

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION IN LOCAL SELF- GOVERNMENT BODIES: LEGAL REGULATION AND FOREIGN EXPERIENCE

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Abstract

The article focuses on the negative impact of corruption on the efficiency of the state, the reduction of the governability of the state, and the deterioration of the organization of public life even in the conditions of war in Ukraine. Prevention of corruption risks in local self-government bodies should be implemented by authorities exclusively at the level of a legislative act, necessarily in compliance with the principle of the rule of law and the corresponding guarantees of security in a certain state. The article analyzes in detail the legislation of Ukraine (administrative and criminal legal frameworks) regarding the prevention of corruption risks in local self-government bodies. It was concluded that the strengthening of responsibility for corruption in the conditions of martial law in Ukraine is fully justified, as it is aimed at preventing the “reduction” of international aid during the war and striking preventive strikes by equating corruption with collaboration with the enemy. A scientific vision of the legislative approach to solving the problem of combating corruption in Ukraine is formulated, taking into account the realistic goals of such activities and the war in the country. It has been proven that prevention of corruption risks in local self-government bodies is possible with the help of the following measures: anti-corruption mechanisms at the legislative level and in the activities of public administration bodies; formation of an effective system of state institutions that actually implement state policy in the field of combating corruption risks; prosecution of natural persons for corruption in the form of deprivation of liberty and other measures; intolerance of the population to corruption in war conditions. Attention is focused on the need for states to comply with international standards, namely the recommendations of GRECO and the Istanbul Action Plan of the OECD Anti-Corruption Network.

Keywords: *prevention of corruption, local self-government bodies, legal regulation, legal status, corruption evaders, foreign experience.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Modern Ukraine, like many other countries of the world, faces the problem of corruption at various levels of government. One of the main aspects where

corruption has a powerful influence is local self-government bodies. Corrupt practices in these bodies often go beyond financial manipulation, covering a wider range of violations, from political influence to human rights violations. In order to understand this phenomenon, it is necessary to consider in detail the political, legal and social prerequisites underlying corruption manifestations in local self-government.

The degree of protection of each state against external threats, including armed aggression, is directly dependent on internal stability, the strength of the national state apparatus, and the effectiveness of political power on the entire state territory. In this context, it is corruption that is most often the main domestic cause of political and economic crises. It must be agreed that it has a wide-ranging impact on all societies, as it undermines democracy and the rule of law, and leads to human rights abuses, market distortions, reduced quality of life, and allows organized crime, terrorism, and other threats to human security to flourish. This negative phenomenon can be found in all countries - large and small, rich and poor - but it is in developing countries that its consequences are the most destructive.¹

In connection with the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, on the basis of the proposal of the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, in accordance with Clause 20, Part 1, Art. 106 of the Constitution of Ukraine², the Law of Ukraine "On the Legal Regime of Martial Law"³ put into effect the plan for introducing and ensuring the measures of the legal regime of martial law in Ukraine.⁴ In such conditions, today one of the strategic priorities for the country remains the fight against crime and corruption. Today's criminogenic realities require an effective response mechanism on the part of the state, in particular, ensuring coordinated, purposeful, joint actions of legislative and law enforcement agencies.⁵

Analysis of publications in which the solution to this problem was initiated. The work of V. B. Ave'ryanov, B.M. Golovkina, A.T. Komzyuka, A.O. Levchuk, Ye. Leheza⁶, O.M. Litvynova, I.O. Lugovoi, ID. Shepherd, O.P. Ryabchenko, V.I. Shakuna, S.O. Tents and others.⁷

1 General Assembly adopts UN Convention against corruption, opens treaty for signature at high-level conference in Merida, Mexico, 9–11 December / United Nations official. 2003. URL: <http://www.un.org/press/en/2003/ga10199.doc.htm>

2 Constitution of Ukraine: Law of June 28 1996 No. 254k/96-VR. Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. URL: <http://zakon2.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/254%D0%BA/96-%D0%B2%D1%80>

3 On the legal regime of martial law: the Law of Ukraine dated May 12 2015 No. 389-VIII. Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/389-19#Text>

4 On the introduction of martial law in Ukraine: Decree of the President of Ukraine dated February 24. 2022 No. 2102-IX. Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2102-20#Text>

5 Dymko, I., Muradian, A., Manzhula, A., Rudkovskyi, O., Leheza, Ye. "Integrated approach to the development of the effectiveness function of quality control of metal products". *Eastern European Journal of Enterprise Technologies*. 6/3 (90). (2017). 26-34. doi: 10.15587/1729-4061.2017.119500.

6 Leheza, Ye. O., Filatov, V., Varava, V., Halunko, V., Kartsyhin, D. (2019). "Scientific and practical analysis of administrative jurisdiction in the light of adoption of the new code of administrative procedure of Ukraine." *Journal of Legal, Ethical and Regulatory Issues*. Vol. 22, Issue 5. 2019. P. 1-8. Retrieved from :<https://www.abacademies.org/articles/scientific-and-practical-analysis-of-administrative-jurisdiction-in-the-light-of-adoption-of-the-new-code-of-administrative-proced-8634.html>

7 Korniiienko, Maksym, Anatolii Desyatnik, Galina Didkivska, Yevhen Leheza, and Oleksiy Titarenko. 'Peculiarities of Investigating Criminal Offenses Related to Illegal Turnover of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, Their Analogues or Precursors: Criminal Law Aspect'. *Khazanah Hukum* 5, no. 3 (2023): 205–15. <https://doi.org/10.15575/kh.v5i3.31742>.

Despite a significant number of works devoted to the prevention and counteraction of corruption, certain aspects of the application of legislation in the field of corruption prevention in martial law conditions have not been studied.

2. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

The most famous indicator of the level of perception of corruption in one or another country of the world is the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), which is calculated by an international organization Transparency International since 1995.

The main criterion of the Index is not ranking, and the points that the country receives. Minimum rating, which is zero indicates that corruption has effectively replaced the state, while the maximum score (100) indicates an almost complete absence of corruption. The CPI measures the perception of corruption, not corruption actual level.

This index reflects the perception of corruption in the state sector of the economy by representatives of the business elite. In addition, it is a kind of consolidated rating that assesses the level of corruption in different countries. To compile this index various sources are used, such as World economic forum, Institute of Management Development, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Freedom House and Gallup International. In order to reduce possible differences in numbers caused by random factors, the evaluations of the previous ones are taken into account years

This indicator includes data from previous years to avoid sudden fluctuations in the numbers that may be caused by random factors. According to the results of 2023, Ukraine received 36 out of 100 points. The table below shows the results for CPI received by Ukraine over the past 11 years.

During the specified period, Ukraine added a total of 11 points in the study. This is the biggest increase among the countries that currently have the status of candidates to EU.

The latest study covers the period from February 2021 to September 2023. Ukraine received a significant increase in the indicator just in time full-scale war. Growth of Ukraine on 3 points - one of the best results for the past year in the world.

Also, Ukraine became one of the 17 countries in this year's SRI that demonstrated its best performance of all time.

The success of the further development of Ukraine as a sovereign and independent, democratic, social, legal state now, more than ever before, depends on the determination of politicians, statesmen and public servants and the principledness of every citizen and civil society in general in the fight against the external and internal enemy. One of the most dangerous internal enemies of Ukraine is corruption, which makes effective economic, social and humanitarian development of Ukraine impossible, slows down its European integration, which ultimately plays into the hands of the external enemies

of our state. That is why the eradication of corruption is currently one of the most important tasks of the Ukrainian state.⁸

An effective fight against corruption requires a scientific concept of its prevention. One of the main foundations of such a concept should be the understanding of corruption as a socially determined phenomenon. Based on this, it is necessary to develop a strategy and tactics for combating it, set appropriate goals, determine the means of their achievement, the level of material, financial, organizational and legal support.⁹

Prevention of corruption crime is a complex, organized and scientifically based process of the influence of the state and other specially authorized subjects on the formation of negative factors of corruption crime and the flow of corruption in society.¹⁰

One of the key directions of such prevention is the prevention of corruption crime, the preventive content of which is precisely focused on the elimination and neutralization of the causes and conditions of corruption crime, as well as other criminogenic factors that affect the formation of the personality of persons who commit corruption crimes. Theoretical and methodological support for corruption crime highlights the priority importance of preventing this socio-legal phenomenon along with other forms of struggle.¹¹

The strategic goal of the anti-corruption policy is to combat corruption at the level of state power and local self-government by increasing transparency in their activities, observing the rights and freedoms of people and citizens, creating conditions for the development of the economy, ensuring European social standards and the well-being of the population. Achieving this goal is possible through the implementation of the anti-corruption policy, which provides for the gradual reduction of the level of corruption in the state and the establishment of an effective mechanism for preventing and countering corruption in Ukraine. Based on this, strategic and tactical goals of combating corruption should be determined, tasks should be set before specific state authorities, and means of combating corruption should be chosen.¹²

Effective fight against corruption in Ukraine requires the presence of appropriate political will as well as adequate legislative support (complex norms and legal provisions governing anti-corruption mechanisms and liability for corruption violations), the formation of an effective system of state institutions ensuring proper coordination of the formation and implementation of anti-corruption policies, the preventive measures and their overcoming. The creation of such an institutional system must comply with international standards (in particular, the UN and Council of Europe anti-corruption

⁸ State anti-corruption policy and prevention and counteraction of corruption in public service in state authorities and local self-government bodies: monograph / edited by Yu. IN. Kovbasyuka, V.L. Fedorenko Kyiv: Lira-K Publishing House, NASU, 2016. 524.

⁹ Shilo S.M. Criminological directions of corruption prevention in Ukraine. Entrepreneurship, economy and law. (2019). 9. 237–242

¹⁰ Leheza, Yevhen. Olena Sinkevych, Zorina Kravtsova, Olena Kudriavtseva, and Ievgeniia Cherniak. 'The human right to an environment safe for life and health: legal regulation, contemporary challenges and comparative perspectives'. Syariah: Jurnal Hukum dan Pemikiran, 2023, 23(2) (2023): 138–150. <https://doi.org/10.18592/sjhp.v23i2.12257>

¹¹ Melnyk M.I. Corruption: essence, concepts, countermeasures: monograph. Kyiv: Atika, 2001. Ukraine.

¹² Rasyuk E.V. (2018). Corruption crime in Ukraine: current state, determinants and prevention: training. Manual. Kyiv: National. Acad. internal affairs. Ukraine.

conventions, GRECO recommendations, and the Istanbul Action Plan of the OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Anti-Corruption Network) and global best practices, as well as take into account the specificities of Ukraine's legal system. The specificities of the Ukrainian legal system must be taken into account.

In the context of war, it is imperative to strengthen the fight against corruption by introducing changes and additions to existing laws. In particular, after victory, Ukraine will receive billions of dollars from its partners for the revitalization of its economy and infrastructure. And when the word "funding" covers the worst parts of the state apparatus, unhealthy eyes will shine and new offshore accounts will be opened. The anti-corruption system of Ukraine was not very effective even in peacetime, and during the war, the domestic law enforcement agencies do not have a free hand to deal with corrupt people at all, because they are mostly engaged in the investigation of military criminal offenses.

For example, the draft Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code (CPC) of Ukraine on Strengthening Liability for Corrupt Actions During Martial Law proposes to equate the acquisition by a person authorized to perform the functions of the state or local self-government of assets, value which exceeds its legal income by more than six thousand five hundred tax-free minimum incomes of citizens, during the period of martial law and within one year after its termination or cancellation.¹³

For this purpose, the draft Law proposes to supplement Art. 111 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, which deals with state treason, with a new provision, according to which a corrupt official can be deprived of his liberty for a term of up to 15 years or sentenced to life imprisonment, with confiscation of property and with the deprivation of the right to hold certain positions or engage in certain activities.

In this aspect, it is worth noting that the Law of Ukraine dated March 3, 2022 No. 2113-XX "On Amendments to the Criminal Code of Ukraine on Strengthening Liability for Crimes Against the Basics of National Security of Ukraine in the Conditions of Martial Law"¹⁴ added Article 111 (Treason), 113 (Sabotage) of the Criminal Code of Ukraine as a sign of aggravating responsibility - committing acts in conditions of martial law or during an armed conflict, as well as providing sanctions for committing such acts - imprisonment for a term of fifteen years or life imprisonment will, with confiscation of property.

Treason or sabotage under martial law means the acts provided for in Articles 111 or 113 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, respectively, in the period and in the territory where a special legal regime has been introduced in the event of armed aggression or threat of attack, danger to the state independence of the state. territory where a special legal regime has been introduced in the event of armed aggression or threat of attack, danger to the

¹³ Leheza, Y., Shcherbyna, Bogdan. Leheza, Yulia. Pushkina, Olena & Marchenko O. (2023). "Features of Applying the Right to Suspension or Complete/ Partial Refusal to Fulfill a Duty in Case of Non-Fulfilment of the Counter Duty by the Other Party According to the Civil Legislation of Ukraine." *Revista Jurídica Portucalense*, 340–359. Retrieved from <https://revistas.rcaap.pt/juridica/article/view/29662>

¹⁴ On amendments to the Criminal Code of Ukraine regarding the strengthening of responsibility for crimes against the foundations of national security of Ukraine under the conditions of martial law: Law dated March 3, 2022 No. 2113-IX. Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2113-20#Text>.

state independence of Ukraine, its territorial integrity, which provides for the provision of appropriate state authorities, military command, military administrations and local self-government bodies, the powers necessary to avert the event of armed aggression or threat of attack, danger to the state independence of Ukraine, its territorial integrity, which provides for the provision of appropriate state authorities, military command, military administrations, and local self-government bodies, the powers necessary to repel armed aggression, ensure state security, and eliminate the threat of danger to the independence and territorial integrity of Ukraine, and the rights and freedoms of individuals and citizens, and the rights and legal interests of legal persons, and to temporarily legal interests, and the duration of the validity of these restrictions (martial law).¹⁵

Committing treason or sabotage during an armed conflict means committing the actions provided for in Art. 111 or 113 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, respectively, in the period and in the territory where there is an armed conflict between states (international armed conflict, armed conflict on the state border) or between warring parties within the territory of one state, as a rule, with support from the outside (internal armed conflict).

Establishing harsh sanctions for committing the specified actions is fully justified in the conditions of a war with Russia, as well as any other armed conflict. In this way, the state is able to prosecute and impose the most severe punishment on persons who sabotaged the state council, as well as to prevent new manifestations of these socially dangerous acts.

In order to bring the guilty to criminal responsibility, as well as its inevitability, it is also necessary to establish an absolute ban on the release of the guilty from criminal responsibility, punishment or its serving in the case of crimes against the foundations of national security of Ukraine, provided for in Article 109-114-1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, against the peace and security of mankind, provided for in Art. 437-439 and part 1 of Art. 442 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, committed under martial law. In this regard, we propose to supplement a number of articles 45-48, 74, 75, 79, 80-82, 86, 87, 89, 91 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine with provisions on the prohibition of exemption from criminal responsibility, punishment or its serving, removal or repayment of a criminal record in case of committing crimes against the foundations of national security of Ukraine, provided for in Art. 109-114-1, against the peace and security of mankind, provided for in Art. 437-439 and part 1 of Art. 442 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine.¹⁶

Thus, the amendments provided for in the draft law on amendments to the Criminal Code of Ukraine on strengthening liability for acts of corruption under martial law are fully justified and are aimed at preventing the “disbursement” of international aid

¹⁵ Criminal Code of Ukraine: Law of Ukraine dated April 5 2001 No. 2341-III. Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. URL: <http://zakon2.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2341-14/>.

¹⁶ Korneyev, M., Zolotukhina, L., Hryhorash, T., Leheza Ye., Hryhorash O., “The development of small business as a source of formation of local budget revenues in Ukraine.” Investment. Management and Financial Innovations. 15 (1). (2018). 132-140. DOI:10.21511/imfi.15(1).2018.12

during wartime, preventive strike missions, and equating wartime corruption with collaboration with the enemy.¹⁷

Next, in the context of the subject of the article, the Draft Law on Amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Prevention of Corruption” regarding the specifics of the application of legislation in the field of prevention of corruption under martial law¹⁸ is worthy of attention, in which, for the period until the termination or abolition of martial law, the requirement for gifts to conform to generally accepted notions of hospitality and limitations on the value of gifts, established by the second part of Article 23 of this Law, do not apply to:

- 1) receipt of funds, in full used exclusively for such purposes (provided there is confirmation of the use of the received funds in full for one or more specified purposes);
- 2) to the Armed Forces of Ukraine or other military organizations organized in accordance with the laws of Ukraine, to voluntary organizations of regional communities, and to intelligence and law enforcement agencies (but only if there is appropriate confirmation of the complete provision of such goods to the entities specified in this paragraph), to release ownership and provide the goods without charge or Acceptance of the goods at a price lower than the lowest market price;
- 3) receipt of the full value of the goods provided as a charitable donation or humanitarian aid to persons affected as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, upon termination of their ownership, either free of charge or at a price lower than the lowest market value, provided that there is appropriate confirmation that such goods were provided in full for a specific purpose; and (provided that there is appropriate confirmation that such goods have been provided in full for a specific purpose);
- 4) by persons actually residing in temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine, in areas where hostilities have been committed as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, or as a result of (the threat of committing) hostilities due to the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine or (the threat of) temporary occupation of territory of Ukraine Receipt for free or at a price lower than the lowest market price by a person forced to leave his/her place of residence as a result of (threat of) hostilities due to armed aggression against Ukraine by the Russian Federation or temporary occupation of the territory of Ukraine.¹⁹

Also, establish that: a) in the declaration of a person authorized to perform the functions of the state or local self-government, the reporting period of which fully or partially falls on the period of martial law, the information that must be indicated in

17 Leheza, Yevhen, Larysa Yerofieienko, and Volodymyr Komashko. ‘Peculiarities of Legal Regulation of Intellectual Property Protection in Ukraine under Martial Law: Administrative and Civil Aspects’. *Revista Justiça Do Direito* 37, no. 3 (2023): 157–72. <https://doi.org/10.5335/rjd.v37i3.15233>

18 Voloshanivska, Tetiana, Inna Pozihun, Serhii Losych, Olha Merdova and Yevhen Leheza. ‘Administrative and Criminal Law Aspects of Preventing Offenses Committed by Minors in the Sphere of Illegal Circulation of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors’. *Journal of Drug and Alcohol Research*, 12(10) (2023). <https://doi.org/10.4303/JDAR/236269>

19 Leheza, Y., Shcherbina, Bogdan. Leheza, Yulia. Pushkina, Olena & Marchenko O. (2023). “Features of Applying the Right to Suspension or Complete/ Partial Refusal to Fulfill a Duty in Case of Non-Fulfilment of the Counter Duty by the Other Party According to the Civil Legislation of Ukraine.” *Revista Jurídica Portucalense*, 340–359. Retrieved from <https://revistas.rcaap.pt/juridica/article/view/29662>

the declaration in accordance with clauses 7, 10 of the first part Article 46 of this Law, the subject of the declaration has the right not to indicate in the declaration in relation to the objects of declaration provided for in clauses 2-3 of this section; b) in the case of receiving income, acquiring property, making expenses specified in clauses 2-3 of this section, a notification about significant changes in property status is not submitted; c) for the period until the termination or abolition of martial law, the period of control, inspection and monitoring suspended by the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption in accordance with the Law of Ukraine “On Protection of the Interests of Subjects of Reporting and Other Documents during the Period of Martial Law” is suspended state or state of war” dated March 3, 2022 No. 2115-IX. The period of time is resumed from the day following the day of termination or cancellation of martial law.²⁰

One should also agree with the conclusions about the high corruption risks of this Project due to the use of general formulations without specification and the possibility of monitoring the spending of funds and other gifts. Receipt of money is not always a consequence of the emergence of ownership rights to such money and, as a result, a gift. If you give money to a neighbor to buy bread, he does not become its owner. If the funds were received for transfer to special accounts, donations, then the employee does not receive any gift, since he is not using his own funds. As a result, there is no obligation to report significant changes in property status.²¹

The same applies to goods. Receipt of goods free of charge is also not a fact of ownership. If we are talking about receiving goods free of charge or at a price below the minimum market price for transfer to the Armed Forces of Ukraine or other military formations, then they can be transferred directly to such entities or through the mediation of other entities (for example, charitable foundations, volunteer organizations, etc.).

In addition, it is not clear how you can get the product at a price below the minimum market price, at which price the product can be purchased. ²²

The receipt of this type of service does not require separate permission or the creation of a special legal regulation, since they can be received in accordance with current legislation, namely as publicly available discounts on goods, services, publicly available winnings, prizes, bonuses, bonuses (Part 2 of Article 23 of the Law of Ukraine “On Prevention of Corruption”), as they are provided not only to employees, but also to other persons who actually live in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine, the territories of hostilities as a result of the armed aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, or who were forced to leave their place of actual residence as a result of the conduct (threat of conduct) of hostilities due to the armed aggression of the Russian

20 Leheza, Yevhen. Pisotska, Karina. Dubenko, Oleksandr. Dakhno, Oleksandr. Sotskyi, Artur “The Essence of the Principles of Ukrainian Law in Modern Jurisprudence.” *Revista Jurídica Portucalense*, December, (2022). 342-363. DOI: [https://doi.org/10.34625/issn.2183-2705\(32\)2022.ic-15](https://doi.org/10.34625/issn.2183-2705(32)2022.ic-15)

21 Volobuieva, O. Leheza, Ye. Pervii, V. Plokhuta, Ye. Pichko, R. “Criminal and Administrative Legal Characteristics of Offenses in The Field of Countering Drug Trafficking: Insights from Ukraine.” *Yustisia*. Vol 12, No 3. (2023). 262-277. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.20961/yustisia.v12i3.79443>

22 Leheza, Ye. Shablysty, V. Aristova, I. V. Kravchenko, I. A. Korniakova, T. (2023). “Foreign Experience in Legal Regulation of Combating Crime in the Sphere of Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances, their Analogues and Precursors: Administrative and Criminal Aspect.” *Journal of Drug and Alcohol Research*. Vol. 12 . No. 4, 1-8. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4303/JDAR/236240>

Federation against Ukraine, temporary occupation (threat of temporary occupation). This also applies to medicines, humanitarian aid, etc. 23

Currently, the National Civil Service Agency of Ukraine has developed 10 projects of normative legal acts, provided for the implementation of the Law of Ukraine dated May 2, 2022 No. 3077 “On service in local self-government bodies”.

The Law of Ukraine “On Service in Local Self-Government Bodies” improves HR approaches in local self-government bodies. And although this law will enter into force after the end of martial law, the National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service has prepared most of the by-laws necessary for its implementation. These are two resolutions of the CMU, five standard provisions and procedures, approved by orders of the National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service Issues and registered in the Ministry of Justice.

Work is currently underway on the Standard procedure for the formation and organization of the work of the personnel reserve. This act has already been discussed with strategic stakeholders. A draft resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On approval of criteria for determining the list of positions of employees of local self-government bodies performing maintenance functions” has been developed. The document was sent to the regulatory ministries and all-Ukrainian associations of local self-government bodies to express their position.

The National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service issues is also working on a new competitive procedure for local self-government bodies. A project of the Standard procedure for conducting a competition for the position of a local self-government employee has been prepared. It is currently being considered by experts and representatives of all-Ukrainian specialized associations. Thanks to the competitive procedure, the best candidates should be selected for service in local self-government bodies. At the same time, the competition must ensure the implementation of equal access. And the procedure should be honest, modern, client-oriented, understandable.²⁴

The National Agency of Ukraine for Public Service issues together with the USAID project “Promoting Integrity in the Public Sector” (Pro-Integrity) is implementing an initiative to develop veterans’ careers in public service. Its purpose is to ensure access of veterans to opportunities in the civil service and local self-government bodies. A separate section has been created on the official website of the National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service Issues “Public service for veterans: answers to frequently asked questions”. There is information about the algorithm for finding current vacancies, requirements for candidates, the procedure for selection and appointment to a position, etc. A series of informational posters have also been developed, which will be placed in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

An E-map of vacancies has been created on the platform of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs “E-Veteran”. “On it you will find vacancies in the civil service and in local government. First of all, this card is aimed at veterans, but anyone can go to it and find a

²³ On prevention of corruption: Law of Ukraine dated October 14, 2014 No. 1700-VII. Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine. URL: <http://zakon0.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1700-18>

²⁴ Regarding activities related to the prevention of corruption. State Tax Service of Ukraine. 2022. URL: <https://tr.tax.gov.ua/diialnist/zapobigannya-proyavam-koruptsii-/informatsiynimateriali/581003.html>.

job. Of course, this is a temporary step. The e-card will be valid until the Unified Public Service Vacancy Portal is restored.²⁵

The National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service issues emphasizes the need to use the opportunities of the Personnel Reserve for positions in state bodies in the de-occupied territories. It is formed from persons who expressed a desire to work in the de-occupied territories in civil service positions. More than 2,500 Ukrainians have already agreed to become part of the teams that will restore power in the de-occupied territories.

Among other successful practices implemented by the National Agency of Ukraine for Public Service in the field of human capital management is youth internships in public authorities. The National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service issues, in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Sports of Ukraine and the United Nations Development Program in Ukraine, has launched a project on youth internships in local government. In July 2022, 27 representatives of local self-government bodies from different regions of Ukraine underwent face-to-face training. Based on the results of the training, 10 communities were selected, which are currently participating in the pilot youth internship program.²⁶

3. CONCLUSION

Thus, the effective fight against corruption risks in local self-government bodies in Ukraine continues more or less effectively. The construction of an established mechanism for (effective) prevention of corruption in government bodies must necessarily meet international standards. The directions for preventing corruption risks in local self-government bodies are highlighted: accessibility and convenience, i.e. advisory assistance to the subjects of declaration regarding the specifics of compliance with the requirements of financial control, taking into account the explanations of anti-corruption authorities (in particular, web information from the authorities of Ukraine - <https://nazk.gov.ua/uk/>); coordination and interaction of public administration bodies with relevant local self-government bodies in order to timely identify and bring to their attention the relevant anti-corruption authorities; prevention and settlement of conflicts of interest for public servants; organization of electronic channels for notification of possible facts of corruption offenses or certain corruption risks in local self-government bodies; timely reception and consideration of appeals from citizens as related to corruption and other violations of legal requirements.

Emphasized attention, for the National Civil Service Agency of Ukraine, it is important that HR tools meet the principles of integrity and allow attracting and retaining honest

25 Clarification No. 4 dated 07.03.2022 regarding the application of certain provisions of the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention of Corruption" regarding financial control measures under martial law (declaration submission, notification of significant changes in property status, notification of opening a currency account in a non-resident bank institution, conducting inspections). National agency on corruption prevention issues. URL: <https://nazk.gov.ua/uk/documents/roz-yasnennya-4-vid-07-03-2022-shhodo-zastosuvannya-okremyh-polozhen-zakonu-ukrayiny-pro-zapobigannya-koruptsiyistosovno-zahodiv-finansovogo-kontrolyu-v-umovah-voyennogo-stanu-podannya-deklaratsiyi-p/>.

26 Shkuta, Oleh, Dmytro Karbovskyi, Olena Pushkina, Mykola Potip, and Olena Varhuliak. 'Object and Subject of State Control in the Sphere of Legal Turnover of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors in Ukraine: Administrative, Criminal and Civil-Legal Aspect'. *Journal of Drug and Alcohol Research* 12 (2023). <https://doi.org/10.4303/JDAR/236255>.

professionals. For example, during the competitive selection for individual positions, such a requirement as Integrity is evaluated. And another important component is the formation of organizational culture. It depends on how easy it is for your colleagues to breathe, and how comfortable the conditions are to work effectively.

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