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MUNDARIJA

12.00.01 – DAVLAT VA HUQUQ
NAZARIYASI VA TARIXI.
HUQUQIY TA'LIMOTLAR
TARIXI

- 5 HAYITOV SHERZOD
RAXMATULLAYEVICH**
Huquqiy eksperimentni o'tkazish bosqichlari:
nazariy-huquqiy tahlil

12.00.02 – KONSTITUTSIYAVIY
HUQUQ. MA'MURIY HUQUQ.
MOLIYA VA BOJXONA HUQUQI

- 17 MADIYEV FAXRIDDIN XOSHIM O'G'LI**
Shaxsiy hayot daxlsizligi huquqi tushunchasi
va uning huquqiy tabiati
- 29 ILXOMBEKOV JASURBEK ILXOMBEK O'G'LI**
Internet tarmog'idan axborot olish jarayonini
huquqiy jihatdan tartibga solish va amalga
oshirishda vujudga keladigan muammolar
- 38 КУАТБЕК ГУЛНАР КУАТБЕКОВНА**
Правовые вопросы ведения интернет-
ресурсов представительных органов
местной власти в Узбекистане и Казахстане
- 52 AMIROV SANJAR ILYOS O'G'LI**
Konstitutsionalizmning paydo bo'lishi va uning
rivojlanish asoslari

12.00.04 – FUQAROLIK
PROTSESSUAL HUQUQI.
XO'JALIK PROTSESSUAL
HUQUQI. HAKAMLIK JARAYONI
VA MEDIATSIYA

- 60 XAKBERDIYEV ABDUMURAD
ABDUSAIDOVICH**
Hakamlik sudining hal qiluv qarori tushunchasi
va huquqiy ahamiyati
- 69 КАРИМОВА МАДИНА МИРЗАДЖАНОВНА**
Функции нотариата в современном
правовом государстве

- 77 JALILOVA SARDORA ABDUROZIQ QIZI**
Milliy qonun hujjatlarida mediatsiya institutining umumiy tavsifi hamda ushbu soha doirasida aniqlangan muammolar

**12.00.06 – TABIIY RESURLAR
HUQUQI. AGRAR HUQUQ.
EKOLOGIK HUQUQ**

- 85 XAMIDOVA MAHBUBA ALIJANOVNA**
Atrof-muhitni muhofaza qilish sohasida yechimi kutilayotgan chora-tadbirlar

**12.00.09 – JINOYAT PROTSESSI.
KRIMINALISTIKA,
TEZKOR-QIDIRUV HUQUQ VA
SUD EKSPERTIZASI**

- 93 MAXMADIYAROVA XUMORA
O'KTAMOVNA**
Sud muhokamasida taraflarning protsessual imkoniyatlari tengligini ta'minlash tortishuv prinsipining muhim sharti sifatida

**12.00.12 – KORRUPSIYA
MUAMMOLARI**

- 100 NOROV ILKHOM IBROXIMOVICH**
Exploring dimensions of anti-corruption agencies (in the example of Central Asia)

**13.00.02 – TA'LIM VA TARBIYA
NAZARIYASI VA METODIKASI
(SOHALAR BO'YICHA)**

- 112 МАТЕНОВ РАШИД БЕКИМБЕТОВИЧ**
О роли новых педагогических технологий в преподавании языковых дисциплин в юридическом вузе

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HUQUQIY EKSPERIMENTNI O'TKAZISH BOSQICHLARI: NAZARIY-HUQUQIY TAHLIL

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Annotatsiya. Ushbu maqolada huquqiy eksperiment tushunchasi, uning turlari hamda tasnifi, shuningdek, huquqiy eksperimentni o'tkazish bosqichlari milliy va xorij tajribasi asosida tahlil qilingan. Jumladan, huquqiy eksperimentni o'tkazishga tayyorgarlik ko'rish va o'tkazishni uch bosqichda amalga oshirish taklif etilgan bo'lib, eksperiment o'tkazishga mas'ul bo'lgan subyektlar doirasi ham milliy qonunchilik asosida yoritilgan. Huquqiy eksperiment o'tkazilishi davlat siyosatining, islohotlarining tegishli sohalariga ijobiy ta'sir ko'rsatishi, undan foydalanishga to'sqinlik qilayotgan muammolar, huquqiy eksperiment ta'rifidan uning samaradorligi va natijadorligini baholashda muhim bo'lgan asosiy xususiyatlari ajratib ko'rsatildi. Huquqiy eksperimentning har bir bosqichi mustaqil vazifalar va harakatlar natijalarini aks ettiruvchi hamda mustahkamlovchi muayyan harakatlar va protsessual hujjatlar bilan tavsiflanishi, uning ahamiyati hamda muhimligi asoslantirildi. Maqolada huquqiy eksperiment yuzasidan xulosa va takliflar ilgari surilgan. Huquqiy eksperimentning o'ziga xos xususiyati uning maxsus ishlab chiqilgan maqsadga qaratilgani bo'lib, u yoki bu huquqiy gipotezani sun'iy ravishda yaratilgan muhitda tekshirish hamda eksperiment subyektlarining ijtimoiy munosabatlarni rivojlantirishdagi faol rolini aniqlashdan iborat.

Kalit so'zlar: eksperiment, huquqiy eksperiment, norma ijodkorligi, normativ-huquqiy hujjatlar, qonun loyihasi, huquqiy eksperiment subyektlari, mas'ul subyektlar, huquqiy eksperiment bosqichlari, tartibga solish ta'sirini baholash.

ЭТАПЫ ПРОВЕДЕНИЯ ПРАВОВОГО ЭКСПЕРИМЕНТА: ТЕОРЕТИКО-ПРАВОВОЙ АНАЛИЗ

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Аннотация. В данной статье на основе национального и зарубежного опыта анализируются понятие правового эксперимента, его виды и классификация, а также этапы проведения правового эксперимента. В частности, предлагается осуществлять подготовку и проведение правового эксперимента в три этапа, при этом круг субъектов, ответственных за проведение правового эксперимента, освещается в рамках национального законодательства. Было отмечено, что проведение правового эксперимента положительно влияет на соответствующую сферу государственной политики, реформы, однако выявлены некоторые проблемы, препятствующие использованию правового эксперимента. Из определения правового эксперимента выделены основные характеристики, важные для оценки его эффективности.

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EXPLORING DIMENSIONS OF ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCIES (IN THE EXAMPLE OF CENTRAL ASIA)

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Abstract. This scientific article delves into the multifaceted realm of anti-corruption agencies in Central Asian nations, examining the dynamic dimensions that shape their effectiveness and impact. Against the backdrop of the region's unique socio-political landscape, we investigate the structural frameworks, legal mechanisms, and operational strategies employed by anti-corruption agencies to combat corruption. Drawing upon a comprehensive analysis of institutional designs and regulatory environments, our study illuminates the challenges and opportunities faced by these agencies. The implementation of anti-corruption reforms diverges across Central Asian nations, with different government bodies tasked with these responsibilities. Kazakhstan, for instance, employs a specialized body with significant powers, whereas in Turkmenistan, the prosecutor's office assumes a pivotal role. The article underscores the critical need to scrutinize the effectiveness of these bodies. Furthermore, our research incorporates case studies from select Central Asian nations, providing nuanced insights into the contextual variations of anti-corruption endeavors. This article contributes to a deeper understanding of the challenges and prospects for combating corruption in the region.

Keywords: anti-corruption, special bodies, powers, Central Asia, corruption, region.

KORRUPSIYAGA QARSHI KURASHISH ORGANLARINING IMKONIYATLARINI O'RGANISH (MARKAZIY OSIYO MISOLIDA)

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va huquqiy rivojlanish” kichik ilmiy guruhi a'zosi

Annotatsiya. Ushbu ilmiy maqola Markaziy Osiyo mamlakatlaridagi korrupsiyaga qarshi kurashish idoralarining ko'p qirrali ko'lamini, ularning samaradorligi va ta'sirini belgilovchi dinamik jihatlarni o'rganadi. Mintaqaning o'ziga xos ijtimoiy-siyosiy manzarasi fonida biz korrupsiyaga qarshi kurashish bo'yicha idoralar tomonidan qo'llanadigan tarkibiy tuzilmalar, huquqiy mexanizmlar va operativ strategiyalarni ko'rib chiqamiz. Institutsional tuzilmalar va tartibga solish muhitini har tomonlama tahlil qilish asosida tadqiqotimiz ushbu agentliklar duch keladigan muammolar va imkoniyatlarni yoritib beradi. Korrupsiyaga qarshi islohotlarni amalga oshirish Markaziy Osiyo mamlakatlarida turlicha bo'lib, bu mas'uliyat turli davlat organlariga yuklangan. Masalan, Qozog'istonda katta vakolatlarga ega ixtisoslashgan organ mavjud bo'lsa, Turkmanistonda prokuratura asosiy rol o'ynaydi. Maqolada

ushbu organlarning samaradorligini chuqur o'rganish zarurligi ta'kidlangan. Bundan tashqari, izlanishimiz Markaziy Osiyoning tanlangan davlatlaridan olingan amaliy tadqiqotlarni o'z ichiga oladi, bu esa korrupsiyaga qarshi kurashishdagi kontekstli o'zgarishlarni batafsil tushunish imkonini beradi. Ushbu maqola mintaqadagi korrupsiyaga qarshi kurashish muammolari va istiqbollarini chuqurroq tushunishga yordam beradi.

Kalit so'zlar: korrupsiyaga qarshi kurashish, maxsus organlar, vakolatlar, Markaziy Osiyo, korrupsiya, mintaq.

ИЗУЧЕНИЕ ВОЗМОЖНОСТЕЙ АНТИКОРРУПЦИОННЫХ ОРГАНОВ (НА ПРИМЕРЕ ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ)

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Аннотация. Данная научная статья исследует многогранную сферу антикоррупционных агентств в странах Центральной Азии, исследуя динамические аспекты, которые определяют их эффективность и влияние. На фоне уникального социально-политического ландшафта региона мы исследуем структурные рамки, правовые механизмы и оперативные стратегии, используемые антикоррупционными агентствами для борьбы с коррупцией. Опираясь на всесторонний анализ институциональных структур и нормативной среды, исследование освещает проблемы и возможности, с которыми сталкиваются эти агентства. Реализация антикоррупционных реформ в странах Центральной Азии различается, и эти обязанности возложены на разные государственные органы. В Казахстане, например, имеется специализированный орган, наделённый значительными полномочиями, тогда как в Туркменистане ключевую роль играет прокуратура. В статье подчёркивается острая необходимость тщательного изучения эффективности работы этих органов. Кроме того, исследование включает тематический анализ исследования из отдельных стран Центральной Азии, что даёт детальное представление о контекстуальных вариациях антикоррупционных усилий. Эта статья способствует более глубокому пониманию проблем и перспектив борьбы с коррупцией в регионе.

Ключевые слова: противодействие коррупции, специальные органы, полномочия, Центральная Азия, коррупция, регион.

Introduction

The Central Asian region comprises landlocked countries, namely Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. Until gaining independence in 1991, all were part of the Soviet Union, effectively under Moscow's control. This history has left them with limited experience in self-governance and unpreparedness for the transition from an authoritarian system to a democratic one, as noted in the report by "Voice of America" [1, pp. 81–97]. Consequently, after the dissolution of the

Soviet Union, the region faced challenges in transitioning from autocratic forms of governance, with some leaders remaining in power since the 1990s.

None of the Central Asian countries is classified as a "full democracy" according to the World Bank's International Governance Index [2]. In "The Economist's" Democracy Index for 2019 [3], Kyrgyzstan ranked 101st, falling into the category of a hybrid regime. Meanwhile, the other four countries in the region ranked between 139 and 162, categorizing them as authoritarian regimes

in the same index. Currently, according to the Democracy Index for 2022 [4], all Central Asian countries fall into the category of authoritarian states. Turkmenistan, ranking 161st, is surpassed only by Syria, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, North Korea, and others.

New leaders typically have their supporters, and loyalty is often rewarded or acquired through such campaigns. Overall, the majority of corruption cases in the region occur in sectors that have historically been susceptible to corruption, including areas such as public finance, natural resources, public administration, procurement, taxation, customs, healthcare, and education. The most frequently identified transgressions encompass the misappropriation of public funds, fraudulent activities, and abuse of official powers [5].

Major corporations in the region often fall under the control of “oligarchs, family clans, corrupt politicians, criminal groups, or other vested interests,” who continue to amass wealth by channeling state resources into their own companies, accounts in foreign banks, and assets. Due to the close intertwining of business and politics, the business environment in the region is fraught with risks, including legal uncertainty, selective law enforcement, and inadequate property protection.

The eradication of corruption is a long-term task. In the fight against corruption, there are no one-size-fits-all solutions; anti-corruption measures must always integrate various incentives, including preventive and punitive measures. As anti-corruption programs are implemented, it is crucial to identify what produces results and what does not, exchanging best practices.

Countries with high levels of corruption require the development of a dedicated state policy to combat corruption. Such a policy, in the form of a strategy or program, can provide a clear outline of government priorities and ensure disciplined execution. Efforts need

to be intensified to strengthen the analytical foundation of the fight against corruption. This should involve conducting research and surveys to identify the scale and patterns of corruption in individual countries, sectors, and institutions, as well as collecting and analyzing statistical data on the activities of law enforcement agencies combating corruption [6].

Problems related to corruption remain relevant and pressing in the modern world. Corruption is a phenomenon that has a destructive impact on the development of societies and economies, undermines citizens’ trust in government institutions, and infringes on justice. Despite significant efforts by international organizations, governments, and civil society, the fight against corruption remains a complex and lengthy task.

Also, the countries of Central Asia are taking measures to combat corruption. These measures are assigned to various bodies, including specialized bodies.

Materials and methods

This study employs a mixed-methods approach to comprehensively investigate the dimensions of anti-corruption agencies in Central Asian nations.

Quantitative data were obtained through a systematic review of legal documents, regulatory frameworks, and official reports related to anti-corruption efforts in Central Asian countries. This involved an extensive analysis of legislative texts, policy documents, and annual reports issued by anti-corruption agencies and relevant government bodies. The quantitative analysis focused on identifying key indicators of anti-corruption performance, such as the number of investigations initiated, cases prosecuted, and convictions secured.

Furthermore, comparative case studies were conducted to enrich the analysis by examining specific instances of anti-corruption interventions in selected Central Asian nations. The cases were selected based on their relevance to the research objectives

and the diversity of anti-corruption approaches within the region.

The triangulation of quantitative data analysis and case studies enhances the robustness of our findings, allowing for a comprehensive exploration of the intricate landscape of anti-corruption agencies in Central Asia. This methodological approach ensures a holistic understanding of the subject matter, contributing to the depth and reliability of our research outcomes.

Results of the research

The Republic of Kazakhstan

In the Republic of Kazakhstan, the bodies carrying out anti-corruption activities are the Commission under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan [7] on Anti-Corruption and the Anti-Corruption Agency [8]. The Commission under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan on Anti-Corruption Issues is a consultative and advisory body under the Head of State and was established in 2002.

The main objectives of the Commission are to develop and adopt coordinated measures aimed at strengthening the fight against corruption and violations of the rules of official ethics by civil servants, increasing the level of responsibility of civil servants [7].

The Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Kazakhstan was organized in 2019 and is a state anti-corruption body, directly subordinate and accountable to the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, responsible for the formation and implementation of the anti-corruption policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan and coordination in the field of anti-corruption, as well as identification, suppression, disclosure, and investigation of corruption offenses [8].

The Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2015–2025 [9], as well as other successful reforms in the field of anti-corruption, have led to a

decrease in the incidence of corruption. Thanks to systematic preventive work and the transition to a three-tier model of criminal proceedings, the number of cases of corruption registered in Kazakhstan decreased by 29% [10]. Thus, in 2021, the number of registered corruption crimes was 1037, which is 37% less than in 2020 (1632 in 2020), while in the Ministry of Internal Affairs the figures decreased by 12%, in the prosecutor's office by 13%, and in the National Security Committee by 19%. In addition, the Anti-Corruption Policy Concept for 2022–2026 has been developed based on the experience of South Korea [11]. At the end of 2022, Kazakhstan received 37 points out of 100 possible in the Transparency International Corruption Perceptions Index, ranking 101st among 180 countries [12].

As a result of the implementation of the anti-corruption strategy, the following reforms were carried out:

The new Law "On the Civil Service of the Republic of Kazakhstan" ensured the transition to a "career" model of public service and introduced the principles of meritocracy through mechanisms of open competitive selection and promotion based on competence [13].

Financial control measures have been improved. In 2021, civil servants, persons equated to them, as well as their spouses, as part of the general declaration, provided "entry" declarations, recording all their assets [14].

The Code of Ethics for Civil Servants is in force, and an institute of ethics commissioners has been created in local and central government bodies. Ethics councils are functioning [15].

There is a complete ban on receiving and giving gifts in connection with the performance of official duties by civil servants and other persons who have accepted anti-corruption restrictions, as well as members of their families.

The rules on the inadmissibility of joint service (work) of these persons with close relatives, spouses, and in-laws have been strengthened. Candidates for public office are required to notify working relatives in a government organization [16].

There is a lifetime ban on employment in the civil service and in quasi-public sector entities for persons who have committed corruption crimes [11].

Republic of Kyrgyzstan

For Kyrgyzstan, corruption has been a key problem in recent decades. It was Kyrgyzstan, after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, that experienced two revolutions: the “Tulip Revolution” of 2005 and the revolution of 2010. The main reasons that prompted both the opposition forces and the Kyrgyz people to coups d’etat were: deeply rooted corruption in the republic, nepotism, nepotism, difficult economic situation of the population, and clan struggles for power between the north and south of the country [17].

After A. Atambayev came to power, the State Strategy for Anti-Corruption Policy and Anti-Corruption Measures was adopted, the main goal of which was to reduce the level of corruption in the country [18].

To combat crimes of a corruption nature, in 2011, the Anti-Corruption Service was created in the State Committee for National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic [19], which was a punitive body and interfered with business; later in 2021, this body was abolished by S. Zhaparov.

Instead of the Anti-Corruption Service, in 2021 the Anti-Corruption Business Council under the President of the Kyrgyz Republic was organized [20], which is a permanent consultative and advisory body that ensures the development of proposals and recommendations on the main directions of state policy in the field of anti-corruption to improve the business environment.

In addition, the State Strategy to combat corruption and eliminate its causes in the

Kyrgyz Republic for 2021–2024 was adopted [21]. According to the goal of this strategy, it was planned to improve its position by 30% from current indicators in the world rankings by 2024. But according to the Corruption Perceptions Index 2022, the Kyrgyz Republic is in 140th place among 180 countries in the world [12], which indicates the regression and ineffectiveness of the ongoing reforms.

The Republic of Tajikistan

According to the published rating for 2022, the situation with corruption in Tajikistan was worse than in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, and in Uzbekistan, it was better than in Turkmenistan [12].

Tajikistan remained in 150th place in the new Corruption Perceptions Index 2023, along with Afghanistan. The country scored 24 points on a 100-point scale, where 0 is the maximum level of corruption and 100 is its absence. In a report published last year, Tajikistan had a score of 25, indicating that corruption has become commonplace in the country [12]. Authoritarianism has been intensifying in Tajikistan in recent years, and the authorities are not carrying out the necessary reforms to combat corruption.

In 2021, the country adopted the State Anti-Corruption Strategy in the Republic of Tajikistan for the period until 2030, the goals of which are to increase the anti-corruption awareness of the population, create an atmosphere of intolerance towards corruption, eliminate the causes and conditions conducive to corruption, and generally reduce the intensity of corruption in the Republic of Tajikistan aimed at developing democratic values and improving people’s well-being [22].

Since 2007, the country has had a special body - the Agency for State Financial Control and Anti-Corruption, which: [23]

- implements state policy in the field of anti-corruption;

- develops regulatory legal acts of the Republic of Tajikistan in the field of combating corruption;

- coordinates the activities of anti-corruption entities in the field of anti-corruption;

- identifies and investigates crimes related to corruption, takes effective preventive measures, etc.

Turkmenistan

Turkmenistan, relative to other Central Asian countries, is a closed country. As the US State Department Office of Investment noted in its statement on Turkmenistan, the opaque nature of the country's economic system "creates fertile ground for corruption" [24].

"U.S. firms cited widespread government corruption, typically in the form of extortion of a percentage of revenue, as a barrier to investment and doing business across all economic sectors and regions. This phenomenon is most common in the areas of public procurement, licensing, and customs services," the department said in a statement [24].

The country adopted an Anti-Corruption Law in 2014 [25]. In accordance with the new law, the coordination of the fight against corruption in the country is carried out by the Prosecutor General of Turkmenistan and the prosecutors subordinate to him. The president of the country also has the right to establish a state anti-corruption body and determine its status and powers.

The Republic of Uzbekistan

The fight against corruption in Uzbekistan has become the highest priority direction of state policy. In particular, the Action Strategy for five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017–2021 (Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, No. UP-4947, dated February 7, 2017, "On the Strategy for Further Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan"), which is the main document of the new reforms of Uzbekistan, is of great importance in increasing the effectiveness

of anti-corruption efforts. As an integral continuation of these reforms and as a logical continuation of the Action Strategy, the Development Strategy of New Uzbekistan for 2022–2026 was adopted (Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, No. UP-60, dated January 28, 2022, "On the Strategy for the Development of the New Uzbekistan").

In particular, over the past 5 years:

measures have been taken to systematically improve the regulatory framework in this area. As evidence, one can cite the entry into force of the anti-corruption law as well as the adoption of various by-laws. In particular, on January 3, 2017, the law "On Combating Corruption" was adopted.

for the effective implementation of measures, a special state body (Anti-Corruption Agency) has been created by the Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan, "On the Organization of the Activities of the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan," and the institutional foundations of state policy in this direction have been improved. In particular, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, No. UP-6013, dated June 29, 2020, "On Additional Measures to Improve the System of Combating Corruption in the Republic of Uzbekistan" was adopted.

ensuring openness and transparency of the activities of government bodies based on measures to combat corruption in the country is defined as a priority task. In particular, the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On additional measures to ensure the openness of the activities of government bodies and organizations, as well as the effective implementation of public control" dated June 16, 2021, was adopted.

another important aspect of the fight against corruption is being systematically, step by step implemented - optimization

of government bodies, increasing their compactness. In particular, on April 3, 2021, the decree on reducing the staffing levels of government and administrative bodies was adopted. According to the resolution, the number of government employees has been optimized to 15 percent (Presidential Decree of the Republic of Uzbekistan, No. PP-5053, dated April 3, 2021, “On the Optimization of the Structure and Reduction of Staff Positions in the Bodies of State Authority and Administration”).

widespread introduction of information and communication technologies into state and public administration has been established in order to reduce the “human factor” in the public administration system - one of the most important aspects of preventing and eliminating corruption [26].

in the fight against corruption, the process of widespread implementation of the “compliance control” system in government bodies and business entities is being carried out (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Measures to Organize the Activities of the Antimonopoly Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan” No. 402 dated May 15, 2019).

In the Republic of Uzbekistan, the special government body carrying out anti-corruption activities is the Anti-Corruption Agency, formed in 2020. To coordinate the activities of bodies and organizations carrying out and participating in anti-corruption activities, the National Anti-Corruption Council of the Republic of Uzbekistan operates (Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan “On Additional Measures to Improve the System of Combating Corruption in the Republic of Uzbekistan” No. UP-6013 dated June 29, 2020).

The powers of the Agency include:

formation and implementation of state policy in the field of preventing and combating corruption;

annually prepare a National Report on combating corruption in the Republic of Uzbekistan;

interaction with specialized anti-corruption committees;

conduct a comprehensive analysis of the results of investigations into corruption crimes;

exercise control over the achievement of full compensation for damage to the interests of society and the state caused by corruption crimes;

carry out an analysis of the effectiveness of the system of anti-corruption examination of regulatory legal acts and their projects, etc.

Analysis of research results

Unlike other similar bodies created in the countries of Central Asia, in the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Anti-Corruption Service can conduct independent investigations and is vested with greater powers in the field of combating corruption.

Despite the situation in Kazakhstan, the former Anti-Corruption Council of Kyrgyzstan was supposed to fight political corruption, but in the end, it began to punish the same doctors and teachers. And then it started fighting business,” noted Nuripa Mukanova, Secretary General of the Anti-Corruption Business Council.

Initially, the formation of the Anti-Corruption Service under the State Security Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic was incorrect, since the latter is a closed body and it is impossible to introduce corruption prevention methods there. And prevention lies in openness, close work with the population and civil society, and the ability to control and monitor the work of government agencies. It is too early to talk about any future changes in the anti-corruption fight. The Kyrgyz Republic does not yet have a body that would carry out systematic work in this direction. All over the world, working to prevent corruption

is a very important element. This suggests that when implementing anti-corruption reforms, international experience was not studied, and a thorough analysis of the reforms being undertaken was not carried out, which led to a worsening of the situation in the country [27]. Thus, in 2005, the Kyrgyz Republic was in 130th place on the Corruption Perceptions Index, and in 2016 it dropped to 136th place [28], which indicates unsuccessful reforms.

It is worth noting that, unlike Kazakhstan, this special body is not authorized to carry out investigative actions and only carries out a regulatory function.

The main obstacle to the success of anti-corruption efforts in Tajikistan lies in personnel management. The appointment of the Agency's director by the president often brings individuals from law enforcement backgrounds, and there is a need for technocrats with a solid understanding of economic issues. It is crucial to implement well-planned advertising campaigns involving civil society, universities, and students actively participating in development. Additionally, the lack of specific monitoring measures in the adopted strategy makes it challenging to assess its effectiveness. The financial crisis in the country further complicates addressing wage increases, creating conditions conducive to corruption.

The OECD report "Anti-Corruption Reforms in Tajikistan" published in 2017 indicated that the legislative measures taken regarding the declaration of property of civil servants and members of their families affected only administrative employees but not political ones [29]. The opaque judiciary, lack of full access to information, criminal legislation, and many other components of the anti-corruption strategy were also criticized. It is unknown whether the criticism will be taken into account in the new strategy. This

indicates that the fight against corruption is carried out only at lower and middle levels, while higher levels and politicians are not prosecuted. The established anti-corruption system is ineffective and does not have a well-formed system of checks and balances.

Tajikistan in 2020, according to the Corruption Perceptions Index, was in 149th place; in 2022, it took 150th place [12]. The country has not shown any development in the field of anti-corruption over the past decade.

In recent years, Turkmenistan has begun an active fight against corruption. One of the factors, of course, may be the economic recession observed in the country. In recent years, the living conditions of the population have been steadily deteriorating. Shortages of essential goods in stores have become commonplace, and prices are constantly rising [30]. Meanwhile, there is no special body that deals directly with anti-corruption policy. In 2019, the President of Turkmenistan ordered the development and adoption of a new program to combat bribery and corruption, but to this day, the program has not been adopted [31].

According to Transparency International's 2018 report, Turkmenistan ranked the worst of all countries in the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, ranking with three other countries 167th out of 180 in a global corruption perception ranking [32]. The country is currently experiencing corruption at the highest level, and, according to research, there is an increase in poverty and a decrease in food supply in the country, which is still observed.

In turn, in Transparency International's 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index, Uzbekistan ranked 126th out of 180 countries with 31 points, rising 7 positions. If in 2021 Uzbekistan took 140th place

with 28 points, then in 2020 this figure was 146th place with 26 points. Uzbekistan has risen 20 levels in two years and has shown significant positive results in the fight against corruption in the Central Asian region. This, in turn, indicates that the country's anti-corruption reforms are producing effective results.

Unlike Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, and Tajikistan, in Uzbekistan, the Agency cannot conduct investigations and prosecute civil servants; it only has the right to submit a presentation and report on the data studied.

In our opinion, the organization of this Agency without vesting it with special powers in the field of the prosecution of corruption makes it less efficient. So, on July 20, 2023, the Agency published a list of heads of government agencies who, contrary to the law, are engaged in entrepreneurial activities. Among them were 3 district khokims (mayors), the head of the Anti-Doping Committee, the chairman of the Committee for the Development of Sericulture and the Wool Industry, and others [33]. According to Article 13 of the Law of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On State Civil Service" (No. ZRU-788 dated August 8, 2022), a state civil servant does not have the right to create business entities or be their founder (participant).

Also, in accordance with clause 13 of the Model Rules of Ethics for Civil Servants, officials should not engage in entrepreneurial or other paid activities (except for teaching, scientific, and creative activities) outside of work (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, "On Additional Measures to Ensure Compliance with the Code of Ethics and Conduct for Public Servants" No. 595 dated October 14, 2022).

Based on the results of this study, no disciplinary or administrative measures were taken; on the contrary, as of November

2023, these individuals are still engaged in entrepreneurial activities [34].

Over the 3 years of its existence, the Agency has not been able to justify its existence; no measures have been taken against corrupt officials; and the Agency's reports are only advisory in nature.

Currently, Uzbekistan has strengthened its position in the Corruption Perceptions Index, but again, the fight against corruption occurs mainly at the lower and middle levels of government, and corruption crimes at the highest levels remain unpunished [12].

According to official data, the damage from corruption in 2021 is 100 million US dollars [33].

Conclusion

In recent years, Central Asian countries have implemented reforms aimed at preventing corrupt practices and punishing corrupt officials, with the goal of improving the region's business climate and promoting sustainable economic development. In 2022, events in Central Asia have clearly demonstrated how high-level corruption breeds political instability, weakened institutions, and, in the most extreme cases, violent conflict. Caught in a vicious cycle of corruption and authoritarianism, governments impede democratic processes, reduce space for civic engagement, and restrict media freedom. As a result, the Central Asia region ranks second to last in the 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). This is also evidenced by the mass protests that were held in Kazakhstan at the beginning of 2022; a state of emergency was declared in the country; and more than 200 people became victims of riots [35]. In 2020, there was a revolution in the Kyrgyz Republic, after which the country's president, S. Jeenbekov, resigned [36].

Currently, only in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan have the reforms carried out shown positive growth, and in Tajikistan, the

Kyrgyz Republic, and Turkmenistan, on the contrary, the situation is worsening every year.

In conclusion, the exploration of anti-corruption agencies in Central Asian nations undertaken in this article sheds light on the intricate dynamics and challenges faced in the pursuit of transparent governance. As we navigate the diverse landscapes of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, it becomes evident that the effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies is intricately woven into the historical, cultural, and institutional fabric of each nation.

Examining the legal frameworks and institutional capacities, we observe a spectrum of approaches employed by these agencies. While some nations showcase robust legal mechanisms and well-established institutions, others grapple with

the need for continuous adaptation and strengthening. The comparative analysis highlights both successes and challenges, providing a nuanced understanding of the dimensions that contribute to or hinder effective anti-corruption efforts.

As Central Asian nations continue to evolve, so too must their strategies for combating corruption. This exploration serves as a foundation for future research, policymaking, and international collaboration. By learning from the experiences of these nations, we can foster a collective understanding that transcends borders and contributes to more resilient, transparent, and accountable governance across Central Asia. Ultimately, the journey through the landscape of anti-corruption agencies in this article invites ongoing dialogue and concerted efforts toward a region where integrity and accountability flourish.

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