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EXPERIENCE OF ANTI-CORRUPTION REFORMS IN EU COUNTRIES: IMPORTANCE OF IMPLEMENTATION IN UKRAINE

The fight against corruption remains a key problem of public administration in Ukraine, significantly affecting citizens' trust in the authorities and the country's international image. In this context, the experience of the EU, where systematic anti-corruption reforms have been implemented for a long time, is extremely useful for Ukraine. European countries have shown the effectiveness of such measures as the creation of anti-corruption bodies, the introduction of transparent procedures for controlling officials' assets, and increasing responsibility for corruption offenses.

Today, Ukraine is facing two important challenges: winning the war and implementing a large-scale reconstruction of the country [2]. For a successful reconstruction process and further development of the state, Ukraine needs to learn valuable lessons from the positive experience of successful EU countries.

Estonia is one of the most successful examples of the fight against corruption, where significant progress has been made without the creation of specialized anti-corruption bodies. The main factor was the presence of the political will of the country's leadership, which was determined to eradicate bribery. At the same time, an important factor was the fall of the Soviet system, which opened up new opportunities for reforms. The official recognition of the Estonian language has led to the replacement of many Russian-speaking workers by young Estonians, who have entered management positions, destroying the old corrupt structures. The recovery of the economy allowed the state to offer high salaries to officials, which helped reduce the level of corruption [1].

At the same time, Bulgaria lacked the political will for such changes. Anti-corruption initiatives began to be implemented only under pressure from the European Union. A local anti-corruption body was empowered to investigate bribery cases after the EU cut funding [1].

Some EU countries are implementing witness protection programs and the possibility of reporting corruption anonymously. Whistleblower protection programs in countries such as Luxembourg, Romania, Slovenia and Great Britain are particularly effective. For example, in Romania, legislation guarantees protection to civil servants who report wrongdoing, preserving their anonymity and protecting them from possible reprisals [1].

Thus, effective anti-corruption reforms help strengthen trust in state institutions, promote economic growth, and increase the country's investment attractiveness. At the same time, Ukraine needs to create conditions for the functioning of independent anti-corruption bodies, ensure their transparency and accountability, as well as implement effective mechanisms for the protection of whistleblowers.

Literature:

1. Fighting corruption: what the EU experience teaches. URL: <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/articles/2018/07/3/7083870/> (access date: 24.10.2023)
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