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Research into the essence and properties of corruption as an object of state policy

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Abstract

The article examines the phenomenon of corruption as a complex multifaceted socio-legal phenomenon that threatens the effective functioning of state institutions, undermines citizens' trust in the authorities and hinders the sustainable development of the state. Historical, legal and political approaches to defining «corruption» are analysed, in particular through the prism of domestic and foreign scientific thought, international regulatory and legal acts, as well as national legislation. Particular attention is paid to the consideration of corruption as an object of state criminal law policy, which requires a systematic, interdisciplinary and strategic approach to the formation of anti-corruption mechanisms. The typology of definitions of corruption is generalised and the author's interpretation of this phenomenon is presented. It is established that effective counteraction to corruption is impossible without a comprehensive anti-corruption policy based on legal, administrative, ethical and informational principles.

Keywords: corruption; public administration; phenomenon of corruption; abuse of power; state policy.

Relevance of the topic. In the current conditions of development of the public management and administration system, which covers not only state authorities but also local self-government institutions, state-owned enterprises, agencies, the public sector and other entities acting in the public interest, corruption is becoming systematic, complex and highly latent. Manifestations of corruption hinder the transparency, efficiency and accountability of public authorities, discredit reforms, reduce citizens' trust in government bodies and undermine democratic processes. Corruption is not only a violation of legal norms, but also a multifactorial social phenomenon that shapes alternative mechanisms for managerial decision-making, contributes to the emergence of shadow management structures, and violates the principle of integrity in both the public service and other socio-political institutions. It poses a direct threat to the public interest, directly affects the inefficient use of budget resources, exacerbates inequality in access to public services and, accordingly, increases social inequality in society. In this context, it is particularly important to consider corruption as an object of state policy, which is designed not only to ensure legal responsibility for relevant crimes, but also to develop a prevention strategy based on legislative, institutional, managerial and moral and ethical principles. State policy in the field of combating corruption must be coordinated, comprehensive and aimed at ensuring the rule of law in all areas of public administration.

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Analysis of recent studies and publications. In contemporary scientific discourse, the phenomenon of corruption is viewed as a complex, multifaceted phenomenon that encompasses legal, political, social, economic and cultural dimensions. Despite numerous studies, there is still no single universal definition of corruption, as this phenomenon varies depending on the context of the state, its legal system and the level of public administration. The issues of state policy in the field of corruption, anti-corruption tools and anti-corruption policy mechanisms have been the subject of research by domestic scientists, in particular: O.O. Akimov, L.V. Antonova, V.D. Bakumenko, O.S. Bondarenko, V.V. Bashtannyk, T.V. Baranovska, O.Yu. Vasilenko, O.V. Vasilyev, V.V. Vakulyuk , Yu.M. Voitenko, V.D. Gvozdecky, D.O. Gritsishen, B.M. Golovkin, V.D. Gvozdecky, O.V. Grechko, V.A. Demyanchuk, O.D. Dmitrenko, I.O. Dragan, D.G. Zabroda, N.M. Kolisnichenko, S.O. Kravchenko, M.I. Melnyk, Ye.V. Nevmerzhitsky, D.G. V.V. Nonik, D.O. Ishchuk, O.I. Parkhomenko-Kutsevyl, V.M. Solovyov, V.V. Sokurenko, Yu.V. Shpak, O.I. Cheban and others.

Aim of the article. The aim of the study is to clarify the essence and content of the concept of «corruption» in the context of its consideration as an object of state policy, in particular criminal law, to analyse scientific and legislative approaches to its definition, and to identify prospects for the formation of an effective anti-corruption policy. To achieve this goal, the article proposes: first, to analyse the evolution of theoretical approaches to defining the concept of «corruption» in legal, political and administrative science; second, to classify its forms and characteristics; third, to formulate a definition of corruption as an object of criminal law policy.

Presentation of the main material. Ever since positions related to public authority or trust appeared in society, people have abused them for personal gain. Although in most cultures this has always been considered a bad deed, corruption has evolved in various sophisticated ways, so that today there is no single, universally accepted definition of this concept. Nevertheless, the current trend is to refocus on the original meaning of the word «corrupt» — to destroy. There is growing recognition of corruption's ability not only to undermine good governance and stifle economic growth, but also to undermine trust in public institutions.

The term «corruption» has Latin origins and is derived from the words correi and rumpere. The first means the joint participation of several persons in a particular matter, the second means to violate, break or destroy. The combination of these concepts gave rise to the word corrumpere, which conveys the idea of joint actions by at least two persons aimed at distorting, destroying or undermining the normal course of judicial proceedings or the management of public affairs [7, p. 5].

The origins of corruption date back to ancient times. Information about it can be found in the sources of ancient civilisations – Egypt, China, India, Greece, Rome, as well as in the Old Testament, which mentions bribery and injustice. Corruption arose with the emergence of the state, power and the first officials. Its first manifestations were associated with religious rituals, when priests were given gifts in exchange for the favour of the gods. One of the first to try to combat this phenomenon was the Sumerian ruler Uruinimgin (24th century BC). Already in the Laws of Hammurabi (18th century BC), corruption was recognised as a social problem, and in Antiquity, Aristotle considered it a threat to the stability of the state [1].

In general, corruption as a social phenomenon developed very actively, so throughout its existence, scientists, philosophers and thinkers of different periods tried to study it and explain how it arises and, most importantly, how it can be combated. In different historical periods, both legal and moral-ethical means of overcoming this phenomenon were proposed, ranging from severe punishment to the formation of integrity and political responsibility among the elites. Contemporary research on corruption is based on an interdisciplinary approach that encompasses legal, political, economic and cultural aspects, as only a comprehensive strategy can have a real impact on reducing the level of corruption in society.

Many years of attention to the problem of corruption by scientists and practitioners has led to the emergence of multiple definitions of this concept. To systematise existing approaches, we will conditionally identify several groups of sources for defining the concept of «corruption»: 1) domestic scholars; 2) foreign scholars; 3) legislative sources (international acts and national legislation); 4) international organisations; 5) dictionaries and encyclopaedias. Let us consider representative definitions from each group in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1. Approaches to defining corruption

№	***Scientist***	***Approaches to defining corruption***
1	*2*	*3*
Approaches of scientists of Ukraine		
1.	Parkhomenko-Kutsevyl O.I. [20]	Corruption is an unlawful act or omission by an official (or a person vested with certain administrative and managerial powers and functions) aimed at obtaining personal gain (whether material or otherwise), in particular certain services, privileges, benefits, etc. through the performance of their functional duties and has negative consequences for the state, society and public authorities
2.	Poberezhny V.V. [22]	Corruption in the system of state bodies is the abuse of state power by an official, as well as by a manager or employee of a state body or local self-government body, in order to obtain any illegal benefits for themselves or other persons related to the performance of public service
3.	Pygolenko I.V. [21]	Corruption is a socio-political phenomenon, the essence of which is a system of negative views, beliefs, attitudes and actions of individual citizens, officials of government institutions, state and non-state organisations, political parties and public organisations aimed at satisfying personal, group or corporate interests through bribery, corruption, abuse of power, and the granting of privileges and advantages contrary to the public interest

Continuation of Table 1.1

1	2	3
4.	Melnik M.I. [15]	Corruption is a social phenomenon that encompasses all corrupt acts related to the unlawful use by persons authorised to perform state functions of the power, official authority, and opportunities for the purpose of satisfying personal interests or the interests of third parties, as well as other corrupt offences, including those that create conditions for the commission of other corrupt acts or conceal or condone them
5.	Nevmerzhitsky E.V. [17]	Corruption is a socially dangerous phenomenon, the essence of which is a system of negative views, attitudes and actions of officials in institutions of power and government, state and non-state enterprises, organisations and institutions, political parties and public organisations, aimed at satisfying personal, group or corporate interests by using their official position, contrary to the interests of society and the state
6.	Nonik V.V. [19]	Corruption is a negative phenomenon that «poisons» the social life of any state
7.	Tereshchuk O.V. [29]	Corruption is, first, an illegal act committed by officials for personal gain; second, it is a stable connection between representatives of power and administrative structures and the criminal environment, facilitating its illegal activities through the use of powers granted to them by the state
8.	Kostenko D.V. [10]	Corruption is a complex social phenomenon that has a negative impact on both the political and socio-economic development of society and the state as a whole
Approaches of foreign scientists		
9.	Robbins P. [36]	Corruption is a system of normalised rules, transformed from legitimate authority, built around existing inequalities and reinforced through cooperation and trust
10.	Akinyemi B. [32]	Corruption is the acquisition of something to which a person (as a member of society, not just a civil servant) is not entitled
11.	David V. and Nett O. [35]	Corruption is described as «actions motivated by the desire for profit by a corrupt individual who violates legal norms, providing a corrupt individual or group of individuals with benefits of any kind in return, and in doing so may cause harm to third parties who are not directly involved in the illegal exchange transaction»
12.	Chmelík J., Tomica Z. [33]	Corruption is an informal relationship between two parties that acts contrary to good practice and consists of an offer, promise, realisation of an advantage for someone's benefit, or acceptance of such a request for a requested, offered, or promised reward
Approaches in the legislative field		
13.	Interdisciplinary Working Group of the Council of Europe [14, p. 37]	Corruption – bribery, any other behaviour of persons performing certain duties in the public or private sector that leads to a breach of their duties as public officials or private employees (independent agents), or in relation to other types of relationships. The purpose of these acts is to obtain any illegal benefits for oneself or others
14.	Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials, adopted at the 34th session of the UN General Assembly [8]	Corruption «... involves the performance or non-performance of any action in the course of or in connection with the performance of duties, as a result of gifts that are requested or accepted, promises and incentives, or their illegal receipt whenever such activity or inactivity occurs». It is also stated that «the concept of corruption should be interpreted within the framework of national law»
15.	Criminal Convention on Combating Corruption [12]	Corruption is a socially negative, multifaceted phenomenon that involves a person with authority or managerial powers using their official position for personal or group interests in order to obtain unlawful benefits that are contrary to the public interest, the rule of law, ethics and the principles of integrity
16.	Civil Convention on Combating Corruption [30]	Corruption – direct or indirect demands, offers, giving or receiving a bribe or any other unlawful advantage or opportunity to obtain it, which violates the proper performance of any duty by the person receiving the bribe, unlawful advantage or opportunity to obtain such an advantage, or the behaviour of such a person
17.	Law of Ukraine «On Prevention of Corruption» [25]	The use by a person specified in part one of Article 3 of this Law of the official powers granted to them or related opportunities for the purpose of obtaining unlawful benefits or accepting such benefits or accepting a promise/offer of such benefits for themselves or other persons, or, accordingly, promising/offering or providing unlawful benefits to a person referred to in part one of Article 3 of this Law, or at their request to other individuals or legal entities with the aim of persuading that person to unlawfully use their official powers or related opportunities;
Approaches of international organisations		
18.	Transparency International [37]	Corruption is the abuse of entrusted power for private gain
19.	World Bank [39]	Corruption is the abuse of public power for private gain
20.	UN [38]	Corruption is the abuse of public power to satisfy personal interests

Continuation of Table 1.1

1	*2*	*3*
Approaches of encyclopaedias and dictionaries		
21.	Popular Legal Encyclopaedia [23]	Corruption is the bribery of government, political and public figures, and officials of the state apparatus, committed by a person in certain narrow corporate interests.
22.	Encyclopaedia of Public Administration [3]	Corruption is the abuse of state resources and power for personal gain, to the detriment of state interests
23.	Legal Encyclopaedia of Ukraine [31]	Corruption is the criminal use of official authority and opportunities to obtain personal material or non-material benefits
24.	Economic Dictionary [5]	Corruption is the unethical and illegal use of state powers to obtain personal or corporate gain
25.	Dictionary of Foreign Words [28]	Corruption is the use by officials of their official position for their own benefit; bribery and venality of government officials and politicians.

Most authors view corruption as the abuse of power or official authority for personal gain, which reflects a well-established understanding of the nature of this phenomenon.

Definitions of corruption in domestic sources mainly emphasise its social danger and negative consequences for the state and society. Ukrainian researchers particularly emphasise that corruption poses a threat to public administration and undermines public interests.

International documents and approaches of international organisations are dominated by a universal definition of corruption as the abuse of public or private power for private gain, which emphasises the global recognition of corruption as a common social evil.

In Ukrainian legislation, corruption is clearly defined in the legal field as the use of official powers to obtain undue benefits. This provides legal specificity and creates a basis for the practical application of anti-corruption measures. Definitions in dictionaries and encyclopaedias mainly emphasise the ethical and moral aspects of corruption, describing it as the venality and bribery of officials.

From a legal perspective, corruption is a set of crimes and offences related to the abuse of power or official position. There is no separate article entitled «corruption» in the Criminal Code of Ukraine; instead, there is a set of offences (bribery, abuse of power, illegal enrichment, bribery, etc.) that are collectively covered by the concept of corruption offences. The legislative definition of corruption (as set out above in the Law «On Prevention of Corruption») outlines the general framework of this phenomenon for all branches of law, pointing to the unlawful use of official powers for private gain. In other words, from a legal point of view, corruption is subject to criminal law, has clear characteristics established by law, and, if these characteristics are present, gives rise to legal liability. At the same time, its social essence goes beyond the purely criminal law phenomenon, as corruption is rooted in social relations, morality and political culture. This dual nature – both legal and social – requires both aspects to be taken into account in the formulation of public policy.

Having considered all possible approaches to defining corruption, taking into account all its characteristic features and peculiarities, we propose the following definition of corruption as an object of criminal law policy.

Corruption is a complex socio-legal phenomenon that is the object of the state's criminal law policy in the form of a set of intentional acts or omissions by persons vested with authority or administrative powers, consisting in the deliberate use of their official position contrary to the public interest for the purpose of obtaining personal illegal benefits, which leads to the undermining of the legitimacy of institutions of power, the deformation of the rule of law and the devaluation of the principles of the rule of law.

The proposed definition of «corruption» includes several essential elements, each of which reveals its meaning:

- a complex socio-legal phenomenon. Corruption combines legal and social characteristics. It manifests itself through specific unlawful acts but is rooted in social relations and social norms. This approach reflects the interdisciplinary nature of corruption: it is not only a legal category, but also a social problem (a culture of tolerance for bribes, expectations of mutual benefit, etc.).

- intentional actions or inaction of persons with authority. Corruption is always associated with the behaviour of specific subjects – officials, civil servants, holders of public authority or managerial functions. A mandatory feature is intent: the use of official status consciously, voluntarily, and not through error or negligence. Moreover, this can be either active actions (for example, receiving a bribe, abuse of power) or conscious inaction (failure to perform duties in exchange for certain illegal benefits).

- use of official position contrary to public interests. This feature means that an official acts not in accordance with their official duties or oath, but contrary to them – that is, violates the public functions entrusted to them. It is important that such use of power is contrary to the public (social) interest, undermining the purpose for which the power was entrusted. There is an ethical aspect here: the corrupt official puts private interests above the common good, betraying the trust of citizens.

- the goal is to obtain personal illegal benefits. The motive for corrupt behaviour is always utilitarian – the pursuit of gain. Gain refers to both material (money, property, other benefits) and non-material benefits (career advancement, political advantages, services). Importantly, the gain is unlawful, i.e. obtained in violation of the law or the rights of others. This feature distinguishes corruption from other abuses: corrupt acts are always committed for selfish interests.

- consequences of the offence – undermining the legitimacy of authority, distortion of the rule of law, devaluation of the principles of the rule of law. The final part of the definition points to the socially dangerous consequences of corruption. Systematic corruption destroys the legitimacy of state institutions – citizens lose trust in the authorities and doubt their fairness. The rule of law is distorted because decisions are made not according to the law, but on the basis of informal agreements and bribery, which destroys the predictability and integrity of the legal system. Ultimately, the principle of the rule of law is devalued – instead of the rule of law, a system of privileges for corrupt individuals is established. These consequences justify why corruption is the subject of close attention in public policy: it threatens the foundations of the democratic legal order.

Thus, the proposed definition covers the subject (official), the objective side (action/inaction using one's status contrary to one's duty), the subjective side (intent and mercenary motive) and the consequences (damage to public interests and the rule of law). This structure of the concept reflects the complex nature of corruption and emphasises why it is the subject of criminal law policy: because of its serious consequences for society and the need for state coercion to counteract it.

After a thorough analysis of the concept of «corruption», the logical next step is to examine the essence and content of the concept of «anti-corruption policy», which is the direct response of the state and society to the threat of corruption. The definition of this term not only outlines the objectives of state efforts to combat corruption, but also forms the tools for criminal law response to it.

Research into the essence of «anti-corruption policy» will help to identify the key features of anti-corruption policy, its relationship to criminal law mechanisms, and to identify gaps that require further legislative and methodological improvement.

Today, the regulatory framework that defines the principles of anti-corruption policy in Ukraine is based not only on the provisions of the Constitution of Ukraine but also covers a wide range of legislative and subordinate acts, international treaties and codes. The key regulatory sources include: The Law of Ukraine «On Prevention of Corruption» [25], which lays the foundations for the national anti-corruption system; the Law «On Purification of Government», which regulates vetting procedures for persons who hold or seek positions in public authority; the Law «On Civil Service» [24], which contains anti-corruption restrictions and ethical standards for civil servants. International documents ratified by Ukraine play an important role: the Council of Europe's Civil and Criminal Conventions on Combating Corruption, as well as the UN Convention against Corruption, which define the basic principles of international anti-corruption cooperation and the legal obligations of the state.

In addition, anti-corruption policy is implemented through regulatory and legal acts, in particular decrees of the President of Ukraine, among which the Presidential Decree «On the National Council for Anti-Corruption Policy» [27] deserves special attention, as it defines mechanisms for coordinating anti-corruption activities at the highest political level. Additional sources include the provisions of the Criminal Code of Ukraine (sections relating to corruption offences), the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences, as well as relevant resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers and departmental regulatory acts.

At the legislative level in Ukraine, anti-corruption policy is primarily identified with the state Anti-Corruption Strategy, a basic policy document that defines priorities and tasks in the field of corruption prevention for a specific period. In particular, the Law of Ukraine «On the Principles of State Anti-Corruption Policy for 2021-2025» [26] approves the next National Anti-Corruption Strategy and defines the principles for the formation and implementation of state anti-corruption policy.

Although there is no direct definition of the term «anti-corruption policy» in these documents, the combination of their provisions forms a general understanding of this concept in the context of Ukraine's state policy.

There is no single interpretation of the concept of «anti-corruption policy» among scholars. An analysis of scientific approaches and concepts leads to the conclusion that several key approaches to its understanding have emerged in theoretical discourse.

Novak A. notes that «in modern science, anti-corruption policy is most often considered from the point of view of forming mechanisms to prevent corruption, analysing the impact of corruption on the civil service system, and strategic management in the system of combating corruption. The weakness of this approach to defining the essence and basic principles of anti-corruption policy lies in the fact that it ignores the trends in the development of state-building processes, the cause-and-effect complex of the spread of corrupt relations in society, as well as the nature of corruption as a negative socio-economic and political phenomenon»[18, p. 62].

Characterising the concept of «state anti-corruption policy», Demyanchuk V.A. considers it a special type of state policy that is systematically and comprehensively implemented through purposeful, determined action by the relevant subjects exclusively on the basis of current legislation with the aim of countering corruption as a negative social phenomenon and consists in the implementation of specific measures to influence the objects of legal relations in society, the creation of normative acts, and the implementation of organisational measures aimed at realising the anti-corruption function of the state [2, p. 91].

According to Kravchenko S.O. [11], preventing corruption is «the purposeful formation of social conditions that are unfavorable for the emergence and spread of corruption and at the same time stimulate non-corrupt behavior of members of society, primarily employees of public authorities».

Zabroda D.G. [4] proposes that state anti-corruption policy be understood as «a set of legal, economic, educational, organisational and other measures provided for by laws and subordinate regulatory legal acts, which are formulated and implemented by state authorities, local self-government bodies and the public with the aim of identifying and stopping corruption, eliminating its underlying causes, and restoring the violated rights and legitimate interests of individuals, legal entities and the state».

As noted by Y.P. Kushnerov, the essence of anti-corruption policy should be considered primarily in a comprehensive dimension, i.e. as a set of principles on which specialised anti-corruption bodies operate. These principles are implemented through a series of administrative measures aimed at preventing and combating corruption. In other words, according to the

scientist, the key components of state anti-corruption policy are the existence of specialised anti-corruption bodies that provide the necessary conditions for the effective implementation of anti-corruption measures and a system of targeted actions carried out by the state through these anti-corruption bodies with the aim of finally overcoming corruption as a social phenomenon [13]. Therefore, effective anti-corruption policy is impossible without a comprehensive approach that combines the institutional capacity of specialised bodies and the systematic implementation of administrative measures.

Kalugina I.O. [6] believes that «anti-corruption policy should be viewed as a comprehensive activity that encompasses a variety of measures aimed at different social relations».

As we have already determined, corruption is a global problem, so it is necessary to work to overcome it not only at the national level, but also at the international level.

At the international level, the Inter-American Convention against Corruption, adopted on 29 March 1996, was the first international legal document aimed exclusively at combating corruption at the level of the American states. Its main objectives are to promote the development of effective mechanisms for preventing, detecting, punishing and eradicating corruption, as well as to strengthen international cooperation in these matters. The Convention provides for a number of preventive measures that the participating states undertake to implement. These include establishing ethical standards for public officials, preventing conflicts of interest, creating transparent systems for public recruitment and procurement, and maintaining declarations of income and assets of public figures. The document also focuses on the protection of persons who report corruption offences. The Convention pays particular attention to international cooperation. Participating states must ensure the extradition of persons suspected of corruption offences and provide mutual legal assistance. Another important obligation of states is to establish their jurisdiction over the investigation of corruption offences, in particular if they are related to the activities of their officials abroad [16].

An important step in strengthening anti-corruption policy was the formation of regional initiatives in Europe. In 1999, the Council of Europe Criminal Law Convention on Corruption was adopted, which obliged participating states to introduce criminal liability for a number of corruption offences. These include the giving and receiving of bribes by both national and foreign officials, corruption in the private sector, abuse of influence, and laundering of proceeds from crime. In addition, the Convention provided for the creation of a special body, the Group of States against Corruption (GRECO), which helps monitor the compliance of participating states with international standards in the field of anti-corruption [34].

In continuation of the above, it should be emphasised that international documents not only define the general principles of anti-corruption activities but also serve as a guide for the formation of national anti-corruption policy. For example, the UN Convention against Corruption, which was adopted in 2003 and ratified by Ukraine only in 2006, is a universal international instrument that recognises the fight against corruption as one of the main tasks of global governance. Article 5 of the document obliges participating states to develop and implement effective and coordinated anti-corruption policies, as well as to ensure the participation of civil society in the implementation of integrity measures [9].

A comparative analysis of the interpretation of the essence of “anti-corruption policy” allows us to identify its main features:

- comprehensiveness of measures;
- focus on prevention and combating corruption;
- integration of legislative, administrative, educational, and international aspects.

At the same time, Ukrainian scientific approaches place greater emphasis on internal state mechanisms, while international documents focus on global cooperation and standardization.

The diversity of approaches to interpreting the essence of anti-corruption policy creates difficulties for its clear formulation and effective implementation, which, in turn, reduces its functional and organizational effectiveness. An analysis of scientific sources shows that effective research and implementation of anti-corruption policy require an interdisciplinary approach and consideration of both international experience and national specifics.

Therefore, we propose to understand anti-corruption policy as a comprehensive, systematically organized activity of the state and society, which in turn is based on legal, institutional, administrative, educational, and international mechanisms and is aimed at preventing, detecting, eliminating, and preventing corruption in various spheres of public life.

Thus, anti-corruption policy creates the legal and institutional basis for expanding and deepening the criminalization of corrupt acts. Through mechanisms of rule-making and institutional development, it directly influences criminal law policy: new corruption offenses appear, sanctions are strengthened, and investigation procedures are improved. To increase effectiveness, it is necessary to closely integrate preventive (administrative, educational) and repressive (criminal law) measures, as well as to strengthen the independence and capacity of anti-corruption bodies.

Conclusions and prospects for further research. Corruption as a phenomenon has a complex meaning and a number of characteristic features that manifest themselves in various spheres of society. The analysis showed that, despite the lack of a single universal definition of this term, there is a consensus in scientific and practical circles on its main characteristics: abuse of power (or other entrusted status) contrary to established norms for private gain. Different approaches—philosophical, legal, political, sociological-complement each other, forming a holistic understanding of the nature of corruption. The author's integral definition, given in the article, combines these approaches and reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the phenomenon. It is important for state criminal law policy that corruption, being socially conditioned, can only be influenced through legal mechanisms if a comprehensive approach is taken.

Effective counteraction to corruption is impossible without a comprehensive strategy that combines legal (criminal prosecution, improvement of legislation), administrative (institutional reforms, simplification of procedures, elimination of preconditions for bribery), socio-economic (reduction of incentives for corrupt behaviour), and ethical measures (forming an

anti-corruption culture). Corruption as a policy issue requires constant attention from the state and society, as only joint efforts can minimize its manifestations. Understanding the nature and characteristics of corruption and enshrining them in scientific thought and legislation is a prerequisite for the development of an effective anti-corruption policy that will ensure the rule of law and the well-being of society.

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