



# PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION (ECONOMIC CRIME): EXAMPLES OF EU AND UKRAINE GOVERNANCE

**Mykola I. Inshyn**

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine

**Oleksandr V. Basai**

Branch of “Ukrgastekzvyazok” JSC “Ukrtransgaz”, Kyiv, Ukraine

**Nataliia M. Basai**

Academy of Labour, Social Relations and Tourism, Kyiv, Ukraine

**Oleksandra O. Soroka**

Interregional Academy of Personnel Management, Kyiv, Ukraine

**Serhii M. Stremenovskiy**

Pylyp Orlyk International Classical University, Mykolaiv, Ukraine

## ABSTRACT

*Corruption is a negative phenomenon in modern conditions, which has penetrated into all areas of the state's functioning, causing significant damage to its development. Therefore, overcoming this phenomenon is the main problem, which negatively affects the stability and security of society, and levels democratic institutions and values. International experience in preventing corruption indicates that corruption is a factor that threatens national security, economic development, and social and democratic principles of society. The purpose of the study is to define the concept, content and features of legal regulation of corruption, analyze and summarize the state of corruption in Ukraine, and determine the results of preventing corruption in Ukrainian legislation and international practice*

**Keywords:** Corruption, Economic crimes, Legal responsibility, Self- government, Corruption of officials

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The phenomenon of corruption is inherent in all countries, regardless of the socio-economic level of development. In the leading countries in terms of development, corruption is a clear algorithm of actions in cases where the interests of citizens or individuals intersect with the power of officials [1, 2]. None of the social and political and economic systems is fully protected from corruption – only the methods and methods of manifestation, as well as the causal relationship between the attitude of the state and society to it, change [3]. It is common for major corruption scandals to involve a representative of the highest echelon of government or international organizations. One of the most important problems of any society is corruption. For a long time, corruption has been considered a threat to national security and the economy, but today these approaches have changed, and prevention of this phenomenon is now a separate area of state policy. Therefore, the mechanism of corruption, taking into account the world and domestic experience, is opposed to the legal mechanism for preventing corruption, the latter of which, thanks to reforms, becomes public [4].

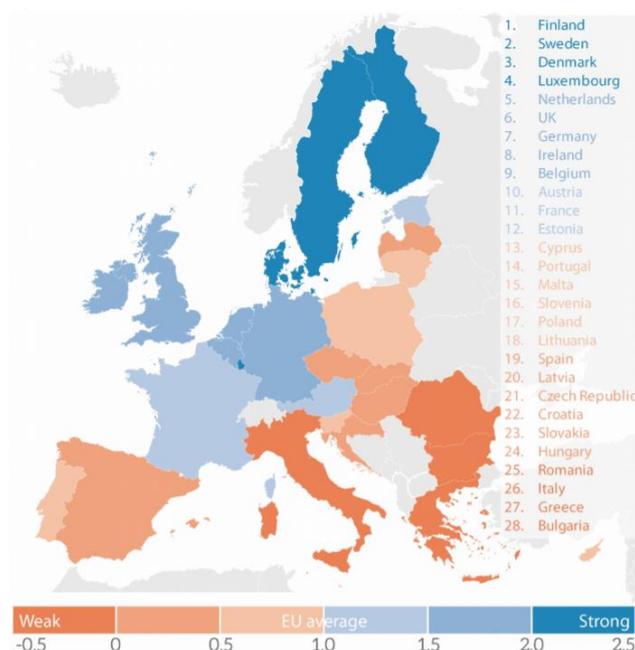
## 2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

To solve the tasks in the research process, a set of general scientific and special methods was applied. The systematic approach, the methods of deduction and induction, the statistical method were used to investigate the state of prevention and counteraction of corruption in public authorities. The analysis and synthesis of information was used in the study of international experience in preventing corruption in public authorities. Predictive methods were used in setting goals to identify and improve anti-corruption activities.

Political and economic international partnership, which is gaining broad development, turns corruption into an international problem. It has also become inherent in international organizations (Figure 1). Corruption in international economic cooperation is manifested in the creation of legal entities for foreign investment, implementation of investment projects and privatization of state property, and in other forms [5].

At the present stage, corruption in Ukraine is one of the main problems of socio-economic development and democracy in general, in particular, corruption:

- stops social development and the formation of a democratic civil society;
- hinders the proper implementation of citizens rights and freedoms;
- denies the rule of law;
- infringes on freedom of speech, since the corrupt government is mainly interested in inadequate and incorrect coverage of corruption processes in the country by the mass media;
- it is distributed due to the imperfection of the system of public administration of the highest level to the lowest level, which in turn creates for representatives of public authorities to dispose of public goods at their own discretion;
- creates distrust of citizens to the authorities in the fair solution of existing issues;
- perceived by the authorities and society as a common phenomenon;
- leads to a drop in international ratings and restrictions on foreign investment;



**Figure 1** Control of corruption across the EU (values and ranking), 2019

The level of corruption is an indicator that indicates the level of development of society, its democracy, political, social and economic status in general. Corruption generates inefficiency of the state power in all socially important state processes [6].

Corruption is defined as “abuse of power or official position by officials of public authorities in the exercise of their professional duties for the purpose of obtaining improper benefits, material or non-material goods or services abuse of public power for personal gain” in the Reference document on the international fight against corruption (April 1995) [7].

According to the research conducted in the context of the development of socio-political views in Ukraine, conducted by the Sociological Group "Rating" commissioned by the International Republican Institute from March 15 to March 31, 2018 across Ukraine (except the occupied territories of the Crimea and Donbass) 2400 people aged 18 and over who have the right to vote) certify that [8]:

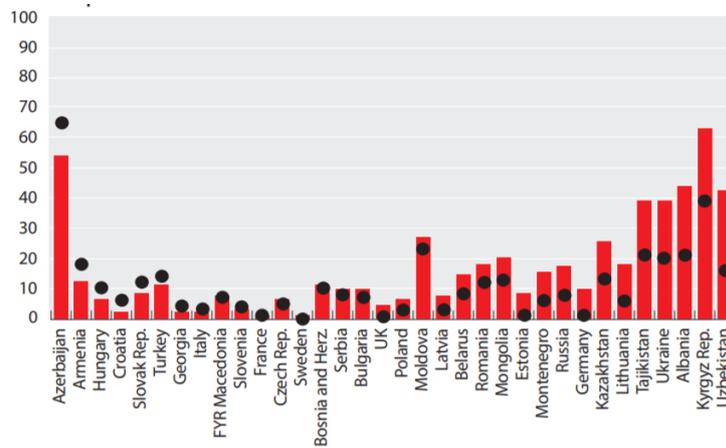
- 85% of respondents believe that public money is deposited in the purses of those with authority for corruption;
- 81% – corruption leads to poverty;
- 74% – corruption demoralizes society;
- 72% – corruption exacerbates social and economic inequality;
- 64% – corruption can cause loss of health or life;
- 51% – corruption discourages attracting foreign capital;
- 58% – corruption worsens the quality of administrative services;
- 64% – corruption hinders the development of small and medium-sized businesses;
- 74% – corruption contributes to the development of crime.

The share of corruption crime in the total mass of crimes recorded in Ukraine in 2015 is 2.7%. Despite the small proportion of such crimes in the structure of all crime, it seems extremely difficult to underestimate the negative impact of corruption on the economic development of the state, and even on the very fact of its continued existence. Regarding the structure of directly corruption crime, more than 90% of its individual manifestations,

envisaged by Articles 364-368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, account for: Art. 364 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine - 20.5%, Art. 365 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine - 8.9%, Art. 366 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine - 40,6%, Art. 367 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine - 11.7%, Art. 368 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine - 10.6%.

It is also possible to provide the structure of corruption crime according to the gravity of corruption-related crimes. Thus, in 2015, criminal justice agencies accounted for 50.1% of corruption-related minor offenses, 23.5% - moderate, 25.3% - serious and 0.4% - particularly serious crimes. However, there is a negative trend, which is reflected in the qualitative characteristics of corruption crime. During 2013- 2015, the share of corruption crimes of minor severity is decreasing, and the share of particularly serious and medium-sized crimes is increasing in parallel. In particular, the proportion of particularly serious corruption-related crimes increased fourfold (from 0.1 % to 0.4 %), and medium – scale crimes-from 17.7% to 23.5%, respectively. These indicators must be taken into account by anti-corruption authorities during the implementation of operational investigative activities, which should be primarily aimed not at so-called small corrupt officials who receive small amounts of illegal benefits, but primarily at those officials who created organized criminal groups and criminal organizations guilty of embezzling hundreds of millions of the State budget of Ukraine [8].

According to the results of the all-Ukrainian sociological survey (a total of 2026 respondents were surveyed), which was conducted by the Kiev international Institute of sociology in September 2018, commissioned by the NGO "Detector media" and with financial support from the Danish Ministry of foreign Affairs and NED (National Endowment for Democracy), the vast majority of our citizens see corruption in the government as an internal threat to national security (Figure 2).



**Figure 2** Perception v. experience of corruption

As part of the National Anti-Corruption Survey conducted by the Get Out! with the support of USAID, 36.4% of Ukrainians want to participate in the fight against corruption. The most popular way to prevent bribery is by covering it in the press, discussing it on television and social networks (12.6%). More than 9% expressed a desire to monitor the legislation and the activities of public authorities in an anti- corruption public manner.

Among the positive actions in the field of anti-corruption were the relaunch of the judicial system and significant development in the separation of politics from business. Accordingly, the events that will have the most negative impact on investment are default, attacks on independent anti-corruption institutions, rejection of democratic values, and political pressure on the national Bank of Ukraine (Table 1).

**Table 1** Criminal inviolability of office-holders in Europe

<b>Criminal inviolability in member states</b>	<b>Council of Europe 2017</b>	<b>European Union (EU) 2017</b>	<b>European Union (EU) 1995</b>
	(47)	(27)	(15)
parliamentarians	43	25	13
head of state	40	22	11
prime minister	19	11	6
ministers	16	10	5
ombudsperson etc.	10	3	2
High Court judges	20	8	1
judges	16	4	0
chief prosecutor	5	0	0
prosecutors	4	0	0
Judicial Council	3	0	0

Source: Basic anti-corruption concepts

The causes of corruption in the system of state authorities of Ukraine can be divided into two groups. The first group of factors includes: the general economic and political imbalance of society; the difference in the social structure of society; the lack of a proper level of legal consciousness in a significant part of citizens; the influence of the criminal environment, which constantly exerts its influence on employees of public authorities to obtain warning information from them. On the one hand, there is a group of wealthy entrepreneurs, because they often turn to bribing representatives of public authorities, and on the other – officials who do not have financial stability and social security, make the most of their status for quick enrichment. The second group of factors that give rise to corruption in state bodies are: improper verification of professional and moral qualities of service employees; low level of service discipline; low wages and legal insecurity of employees of state authorities of Ukraine (Table 2).

**Table 2** Preventing corruption in political finance

<b>Principle</b>	<b>Possible measures</b>
Transparency	Book keeping (income and expenditure) Reporting to supervisory authority and the public Publicity of donations above certain threshold
Limitations on	State funds Donations by legal and/or physical person Donations by foreign entities Membership fees Expenditures
Prohibitions	Abuse of administrative resources Abuse of election funding for party purposes and vice versa
Supervision	Auditing Enforcement
Penalties for	Failure of book keeping, reporting, keeping limits, violating prohibitions

Source: Basic anti-corruption concepts

### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

According to the study, it was found that only 5 % of the surveyed citizens noted that the official's attitude to the bribe-taker did not improve after receiving illegal remuneration, and

only 2.2% of the survey participants did not help solve their personal problems. Thus, at the level of domestic corruption, bribery is perceived as almost a 100% guarantee of success, and corruption as such is increasingly becoming an integral part of public life. Therefore, the most dangerous consequence of the spread of corruption was the destruction of the state apparatus, discredit of the authorities, unlawful violation of state interests (Corruption and its prevention).

In addition, the causes of corruption in the public service of Ukraine as a whole can be classified depending on the areas of its manifestation:

- in the political sphere, there is no state position based on anti-corruption;
- in the legal sphere, there is a lack of practice in implementing regulations that regulate the detection and prevention of corruption; the lack of special regulations that regulate the performance of employees; and the imperfection of current legislation;
- in the social sphere-lack of proper monetary compensation; lack of equivalent compensation for overtime service; lack of state and public control over the implementation of professional activities of employees of the Ministry of internal Affairs of Ukraine;
- in the educational sphere, there is a lack of legal, including anti- corruption, training and education of employees of the Ministry of internal Affairs of Ukraine [7].

It is worth paying attention to the interrelated nature of corruption and organized crime, which is confirmed by the fact that influential international organizations, when formulating recommendations for improving the effectiveness of countering organized crime, pay special attention to overcoming corruption (Table 3). For example, the UN considers the study of anti-corruption issues to be one of the priority areas for preventing organized crime. The 1998 United Nations VIII Congressional Guidelines for the Prevention and Fight against Organized Crime established that: "... a necessary condition for the development of crime prevention programs is to investigate the problems of corruption, its causes, nature, consequences, interconnections with organized crime. Crime and measures to combat it" [9].

**Table 3** Landmark legislation and treaties

<b>Adopted</b>	<b>In force</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Signed<sup>120</sup></b>
1 Nov 1977	19 Dec 1977	Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (USA)	FCPA	1
29 Mar 1996	3 Jun 1997	Inter-American Convention Against Corruption	OAS Convention	34
17 Dec 1997	15 Feb 1999	OECD Convention on Bribery of Foreign Public Officials	OECD Convention	40
27 Jan 1999	1 Jul 2002	Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption	Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention	50
4 Nov 1999	1 Nov 2003	Council of Europe Civil Law Convention on Corruption	Council of Europe Civil Law Convention	42
11 Jul 2003	5 Aug 2006	African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption	AU Convention	45
31 Oct 2003	14 Dec 2005	United Nations Convention Against Corruption	UNCAC/UN Convention	170
21 Dec 2010	not yet	League of Arab States Convention to Fight Corruption	LAS Convention	21

Source: Basic anti-corruption concepts

The analysis of the foundations for the formation and implementation of the state anti-corruption policy in the international dimension provides opportunities for achieving positive results. An important issue, in particular, is the responsibility of legal entities that affect the functioning of the economies of individual countries and the world economy as a whole for committing corruption. Large government contracts are associated with commercial companies, and such companies play an important role in the main sectors of the economy. Therefore, corruption crimes can be committed by legal entities (companies, corporations, and non-profit organizations) or under their cover. Practice shows that complex corporate structures can effectively hide the true owners of companies, their clients, or specific operations related to crimes, including corruption. The complexity of decision-making procedures, which sometimes involve several levels of decision-making, makes it difficult to identify the actual perpetrators of crimes and bring them to criminal responsibility. On the other hand, punishing only one specific person can be unfair in cases where a complex, extensive decision-making structure is used in the commission of the crime. Even in the case of arrest and prosecution of any executive officer who is the actual perpetrator of the crime, corporate corruption practices are most often retained because the punishment applied to an individual does not deter the legal person from continuing such practices. Therefore, international legal documents and legislation of individual countries, in addition to the responsibility of individuals, increasingly provide for corporate responsibility. However, the principle of criminal liability of a legal entity does not eliminate the criminal liability of an individual. Some countries do not recognize the institution of criminal liability of legal entities (Bulgaria, Hungary, Belarus). If the criminal law of a particular country does not define the legal entity as the subject of the crime, but this legislation provides for the possibility of applying criminal sanctions to such persons, then there is the so-called quasi-criminal (administrative-criminal) liability (Austria, Albania, Italy, Germany, Ukraine). In most countries, one of the conditions for holding a legal entity liable is to obtain the last of the material gain (for example, in Belgium, Malta, France, etc.) for committing actions or abstaining from such, and immaterial (in Poland) [10].

The UK is one of the earliest countries in the fight against corruption, which has a longstanding tradition of combating this phenomenon. The system of anti-corruption methods and legal aspects of counteracting corruption in this country is regulated at the legislative level. The first law on corruption in public authorities was adopted in 1889, the laws on the prevention of corruption (1906, 1916) were the reaction of society to the spread of this socio-political phenomenon. Unlike the traditional principles of law, these laws require officials to prove their innocence, ie the principle of "presumption of innocence" is virtually absent. In the UK, the public plays an extremely important role in monitoring the dynamics of negative phenomena in society. Generally, public hearings are held on issues related to lobbying for political interests, the moral climate in society, bribery, and abuse of government officials.

Anti-corruption in Germany is based on the task of destroying the financial base of criminal groups. This is achieved by confiscating property and creating an appropriate legal framework to prevent money laundering. Banking institutions are obliged to provide information on operations with money in the amount of more than 20 thousand German marks at the request of law enforcement agencies during the investigation. In this country, the process of creating a register of corrupt firms modeled on Israel continues. The essence of this event is that a legal entity that is included in such a register is deprived of the right to perform state orders (Table 4).

**Table 4** Effects of outcome and facilitation payments

<b>Outcome payments</b>	<b>Facilitation payments</b>
Aim at illegal outcomes (for example, a public contract to which the briber would normally not be entitled to, or unsafe products entering the market)	Aim at legal outcomes, because they are only about the speed of the (legal) outcome (the bidding process finished quickly or safe products entering the market more quickly)
Distort competition in terms of quality (it is not the best bidder that gets a contract, but the bribing one)	Distort competition only in terms of speed (the bribing business-person will be able to do business more quickly; the others will be pushed to the end of the queue)
Harm the integrity of public procedures (because officials provide illegal service, take bribes and treat citizens unequally)	Harm the integrity of public procedures (because officials take bribes and treat citizens unequally)

**Source:** Basic anti-corruption concepts

Interesting for Ukraine is the experience of the Netherlands, where in 2008 the possibility of an out-of-court settlement was provided with the help of a “penalty decision”. The Prosecutor's Office has the opportunity to apply such punishment for some offenses without going to court. The majority of petty crimes today apply this regulation. Any legal entity in France, whether commercial or non-commercial, both French and foreign, with the exception of the state, can be prosecuted. Local governments and their associations are criminally responsible only for crimes committed in the course of their activities, which may be carried out through companies that have been delegated to manage communal infrastructure within concessions. Other legal entities are criminally responsible for all their activities.

It should be noted that a crime may take the form of an act or omission, in particular when the crime is committed by a slave employee due to lack of control. Criminal liability of legal entities does not exclude criminal liability of natural persons who are the perpetrators of the crime or accomplices. It should be noted that bringing a legal entity to criminal responsibility does not automatically entail the liability of its executives or officials. The maximum amount of the fine that can be imposed on a legal entity is five times higher than the amount of the fine provided for individuals by the law, which sets the penalty for a specific crime. Sanctions applicable to legal persons for the bribery of foreign public officials, similar to the sanctions that apply for bribery of domestic officials [11].

Particular attention should be paid to the anti-corruption activities of one of the most powerful EU countries in terms of economic development and financial potential - Austria. The central body responsible for combating corruption in this country is the Federal Anti-Corruption Agency which operates within the Austrian Ministry of the Interior. The tasks of the said law enforcement agency are:

- preventing, neutralizing and fighting corruption;
- close cooperation with the Prosecutor's office for economic and corruption crimes;
- performing the function of the Central body responsible for interaction with foreign and international anti-corruption organizations, and ensuring cooperation in the framework of criminal investigations of corruption crimes.

Based on the current legislation, the Federal Agency for combating and combating corruption operates in the following four areas:

- counteraction – analysis of the phenomenon of corruption, development of coordinated and targeted anti-corruption measures;
- education – explanatory work and formation of anti-corruption through the use of information channels;

- repression – implementation of the criminal investigation;
- cooperation with national and international institutions working in the field of combating and combating corruption, as well as the exchange of positive experience.

Active anti-corruption is carried out by the Austrian self-government bodies, which develop appropriate programs, where an important place belongs to the analysis of the risk of corruption. The municipality of Vienna is one of the self-governing bodies that implements such measures. In order to develop this anti-corruption program, a working group was created consisting of the heads of such divisions of the municipality's administration: control and audit department, personnel management department, units responsible for capital construction, delivery and treatment of water, retail control, legal department, internal control department, strategy and communication. Experts from the Academy of Public Administration, the Civil and Criminal Law Office and the Association of Medical Institutions of Vienna were involved in the working group.

In addition, in order to assess the effectiveness of measures taken in the fight against corruption, the municipality of Vienna records statistics on offenses that may be associated with corruption. These statistics record statements and sentences that have entered into force, decisions of the criminal court or administrative authorities, as well as the content of sanctions. Moreover, cases of dismissal or other punishments are recorded separately [12].

American criminal law has a special structure. It covers Federal criminal law and individual state criminal codes that provide for the same types of official corruption offences. The main part of Federal criminal law regarding corruption is defined in section 18 of the United States code of laws.

The concept of official corruption includes a number of unlawful acts provided for in the four chapters of section 18 of the US Code of Law:

- Chapter 11 “Bribery, dishonesty and abuse of office by public officials”;
- Chapter 93 “Hired officials and employees”;
- Chapter 41 “Extortion and Threats”;
- Chapter 29 “Elections and Political Activities”.

The subjects of crimes, responsibility for which is provided for in these chapters, are:

- officials of the Supreme bodies of power and government officials;
- officials and employees of departments and their representative offices who allow abuse of office for a selfish purpose or receive illegal remuneration;
- any Federal officials and employees;
- persons who have committed abuses of the right to vote.

Bribery (§ 201 Chapter 11, Section 18 of the US Code of Laws) is the receipt by a public official of money and values in exchange for certain official actions. Not only individuals who receive bribes but also those who give them are the subjects of this crime [13].

Individuals who receive a bribe are divided into three categories:

- public officials, which include members of the United States Congress, members of permanent commissions, employees, employees, or persons acting on behalf of the United States, departments, missions, or executive authorities in relation to their official functions or authority, as well as jurors;
- persons elected to serve as a public official, selected as candidates or appointed if they are officially notified of the upcoming selection or appointment;

- special government employees, which include officials or employees of Federal legislative and Executive agencies, or any independent U.S. Agency, who work for or without remuneration for at least 130 days a year.

Any person who gives, offers, or promises anything of value to a public official or a candidate for this position for the purpose of influencing his official actions (or inaction), that is, to resolve an issue under his jurisdiction, a lawsuit, conduct an investigation, influence an official in order to commit, help commit, conspire, allow any deceptive actions or create an opportunity to commit deception, as well as inducing an official to act or do nothing that does not correspond to his legal duties.

The penalty for both those who give and those who receive a bribe is a fine, which amounts to up to 10,000 dollars or/and imprisonment for up to two years. Both former and future employees are subject to punishment.

In order to avoid the spread of a latent form of illegal use of official position for personal enrichment, legislation and departmental rules regulate situations defined in American law by the concept of "conflict of interest" (§ 203-209 of section 18 of the Code of laws), which may arise both during the performance of official duties, and as a result of the actions of a person who has already ceased to serve in public authorities. The danger of this phenomenon is evidenced by the detailed legislative strengthening of the responsibility of officials for its implementation, as well as the fact that the US Department of justice has a special Department aimed at countering crimes related to conflicts of interest. The legal definition of a "conflict of interest" guarantees that personal considerations do not influence the resolution of issues of national importance [13].

In the United States, it is punishable to receive remuneration for public servants other than the amounts due to them by law. These acts provided for by Chapter 93 of section 18 of the Code of laws of the United States of America, which establishes that an official or representative of any Federal Agency receives a fee or remuneration for his service, except for those amounts that are prescribed by law, he is punished by a fine of up to \$ 5,000 or / and imprisonment for up to six months, with mandatory loss of the right to hold this position (§1912).

Official crimes related to elections and political activities are reflected in American law for a reason, since political election campaigns in the United States are considered "the most expensive". Chapter 29 regulates the responsibility of candidates for elective positions who, in exchange for the support of their candidates, promise to be appointed to a public or public office. In this country, criminal investigations of top officials are conducted by an independent prosecutor appointed by a special unit of the District Federal Court in Washington.

In order to counter corruption, there is a Department of Justice in the US Department of Justice that oversees the prosecution of elected and elected officials at all levels of government accused of violating federal laws, investigating election campaign crimes officials, also the implementation of government ethics provisions that determine the activities of the so-called independent prosecutor [13].

The Federal Bureau of investigation plays a major role in investigating corruption in Federal government agencies. The FBI's jurisdiction over this type of crime extends to appointed and elected officials not only at the Federal, but also at the state and local levels of government when their actions violate Federal laws.

In the United States, legislative initiatives to prevent corruption are also being adopted in connection with the practice of international corruption. It was in this country that the law on Foreign Corrupt Practices was first enacted, which prohibits bribery of foreign officials. According to this act, in order to neutralize the fact of non-competitiveness of American

companies in the world market, the adoption of similar legislation in other countries was adopted in December 1997, and in February 1999, the OECD Convention on combating bribery of foreign public officials in international transactions entered into force. The Convention defines the obligation of the parties to adopt domestic laws that provide for criminal liability for bribery of foreign officials [14].

This country has adopted a strategy for international action against corruption. Among the most important methods of this counteraction is the refusal to "shelter" corrupt officials, as well as the restoration and distribution of income received as a result of corruption. In the first case, we are talking about refusing permission to enter the United States, because these individuals are involved in corruption at the state level [13].

A characteristic feature of corruption is the acquisition of a quality level that reaches beyond the abuse of office for personal gain. In our country, this phenomenon is a form of organized crime and has a pronounced transnational character, that is, it falls within the scope of the 2000 UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. It is the EU countries that are the main destination for corruption-derived assets from Ukraine.

It is worth noting that failure to combat corruption in Ukraine will pose a threat to the EU, as it will lead to the spread of corruption practices in the European space. That is, Ukraine at the international level can count on the implementation of joint anti-corruption programs similar to those used for candidate countries, regardless of whether our country is given the prospect of EU membership [12].

Taking this into account, Ukraine is interested in analyzing the EU's anti-corruption system and the possibility of its implementation. Annual losses from corruption in the EU amount to 120 billion euros, or 1 % of the GDP of this community (the total global figure is 5 %). This figure is roughly equal to the EU budget. Corruption is recognized as a phenomenon that leads to the undermining of investment policies, fair competition in domestic markets, and reduced funding for public projects [5].

Corruption in the EU is cross-border and the ability of each member state to overcome it on its own is insufficient. Anti-corruption policy in the EU is not a complete system and is primarily aimed at countries that are candidates for membership in this organization. During the preparatory period, such countries are subject to a high level of requirements for ensuring transparency and integrity, which significantly contributes to reducing the level of corruption and forming an appropriate institutional system. At the same time, there is currently no separate anti-corruption program in the EU for all EU members [15].

The Stockholm program calls on member States to cooperate in this area within the framework of the UN Convention against corruption GRECO and the OSCE. Considering the issues of combating corruption and economic crime, he does not offer specific measures.

The European Union remains an economic organization, so economic considerations are the main ones that determine its functioning. The EU's anti-corruption initiatives do not extend beyond ensuring the functioning of this market.

This is a key difference between the approaches of the EU and the Council of Europe, which positions itself as the leading anti-corruption organization in the pan-European geographical area. The Council of Europe's mandate is to promote the development of democracy and the rule of law, which is directly related to anti-corruption issues.

On the other hand, the EU pays attention to corruption issues mainly in the context of ensuring the Union's financial interests. The European Union has formed a fairly complete and effective system to ensure proper management and transparency of the functioning of public authorities. However, anti-corruption issues in the law enforcement sense have not found their legislative reflection. The European Parliament has formed a low recommendation to the

member States of the Republic of Moldova, which may be a corruption prevention, a recommendation to the whole world is not upordered, it is not in the status-related documents and may not be sili for the member States [3].

In order to unify these approaches, the European Commission has launched an EU AntiCorruption Report to assess Member States' efforts to counteract corruption and to encourage them to optimize their activities. It was planned that such reports would be published every two years starting in 2014. A single report on the prevention of corruption in the EU was published in 2014. The Report recognizes that the formation of a national system of anti-corruption institutions is within the competence of the Member States, that is, a single pan-European anti-corruption law enforcement model.

It is noted that the countries that form such a model are guided by their current situation, the nature of corruption in the country, the legal framework, traditions, as well as the connection with other spheres of political activity. It is also advisable to set up separate anti-corruption bodies, regardless of whether they will be entrusted with preventive or repressive functions, or whether performing both functions is not a panacea (although in some cases the creation of such institutions may stimulate anti- corruption reforms) [3].

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Given the crucial importance of combating and preventing corruption, one of the priority tasks of most countries in the world is to improve and update legal and socio-economic measures to increase the level of interaction between the state and society, both at national level and with the involvement of international organizations. The main methods for the development of anti-corruption policy are the introduction of international anti-corruption legislation, as well as the creation of an effective, coherent and transparent system of work of anti-corruption bodies.

The existence of corruption activities is primarily due to the unsuccessful reform of economic relations in the state, the adoption of incorrect political decisions, the lack of responsibility for non-compliance with ethical rules of conduct by public servants and the low level of financial situation of the population. One of the main and most important actions in preventing and combating corruption is the legal approval procedure for the selection of officials of public authorities and the main areas of work on anti-corruption are: the development of the Institute of public administration, legislative strategy in the fight against corruption, the exposure and punishment for committing acts of corruption due to the updates of the committed actions of the legitimate rights and interests of individuals, prevent corruption offenses.

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