahan I.O., Nonik V.V. and Kravchuk K.M. (2019), "The influence of corruption on the economic policy of the state" *Visnyk Zhytomyrs'koho derzhavnoho tekhnolohichnoho universytetu. Seriya: ekonomika, upravlinnia ta administruvannia*. vol. 1(87). S.174-179;
4. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2021), The Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Customs Code of Ukraine Regarding the Temporary Simplification of Customs Clearance of Vehicles Imported into the Customs Territory of Ukraine" available at: [http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4\\_1?id=&pf3511=70900](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?id=&pf3511=70900).
5. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2021), The Law of Ukraine "On the Bureau of Economic Security of Ukraine" available at: [http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4\\_1?id=&pf3511=69331](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?id=&pf3511=69331)
6. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2021), The Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Regarding Regulation of Individual Whistleblower Protection Issues" available at: [http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4\\_1?id=&pf3511=68779](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?id=&pf3511=68779).
7. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2020), The Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine, Aimed at Increasing the Availability of Medicines, Medical Products and Other Goods Purchased by the Person Authorized to Make Purchases in the Health Care Sector" available at: [http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4\\_1?id=&pf3511=67552](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?id=&pf3511=67552)

8. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2021), The Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine" on bringing certain provisions into line with the Constitution of Ukraine" available at: [http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webp\\_r0c4\\_1?id=&pf3511=71882](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webp_r0c4_1?id=&pf3511=71882)

9. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2020), The Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offenses on Establishing Features of Compiling a Protocol on Administrative Offenses, provided for in Articles 172-4-172-9 and 188-46, 212-15 in relation to a judge, a judge of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine" available at: [http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webp\\_r0c4\\_1?id=&pf3511=70611](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webp_r0c4_1?id=&pf3511=70611);

10. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2021), The Law of Ukraine "On Amending the Tax Code of Ukraine on Stimulating the Development of the Digital Economy in Ukraine" available at: [http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webp\\_r0c4\\_1?pf3511=71663](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webp_r0c4_1?pf3511=71663).

11. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2022), The Law of Ukraine "On the principles of state anti-corruption policy for 2021-2025" available at: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2322-20#n93>

12. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2022), The Law of Ukraine "On the principles of state anti-corruption policy for 2021-2025" available at: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2322-20#n93>

13. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2021), The Law of Ukraine "On Critical Infrastructure" available at: [http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webp\\_r0c4\\_1?id=&pf3511=71355](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webp_r0c4_1?id=&pf3511=71355)

14. The Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2021), The Law of Ukraine "On Peculiarities of Provision of Electronic Public Services" available at:

[http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webp\\_r0c4\\_1?id=&pf3511=71906](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webp_r0c4_1?id=&pf3511=71906)

15. "Interview with the head of the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption Oleksandr Novikov" available at: <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-economy/3231671-golova-nazk-nova-antikorupcyjna-strategia-prinese-kraini-do-200-mlrd-grn-ekonomii.html>

16. Informatsijno-analitychnyj zvit Vyschoi rady pravosuddia pro diial'nist' u 2021 rotsi. available at: <https://court.gov.ua/press/news/1251353/>

17. Informatsiia Ministerstva oborony Ukrainy pro kliuchovi antykoruptsijni informatsijni initsiatyvy, scho provedeni u 2021 rotsi. available at: [https://www.mil.gov.ua/content/corruption/corruption\\_2021\\_full\\_year.pdf](https://www.mil.gov.ua/content/corruption/corruption_2021_full_year.pdf)

18. Informatsiia Ministerstva oborony Ukrainy pro kliuchovi antykoruptsijni informatsijni initsiatyvy, scho provedeni u 2021 rotsi. available at: [https://www.mil.gov.ua/content/corruption/corruption\\_2021\\_full\\_year.pdf](https://www.mil.gov.ua/content/corruption/corruption_2021_full_year.pdf).

20. Ministerstvo ekonomiky Ukrainy. Analitychna zapyska: zahal'ni tendentsii tin'ovoi ekonomiky. available at: [file:///C:/Users/Windows/Downloads/1\\_%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%BF%D0%B8%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B0\\_9\\_%D0%BC\\_2021\\_%D0%A2%D0%95%20\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Windows/Downloads/1_%D0%97%D0%B0%D0%BF%D0%B8%D1%81%D0%BA%D0%B0_9_%D0%BC_2021_%D0%A2%D0%95%20(2).pdf)

21. Ministerstvo okhorony zdorov'ia Ukrainy. available at: <https://moz.gov.ua/article/reform-plan/medzakupivli-ukraini-predstavili-strategiju-rozvitku-na-2021-2023-rr>

22. Ministerstvom sotsial'noi polityky Ukrainy. available at: [https://www.msp.gov.ua/files/d\\_2020.pdf](https://www.msp.gov.ua/files/d_2020.pdf).

23. Ofis Heneral'noho prokurora. available at: <https://www.gp.gov.ua/>

24. Shpak Yu.V. and Drahan I.O. (2022), "Corruption in public administration as an obstacle to society's transition to Industry 4.0." *Public Administration and Regional Development*. vol. 16, pp. 610-625. available at:

<https://pard.mk.ua/index.php/journal/article/view/313>

25. Yarovoj T.S. (2020), "The formation of public administration in the sphere of national security of Ukraine, or a decrease

in defense capability? Retrospective 1991-2000, through the lens of lobbying influence" *Publichne upravlinnia i administruvannia v Ukraini*. vol. 15. pp. 126–131.