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Main areas of activity of national security actors

Основні напрями діяльності суб'єктів забезпечення національної безпеки

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Abstract

This article aims to clarify the key areas of activity for national security entities. The research employed epistemological, structural-functional, formal-logical, analytical, and dogmatic methods. The findings underscore the significance of the legal domain in ensuring national security, emphasizing the need for effective legal frameworks and institutions. The social dimension focuses on creating conditions for societal wellbeing and minimizing social risks. The economic aspect involves regulating foreign economic activity and supporting domestic producers. The political dimension centers on minimizing political risks and threats to the state's functioning. The study concludes that these areas are interconnected and interdependent, and their integration and coordination are crucial for sustainable and secure state development.

Анотація

У статті ставиться за мету з'ясувати основні напрями діяльності суб'єктів забезпечення національної безпеки. Під час дослідження були використані гносеологічний, структурнофункціональний, формально-логічний, аналітичний та догматичний методи. Висновки підкреслюють важливість правової сфери для забезпечення національної безпеки, наголошуючи на необхідності створення ефективної правової бази та інституцій. Соціальний вимір фокусується на створенні умов для суспільного добробуту та мінімізації соціальних ризиків. Економічний аспект передбачає регулювання зовнішньоекономічної діяльності та підтримку вітчизняного виробника. Політичний вимір зосереджений на мінімізації політичних ризиків і загроз для функціонування держави. У дослідженні зроблено висновок, що ці сфери взаємопов'язані та взаємозалежні, а їх інтеграція та координація мають вирішальне

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Keywords: economic security, directions of national security, national security, political security, legal security, social security.

значення для сталого та безпечного розвитку держави.

Ключові слова: економічна безпека, напрями національної безпеки, національна безпека, політична безпека, правова безпека, соціальна безпека.

Introduction

National security appears as a fundamental factor in the sustainable development of Ukraine as a modern European State. This is explained by the fact that it is national security that forms such conditions of social life, under which the threats to the State as a system of State agencies, public order, as well as obstacles to a stable life and personal development are absent or minimized. Accordingly, national security and its provision play a decisive role in solving a number of urgent socio-economic tasks, preserving the sovereignty of the State, implementing priority national projects and strengthening the country's international position (Bilyi & Mikhalchuk, 2021, p. 94). It is through the prism of national security that the proper conditions determining the stability of the humanistic development of the State, as well as its ability to support social partnership, progressive civil peace, and national harmony are established. Without these components, it is impossible to imagine the full development of either an individual or society. At the same time, it is necessary to take into account that national security is a multi-component and multi-level system including various subsystems. Based on this, it is logical to assume that ensuring national security has different directions: social, economic, political, environmental, etc. In this regard, there is an urgent need to study the key areas of ensuring national security in the context of the activities of the relevant actors of its provision.

Therefore, the purpose of the article is to outline the content of the main areas of activity of national security actors. In order to achieve this goal, the following tasks should be performed:

- 1) Clarifying the structure of the activities of the entities authorized to ensure national security;
- 2) Outlining the content of these areas;
- 3) Summarizing the research results.

In this study, based on the examination of legal and regulatory acts, we highlighted the fundamental national interests of Ukraine, as well as directions of State policy in the field of national security. Exploring the essence of national security objectification, theoretical and practical expression of its ensuring, we concluded that the main directions of its provision are also the strategic national priorities of Ukraine. Among these priorities, considering the multi-component nature of the national security system, are legal, social, economic and political directions, which were considered and studied in detail. The conclusion was made that each of these directions (legal, social, economic, etc.) does not exist in isolation, but is interconnected and interdependent.

Literature Review

The problem of national security is not losing its relevance at the present stage. Modern science, emerging from a new vision of the world, has developed the comprehensive system of knowledge on the problems of its ensuring. At the same time, fundamental changes in world outlook on the fundamental challenges of modernity require the revision of many traditional provisions, creating fundamentally new concepts. National security is one of the main factors of stable development of the state. It is considered as a complex system of interconnection of its functional elements: national interests, threats to national security and protection of national security. Within the framework of the national security system, Ukraine concentrates its efforts in the economic, social, political and legal areas of national security.

The issue of the elements (areas) of national security has repeatedly attracted the attention of numerous scientists. For example, Joseph J. Romm (1993) considers that economic security, environmental security and energy security are the non-military elements of national security.



Prabhakaran Paleri (2008) lists a larger number of its elements in his book National Security: Imperatives and Challenges: military, economic, resource, order, demographic security, disaster, energy, geostrategic, informational security, food, health, ethnic, environmental, cyber security.

Kim R. Holmes (2015) provides definitions of the major contending views of non-military definitions of national security: political, economic, energy and natural resources, homeland, cybersecurity, human, environmental security.

Hussain (2022) states that the elements of national security may differ depending upon different viewpoints and percept's. Besides the military aspects of security, the aspects of diplomacy, politics, society, environment, energy and natural resources, economy are usually discussed. The elements of national security are interconnected with the elements of national power. Security from narcotic cartel, economic, environmental and energy security are listed as the non-military elements of national security.

Paleri (2022) comes to the conclusion that national security as a concept of national governance comprises 16 identified elements, which are binding energy between them operating on various terrains define the output in the governance of a nation. The elements are mutually inclusive and together form the nucleus of national security.

O. Kravchuk (2016), reflecting on the peculiarities of Ukraine's political security, notes that its essence is interpreted in different ways. Some understand it as the preservation of the existing constitutional order, political and social stability. The others – as advocacy of democratic values, people's rule. The third – as non-use of violence for political purposes.

The priority of one or another type of national security (economic, social, political, etc.) is determined by the objective factors, namely:

- Degree of people's need for this type of security;
- The vulnerability of people and vital objects to this type of danger;
- A wide range of threats that this system must face.

According to these indicators, political security occupies one of the first places in the system of national security of Ukraine and State security.

All components of the structure of national security are interconnected, but that some types of security are not only independent, but also those that have corresponding dimensions in other directions of the life of society (Chernysh et al. 2023, p. 91).

O. Vysotskyi (2021) defines political security as the prevention of government repression, systematic human rights violations, and the threat of militarization. Political security concerns the organizational stability of public administration, their systemic governance and the ideology that legitimizes. The scholar states that one of the critical threats to international security today remains state repression, systematic human rights abuses and militarization.

Zub (2024) considers economic security in the direction of the development of the economy and the protection of the economic interests of the State, that is, the protection of national interests. Under economic security, he understands the state of protection of the economic sphere of the State and national economic interests from the negative impact of external and internal threats and challenges, destabilizing factors, which is ensured by a complex of regulatory and legal, organizational and institutional, technical and technological and innovative and investment measures. Pidbereznykh et al (2022) in this regard state that Ukraine's policy in the sphere of economic security is clearly marked in its legislation and meets the challenges of modern time.

The basis of the concept of legal security is the understanding of conditions, sources, ways, mechanisms of negative influence (distortion of legal norms, their conflict, legal gaps, improper enforcement procedure, ignoring the rules' effect, substitution of concepts, corruption, etc.) on the legal system. The essence of legal security is reduced to the legal protection (legal support) of the vital interests of the objects of legal security, from the mentioned negative influences, their prevention, in other words, minimizing legal factors of risks, challenges, dangers and threats. Among the actors guaranteeing legal security are the executive

and judicial bodies, as well as the President of Ukraine, executive power agencies performing normative and standard-setting functions, protecting rights, preventing violations of the law, i.e. directly guarantee legal security. The courts, which are the Constitutional Court and the courts of general jurisdiction, restore the violated rights (Korzh, 2020).

According to Ivanisov (2024), the effectiveness of the social security system depends on the balance of its components, the influence of the economic opportunities of the region and the actions of the governing bodies ensuring the dynamics of the social development of the population. It is extremely important to consider that social development is carried out under the influence of a combination of market (economic), production, financial, legal and humanitarian factors. Within these factors, the extent, to which the welfare needs of the population are met, is formed, prerequisites for optimizing the social potential and strengthening its influence on the economic potential are created.

The author proposed a method of comprehensive assessment of the social security of the population based on four main groups of indicators: provision of the social protection system with resources and infrastructure; organization of the work of social protection actors; satisfaction of the population with the quality of the organization of social protection; indicators of the level and quality of life of the population.

Therefore, taking into account the views by the mentioned authors, there is a need for a more detailed consideration of the main directions of ensuring the national security, without which it is impossible to solve the problems of independence and financial stability of the State.

Methodology

The methodological basis for the study are philosophical, general theoretical, special and interdisciplinary methods of scientific knowledge, based on a systemic approach.

With the help of the epistemological research method, the essence of the concepts "national security", "ensuring national security", etc. characterizing the areas of security (economic, political, legal, social etc.) has been clarified.

The structural and functional method was applied in allocating the main directions of national security provision that are also the strategic national priorities of Ukraine, in particular, political, economic, social and legal ones.

Formal and logical method was used to clarify the essence of concepts and formulate key definitions (political security, economic security, legal security and social security).

Analytical method in combination with modeling and system approach was used when considering key areas of ensuring national security in each of its main directions (areas) (for example, regulatory and legal provision and institutional and legal support within the legal direction).

Hermeneutic method was helpful in studying the content of legal acts governing various aspects of national security of our country (Constitution of Ukraine, Law of Ukraine On the National Security, National Security Strategy of Ukraine).

The complex application of the above methods was guided by a systematic approach, which provided an opportunity to investigate the problem in the unity of its content and form.

Therefore, taking into account the opinions of the mentioned authors, there is a need for a more detailed consideration of the main directions of ensuring the national security of the state, without which it is impossible to solve the problems of independence and financial stability of the state, as well as sufficient attraction of investments.

Results and Discussion

Since the declaration of Ukraine's independence, the issue of ensuring its security has always played an important role in the activities of all State agencies. The focus on the protection of Ukrainian statehood was determined by the Declaration on State Sovereignty of July 16, 1990 (Declaration No. 55-XII, 1990).



Subsequently, the mentioned provisions were developed in the Constitution of Ukraine (Law No. 254k/96-VR, 1996). In particular, this refers to assigning the protection of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, ensuring its economic and information security to the most important functions of the State. The concept of national security, which was initially considered as a political doctrine in Ukraine, was later implemented as a result of defining the relevant sphere of State activity. Further development of specific legislation in this area took place mainly through legal and organizational regulation of the activities of relevant State bodies (Doronin, 2020).

According to Art. 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On the National Security" (Law No. 2469-VIII, 2018), the fundamental national interests of Ukraine are:

- 1) State sovereignty and territorial integrity, democratic constitutional order, non-interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine;
- 2) Sustainable development of the national economy, civil society and ensuring the growth of the level and quality of life of the population;
- 3) Integration of Ukraine into the European political, economic, security, and legal space, acquisition of membership in the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, development of equal and mutually beneficial relations with other States.

State policy in the spheres of national security and defense is aimed at ensuring military, foreign policy, state, economic, informational, environmental security, security of critical infrastructure, cyber security of Ukraine and other areas.

On September 14, 2020 the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine adopted the National Security Strategy of Ukraine (Order No. 392/2020, 2020), which defines the following directions of State policy in the field of national security, in particular:

- Priorities of Ukraine's national interests and ensuring national security, goals and main directions of state policy in this area;
- Current and potential threats to the national security and national interests of Ukraine, taking into account foreign policy and internal conditions;
- The main directions of foreign and domestic political activities of the State to ensure its national interests and security;
- Directions and tasks of reforming and developing the security and defense sector.

Exploring the essence of national security objectification, theoretical and practical expression of its ensuring, we can conclude that the main directions of its provision are also the strategic national priorities of Ukraine. Among these priorities, considering the multi-component nature of the national security system (Lipkan, 2003, p. 57), the following can be outlined:

- 1. Legal direction of ensuring national security. It is a key issue of its provision in a legal and democratic state, as it allows to ensure the rule of law in the field of national security, and therefore to fulfill the key requirements of this principle, among which legal certainty and objective effectiveness are of paramount importance. In this context, two key areas of ensuring national security should be highlighted:
 - a) Regulatory and legal provision of the effective functioning of the legal system, and therefore of the legal regime for ensuring national security. It is important to emphasize that the improvement of legislation (including the elimination of conflicts, shortcomings, gaps, etc.), as well as the development and adoption of new laws and by-laws on a number of issues directly or indirectly related to the national security of a modern State (Oliynyk, 2012, p. 133; Puchkov, 2016, p. 177). This is explained by the fact that the inadequacy of the legal order creates conditions for the emergence and flourishing of a number of negative socio-legal and other phenomena that can affect the state of national security of the country (for example, legal uncertainty is a favorable basis for abuse of powers, corruption and the corruption-related offenses).

The improvement of legal regime for ensuring national security is also important in this sub-direction, and first of all, the development, adoption and implementation of legislative and by-laws aimed at strengthening national security, including legal instruments on counter-terrorist activities, State secrets protection,

information security (is not only an organic component of national security, but also an important area of its provision) (Kopanchuk, 2016), corruption prevention, etc.;

b) Institutional and legal support for the effective functioning of the legal system, and therefore – organizational provision of the legal regime operation for ensuring national security. It should be noted that the existence of laws and by-laws is not a sufficient condition for ensuring national security in the State in an appropriate manner. It is also extremely important to create the so-called "infrastructure for ensuring national security", namely:

firstly, to establish appropriate public service bodies and clearly define their legal status (it is also important to outline the legal status of civil society actors involved in the relevant administrative and legal regime) (Doronin, 2020);

secondly, to increase the effectiveness of entities involved in the process of ensuring national security (in particular, by strengthening coordination and interaction between relevant bodies and officials).

2. Social aspect of ensuring national security. In the modern rule of law, the protection of rights, freedoms and interests of the individual in all spheres of life, ensuring decent living conditions without social risks, which lead to social vulnerability and the inability of a person to independently overcome such conditions, is of particular importance.

As a result, there is a system of social protection of the population in the legal and social State, the purpose of which is to create favorable conditions for citizens' life and activities, to ensure social security and sustainable social development, corresponding to the parameters of a modern social State. At the same time, the latter has a number of characteristics demonstrating its direct impact on the national security of Ukraine. First of all, the system of social protection functioning prevents the growth of social tensions, ensures timely and effective resolution of many social conflicts, and deters the occurrence of situations that may lead to civil disobedience (Kobko, 2022, p. 101).

Besides, social protection system plays a decisive role in preventing the distortion of the social structure (including institutions), contributing not only to their stabilization, but also to the progressive development of various processes of social stratification. It also supports the necessary stability level and contributes to the improvement of the social structure under social mobility (both vertical and horizontal). Its functioning contributes to maintaining the conformity of society culture and values, as well as all social institutions, to the requirements of comprehensive development, which is the basis of ensuring national security.

Thus, ensuring national security in this context involves establishing a set of conditions for society, in which the highest level of social benefits and conditions determining quality of life as a whole and minimizing risks to life and health of the population, are guaranteed. Under such conditions, firstly, the population's loyalty to public authorities increases (which is especially important in the period of martial law in the State) and the level of protest and social tension is reduced; secondly, the level of nihilism and criminalization of society is decreasing, as well as the disability of the population.

3. The economic direction of ensuring national security. In this aspect, authorized entities focus their efforts on creating favorable conditions for ensuring the life and development of individual and the population as a whole, as well as on maintaining the socio-economic and military-political stability of society in general (Kobko, 2022, p. 100). As part of this direction, it is envisaged to carry out actions to preserve the integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine and counter internal and external threats of an economic nature negatively affecting the development of the population's cultural, educational, scientific and technical, labor and production potential.

To ensure national security in the economic aspect, a number of relevant measures are implemented. First of all, legal, customs, organizational and economic regulation of foreign economic activity, which primarily includes developing and adopting legal instruments to protect national interests in international trade, as well as ensuring compliance with customs rules and standards, is carried out. In addition, it is important to emphasize that relevant regulatory measures are performed by authorized entities taking into account the strategic priorities of the State, including the integration of Ukraine into the European Union and the North Atlantic Alliance (Maistro, Shteba, & Khmyrov, 2023, p. 62).



Secondly, national security in the economic context requires the improvement of the sectoral structure of foreign trade through the development of export potential and comprehensive support for domestic manufacturers to strengthen the economic security of the state. In particular, authorized public administration actors support domestic manufacturers of high-tech products and stimulate their export to enter the global market with sufficiently competitive products.

Thirdly, ensuring national security in the economic direction implies a policy of prudent protectionism in relation to national producers of goods and services that are not part of oligarchic structures or monopolies and do not participate in cartel conspiracies in the domestic market.

Fourthly, the stability of the national currency in this context is supported and favorable conditions for the servicing and repayment of external debt owed to international organizations and other States, which are creditor entities, are created.

Fifthly, national security in the economic direction involves active stimulating the growth of the country's scientific and technical, industrial, labor, educational, technological and other potential, as well as the inevitable increase in the level and quality of life of the population by maximizing their level of social security, which is correlated with economic potential of the State as a whole.

Sixthly, national security in the economic context involves taking timely measures to protect strategically important objects and sectors of the economy (for example, energy, transport and communications), while paying special attention to the proper functioning of critical infrastructure objects.

Seventhly, providing national security in this direction involves the implementation of measures to systematically prevent and counter financial crimes, money laundering, monopolies, cartel conspiracies and other illegal activities in the economic sphere.

4. The political direction of ensuring national security. Within this aspect of national security, the so-called "political security" as the component based on common interests and goals of ensuring safe existence of the population and the functioning of the State in the political sphere should be highlighted. This direction includes consideration of political threats to the State (such as withdrawal from European and North-Atlantic integration course, separatism, political extremism, political leaders' political and strategic mistakes, etc.) (Ponomariov, 2018, p. 111). At the same time, an important element of political security is political administration, which complements the traditional public-law administration of the political sphere of the State, taking into account the behavior of political actors.

Therefore, ensuring this type of security within the indicated direction involves: firstly, strengthening State power, namely, increasing the efficiency of public administration, preventing and countering political corruption, ensuring transparency and accountability of public institutions, etc.

Secondly, the political direction of involves the protection of State sovereignty (Markovych, 2023, p. 12), namely: planning and implementation of measures to prevent external interference, ensuring the territorial integrity and independence of the State, its legal and democratic development.

Thirdly, it envisages the development of democratic institutions within the framework of the processes of supporting human rights and freedoms, ensuring fair and free elections, etc.

The interest of the world community in the problems of ensuring the security of the state is constantly growing, which is connected with the permanent crisis phenomena of the late 20th and early 21st centuries, whose acuteness has directly raised the question of humanity's future. The complicated domestic political and economic situation, significantly worsened by a full-scale war, the spread of international terrorism, the aggravation of threats to the interests of citizens, society and the state require the development of effective measures aimed at ensuring national security.

Conclusions

The activities of national security actors are focused on a number of national security areas. One of the key areas is the legal direction, which plays the main role in establishing and maintaining an effective legal regime of national security. At the same time, this line of activity covers several aspects, each of which is

important for the comprehensive security of the State and its citizens. Firstly, it is regulatory and legal support, which includes the development and improvement of legislation aimed at preventing threats and risks, protecting the rights and freedoms of citizens, as well as strengthening law and order. Secondly, institutional and legal support, which focuses on establishing of public authority structures capable of responding effectively to current challenges. This includes coordinating the activities of various government agencies, developing strategies and programs, as well as creating mechanisms for prompt response to crisis situations.

The social direction is also of great importance in activities related to ensuring national security, since social stability and socio-economic well-being of citizens are the basis of sustainable development of the State. Accordingly, this direction is aimed at strengthening social cohesion and maintaining proper stability in society. In particular, the measures taken within the framework of the social line cover the support of socially vulnerable groups of population, the development of the social security system, the provision of access to quality education and health care, as well as the creating conditions for decent employment and social protection.

The economic direction deserves special attention within the activities under study, because economic stability and sustainable growth are fundamental conditions for ensuring the security of the State. In particular, the following important measures to ensure national security are taken within this direction: export development, support for innovation and technological progress, creation of favorable conditions for investment and entrepreneurship, as well as provision of energy security.

The political direction, which includes measures to protect State sovereignty, support internal stability, and strengthen democratic processes in the country is also of particular importance for ensuring national security.

Based on the above, we can conclude that ensuring national security requires a comprehensive approach, and every aspect of such activities plays an important role in creating a sustainable national security system capable of responding effectively to current challenges and threats. This is because national security is a multidimensional and multi-layered process that requires a comprehensive and systematic approach. It is important to understand that each security direction (legal, social, economic, etc.) is not isolated, but interconnected and interdependent. Therefore, it is only through the integration and coordination of the efforts by all actors involved in the named directions, that solid foundation for sustainable and secure development of the State ensuring the protection and well-being of its citizens can be created.

The strategic goal of ensuring national security is determined by the national interests of Ukraine, which include the preservation of the constitutional system, the maintenance of civil and national harmony, and the unity of the legal space. Therefore, theoretical and practical aspects related to ensuring national security require a systematic and comprehensive approach, which includes both general theoretical research and the achievements of branch sciences, as well as the needs of practice in the interests of the safety of the individual, society and the state. They are becoming more relevant due to the increase and change in security types in general, the emergence of new threats and challenges, dynamic changes in the global geopolitical space.

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