

CORRUPTION MANIFESTATIONS IN THE SYSTEM OF ECONOMIC SECURITY OF ECONOMIC ENTITIES

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Abstract. The article establishes the impact of corruption on the economic and national security of the country, what dangers and threats it poses to economic entities. The role of corrupt practices in the economic activity of economic entities was considered. The approaches of scientists to the understanding of the concept of "economic security" were studied and the author's interpretation of it was proposed. Thus, economic security is proposed to understand the state of protection of economic interests of individuals, society and the state from internal and external threats, which contributes to economic development. The most negative consequences of the impact of corruption on the economy, creating a threat to the economic and national security of the country, have been disclosed. These include the expansion of the shadow economy, violation of market competitiveness, inefficient use of budget funds, higher prices for products as a result of "corruption costs", deterioration of the investment climate, increased corruption in non-governmental organizations, the merger of crime and the legal economy, lack of effective private owners, declining confidence in the state, etc. It is also noted that corruption has a positive impact on the economy and political development of the country. The dynamics of the Corruption Perception Index, corruption manifestations are analyzed. The causes of obstacles to foreign investment in the economy of Ukraine, the severity of different types of corruption and the level of corruption in different areas of public activity according to the results of a survey of the population and businessmen, conducted by the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption in 2021, were studied. It is noted that Ukraine is doing a lot on the way to overcome corruption, but its efforts do not achieve the desired success because of the habituation to corruptive manifestations of the population. The impact of corruption on different spheres of social life and sectors of the economy, enterprises of different types and forms of ownership was characterized. It is noted that the main emphasis in combating corruption should be focused on the ways of determination, and the main determinants of corruption have been identified. The factors forming the demand for corrupt agreements and becoming threats to the economic security of economic entities have also been studied. The directions of prevention of corruption threats to the economic security of the country and entrepreneurship are proposed.

Keywords: corruption, economic security, threats, corruption threat, national security, corruption in the economy.

JEL Classification: D 73, D 81, H 56, K 42, M 21.

Formulas: 0; **fig.:** 4; **tab.:** 1; **bibl:** 23

Introduction. In the modern world corruption has become one of the most acute global problems of mankind and at the same time is the main threat to the economic security of Ukraine. In recent years the topic of economic corruption in Ukraine has become particularly relevant. Corruption has penetrated into the institutions of power, attracted into its networks many political and public figures and a considerable part of civil servants. Internationally, Ukraine has acquired a reputation as an extremely

corrupt state, as evidenced by its consistently high ranking in terms of corruption [1, p. 3].

The problems associated with corruption will not lose their relevance until it is completely overcome. Considering the diversity of manifestation of this phenomenon, issues related to corruption with regard to theoretical foundations, assessment methods, ways to overcome it are always in the focus of representatives of many scientific schools from all fields of knowledge: both in economic security, economics, law, and public administration [2]. Although it should be noted that scientific research on issues related to corruption is mostly in the area of public administration and law.

Literature review. Theoretical and methodological foundations of economic security of the state, business entities and the individual at one time studied V.Amitan [8], A.Arkhypov [8], A.George [3], M.Kamluk [7], V.Kolodiazhnyi [6], V.Kuzmenko [7], Novikova O. [10], I. Chornodid I. [11]; Z.Zhyvko [2; 4] and others.

Theoretical and applied aspects of the problem of combating corruption were explored in the works of I. Bachynska, S. Hantington, O. Holota, M. Kinash, R. Klitgaard, A. Levchuk, S. Melnyk, Yu. Nesevych, G. Puatt, I. Revak, S. Seriohin, V. Trepak, O. Shostko, L. Shcherbyna, Z. Varnaliy, A. Voloshenko and others.

At the same time, the scientific community pays little attention to corrupt appearances in the economy and the threats that corruption poses to the economic security of economic entities.

Aims. The purpose of this study is to examine corrupt practices in various areas of the economy and to clarify their role in creating threats to the economic security of business entities and the national security of the country.

Methods. The methodological basis of the study was general scientific and specific research methods, namely analysis and synthesis, visualization, systematization, logical presentation and generalization.

Results. The basic assumption of the economic approach to the study of the problems of the emergence of corruption and the ways to overcome it is the statement that the cause of corruption, regardless of the type and time of its emergence is always a material interest, the desire to get economic rent due to state regulation of all spheres of the national economy. This is where corruption flourishes and has something to feed on.

A significant problem in overcoming corruption is that it is driven by powerful motives: power and wealth. That is why the process of overcoming it is so difficult. In addition, the corrupt environment is capable of high self-organization and self-preservation. In many societies, including Ukraine, there is a habituation to corrupt practices as something normal and habitual. That is why preventive measures on overcoming corruption should be aimed at forming a sense of "non-acceptance" of corruption among the population.

Corruption in the economy has become an organic part of the economy, helping to overcome various problems of doing business. It is massive, and without it, society would no longer know how to do business, function on the market, and solve urgent business needs. The more corrupt the country, the more crimes of corruption are committed in the business sphere.

Negative is the fact that 11% of top managers who dictate the model of behavior believe that distortion of financial performance can be justified if it helps the business to survive in an economic downturn [5, p. 24]. Companies in Ukraine are increasingly faced with corrupt practices, especially in the relationship between business and government agencies, regardless of the size of the company. The level of corruption is 4-10% of company turnover, and some companies lost business due to corrupt practices of competitors [4; 5].

Corrupt practices absorb the money that could have been spent on social and economic development. Due to corruption, enterprises of all types and forms of ownership suffer financial and legal losses, lose their reputation and go bankrupt.

On the whole, corruption, damaging the development of the economy, poses threats to both the economic security of the faucet and its national security.

The economic security of the state is the basis in the system of national security of the country, moreover, it provides the material basis for ensuring the independence, sovereignty and an adequate standard of living of the population. Considering that the national security of the country is implemented through public funding, the basis of which is GDP, it is the economic security that provides all kinds of security from external to internal threats and ensures the competitiveness of the state in the international arena, as well as the normal formation and development of the state [6, p. 145].

To understand the essence of the studied phenomenon and to develop an effective mechanism of its regulation it is necessary to clarify its theoretical basis. Yes, the authors consider economic security as:

- the resistance to internal and external threats;
- the ability to meet social needs;
- the state of security of the economic sphere;
- the adaptation to changing conditions of existence, etc. (Table 1).

We consider objectively reasonable to define economic security as a securityphenomenon through the prism of threats and the state of security, since "the ability to meet social needs" reflects the purpose of activity, and "adaptation to changing conditions of existence" is associated with the factors of the phenomenon of "economic security".

Thus, we propose under "economic security" to understand the state of protection of economic interests of an individual, society and the state from internal and external threats, which contributes to economic development.

The most negative consequences of the impact of corruption on the economy include:

- expansion of the shadow economy. As a consequence, the state loses financial leverage to manage the economy, and social problems become more acute due to the failure to fulfill budgetary obligations;
- market competitiveness is disturbed, as often the winners are not the competitive ones, but those who illegally managed to gain advantages;
- budgetary funds are used inefficiently, particularly in the allocation of government orders and benefits;
- prices rise at the expense of "corruption costs";

- investment climate is deteriorating, resulting in the problems of overcoming the decline in production, renovation of fixed assets;
- corruption in non-governmental organizations (firms, enterprises, public organizations) is increasing. This leads to a decrease in the efficiency of their work, and, accordingly, the efficiency of the economy as a whole is reduced [12, p. 112];
- merging of the criminal with the legal economy through access to political power and the ability to "launder" dirty money;
- delaying the emergence of effective private owners;
- reducing confidence in the state and its ability to regulate economic processes [13, p. 39].

Table 1. Definitions of the concept of "economic security"

Author	Definition
<i>resistance to internal and external threats</i>	
V. Kuzmenko	The state of the economy, ensuring the system's ability to withstand negative influences from the external environment [7]
<i>ability to meet social needs</i>	
V. Heets, A. Arkhypov	The ability of the economy to ensure that public needs are met effectively at the national and international levels [8]
<i>state of security of the economic sphere</i>	
M. Kamlyk	The reliable protection of national interests in the economy from real and potential internal threats, and primarily from direct and indirect economic damage; protection of the economic interests of the state, society and individuals, on the one hand, development and implementation of optimal socially-oriented economic policy, on the other hand [9]
O. Novikova	The state of protection of economic interests of individuals, society, and the state from economic threats and other threats to national security that affect them [10]
I. Chornodid	The state of protection of the most important economic interests of individuals, society and the state, the development of sufficient economic potential, which will contribute to sustainable and effective functioning in the mode of expanded reproduction [11]
<i>adaptation to changing conditions of existence</i>	
V. Amitan	The internal content of the concept of economic security is a model aimed at creating conditions for continuous adaptation of economic activity or economic functioning to changing conditions of achievement of the goal, both within the state and within its regions and economic entities [8]

Source: [5-9]

All these factors become threats to the economic and national security of the country.

However, some researchers believe that corruption has a positive impact on the economy. In particular, corruption can act as a factor of economic growth:

1. It can promote the accumulation of capital in the entrepreneurial sphere at the expense of the public sector, which will facilitate the creation and expansion of businesses while using the accumulated capital within the country.
2. Corruption induces active action: to a certain extent, corruption creates favorable conditions for profitable business, forcing the entrepreneur to look for ways

not only to do business successfully, but also to take into account the risks and ways to avoid them.

3. Corruption eliminates deficiencies of bureaucracy, speeding up decision-making.

4. Corruption can obey the laws of the market. It contributes to the creation of a parallel market, representing the logic of the market and improving the distribution of resources.

The same researchers see corruption as having a favorable impact on the political development of the country. In particular:

1. Corruption may contribute to the development and adoption of managerial decisions. When governance is excessively centralised at the top levels of government and civil servants are insufficiently qualified, managerial decision-making is complicated, and corrupt relations may contribute to meeting the pressing needs of society.

2. Corruption invigorates political life and promotes the formation of political parties.

3. Corruption promotes the more active involvement in political life of citizens, potential voters, who through patronage and favoritism try to get involved in political processes and solve their immediate needs.

4. Corruption unites the nation, where divisions and contradictions over the distribution of public resources reign. Territorial communities become active, uniting in the process of "beating out" budgetary funds.

One of the important directions was and remains the study of corruption threats to the economic security of Ukraine and the development of an effective mechanism for their prevention and elimination of negative consequences.

Corruption is definitely a negative phenomenon that affects different spheres of society: social, moral, psychological and economic. The spread of corruption in Ukraine and in the world defines this problem as a serious threat. A study conducted by experts of the World Economic Forum to identify the risks and threats that may change the world order and cause crises in the next decade has identified corruption as a threat to the geopolitical order [8].

Economic losses from corruption are defined as direct (reduction of revenues to the national budget and their inefficient use) and indirect (reduction in the level of economic efficiency). The indirect economic losses from corruption "are unmeasurable, while the direct ones are quite significant. For example, according to the UN report, the world economy loses \$2.6 trillion annually to corruption. This is more than 5% of global GDP. The annual volume of bribes globally is one trillion dollars" [9].

In building a new prosperous society, we must also overcome all possible corrupt practices that reject us and hinder our development. Recent events have taught us a lot, but before that corruption in the country flourished. Thus, "according to the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) in 2020, Ukraine ranked 117th out of 180 countries, receiving 33 points out of a possible 100. Compared to 2019, this index increased by 3 points, and compared to 2018 - only by 1 point, which does not indicate significant results of the country in overcoming corruption [16].

Corruption in Ukraine has partially decreased over the past 10 years, as the Corruption Perception Index increased by 6 points in 2021 compared to 2012, from 26 to 32 (Fig. 1).

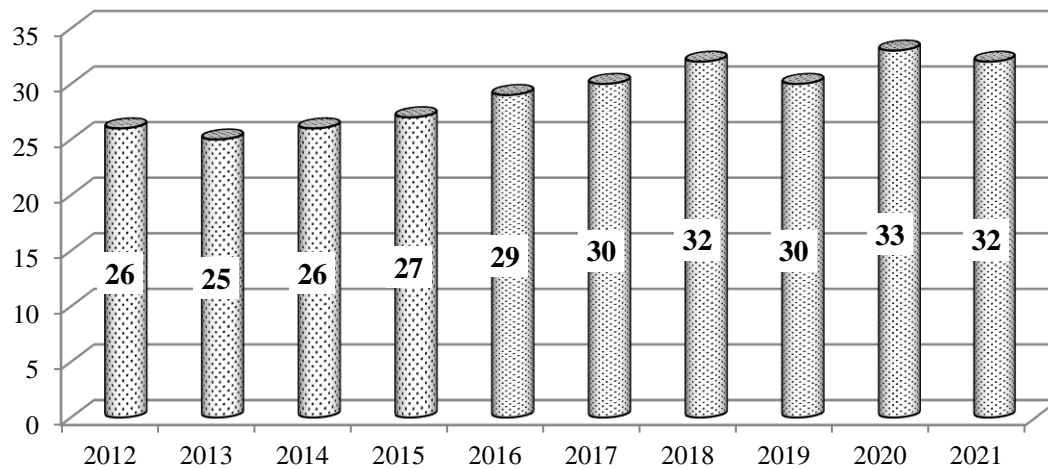


Figure 1. Corruption Perception Index in Ukraine, 2012-2021

Source: [17]

However, this growth is quite insignificant: 0.7 points per year on average. There are also two drops in the Corruption Perception Index: in 2013 and in 2019. 2013 was the last year of President Yanukovich's rule, when there was rampant crime, increased corruption of the authorities, interference in corporate rights of firms, extortion of "tribute" from entrepreneurs, etc., which led to a decrease in the Corruption Perceptions Index. The 2019 slump in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) curve "happened because the index can sometimes be very slow to reflect changes in a country because the CPI takes into account research from the past two years. And we can see that since the beginning of 2017-2018, the fight against corruption in Ukraine has actually "frozen". It is not as active as in 2014, when the package of anti-corruption laws was adopted, as in 2015, when registries were opened and the NACBU was launched, and as in 2016, when e-declaration was launched. And the authorities, unfortunately, did not listen to the advice of civil society and international partners" [18].

In 2021 Ukraine ranked 122nd out of 180 countries of the world with 32 points out of a possible 100 on the Corruption Perception Index. The same score was obtained by Esvatina, with Zambia, Nepal, Egypt, the Flippines and Algeria having one more score. Our closest neighbors have advanced in their development, successfully overcoming corrupt practices. As stated in the report of Transparency International Ukraine: "Considering the 10-year hindsight, this indicator shows "stagnation" in the fight against corruption. And this despite a number of positive changes that have strengthened the anti-corruption ecosystem. The main reason for the sagging score is that many important anti-corruption tasks are on pause or even regressing... The following events influenced the decrease of scores in some surveys: the decision of the Constitutional Court of October 27, 2020, which exempted top officials, officials and judges from liability for false declarations...; changes in

antimonopoly legislation...; increased interference in the work of the Supreme Anti-Corruption Court...; general growth of pressure on anti-corruption ecosystem...; delay in implementation of judicial reform...; delay of the Anti-Corruption Strategy adoption in the second reading..." [19].

Corruption slows down the economic development of the country, creates social tension in society and threats to economic and national security. The results of the survey of foreign investors allowed us to highlight the main obstacles for investing in the economy of Ukraine (Fig. 2).

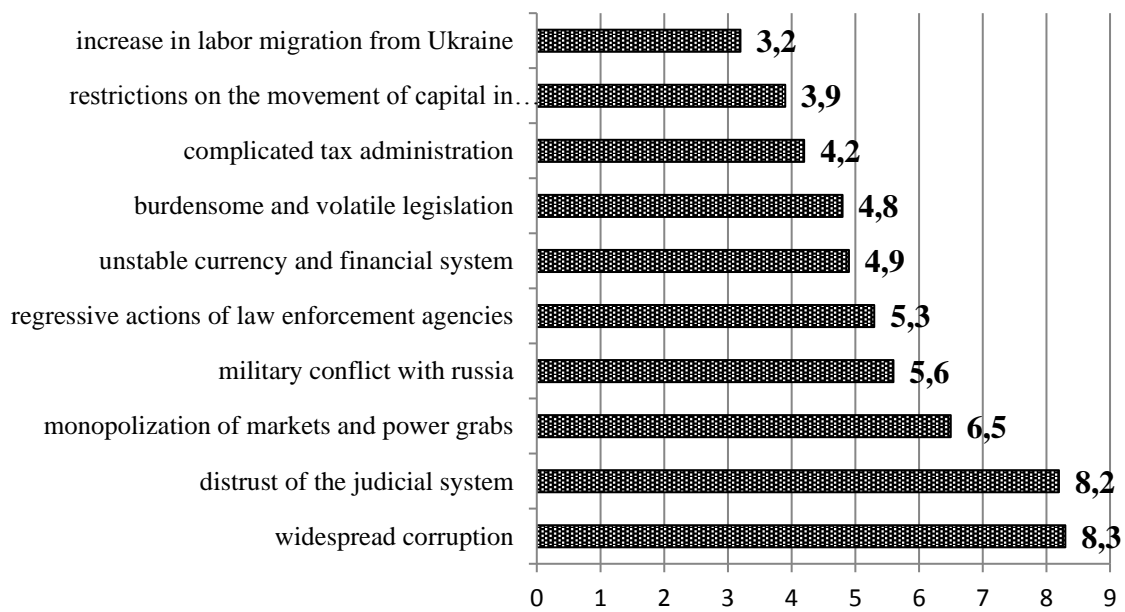


Figure 2. Survey results concerning the reasons for obstacles to foreign investment in Ukraine, 2019

Source: [20]

Foreign investors are most concerned (Fig. 2): high level of corruption (8.3 points); distrust of the judicial system (8.2 points); monopolization of markets and seizure of power by oligarchs (6.5 points); military conflict with Russia (5.6 points); regressive actions of law enforcement (5.3 points); significant fluctuations at the currency market and instability of financial system (4.9 points); imperfect legislation (4.8 points); complexity of tax administration (4.2 points); limitation of capital movement for currency operations (3.9 points) and growth of labor migration from Ukraine (3.2 points).

Business environment considers corruption to be quite a significant obstacle to doing business. According to the results of national sociological survey of population and representatives of business for complex evaluation of corruption situation in Ukraine according to Methodology of standard survey on corruption in Ukraine, approved in 2021 by order of NACP, businessmen "consider political corruption at the highest level as the most serious type of corruption among three suggested" (political, business and everyday), "but assess the situation more positively than population. In particular, 85.8% of business representatives consider political corruption at the highest level to be a serious problem, and less than half of the respondents consider everyday corruption to be a serious problem [21, p. 18] (fig. 3).

On a five-point scale, business representatives consider corruption to be a very serious threat to entrepreneurial activity (4.35 points on average). The most corrupt sphere is considered to be that of granting permits and mining (4.54 points). Next comes customs (4.40 points), privatization of enterprises (4.26 points), forestry (4.25 points), public procurement of works and services for the construction, repair and maintenance of roads of state and local importance (4.24 points), public procurement of works and services for the implementation of other major infrastructure projects (4.18 points), land relations and land management (4.16 points), the judicial system (4.05 points) and others (Figure 4).

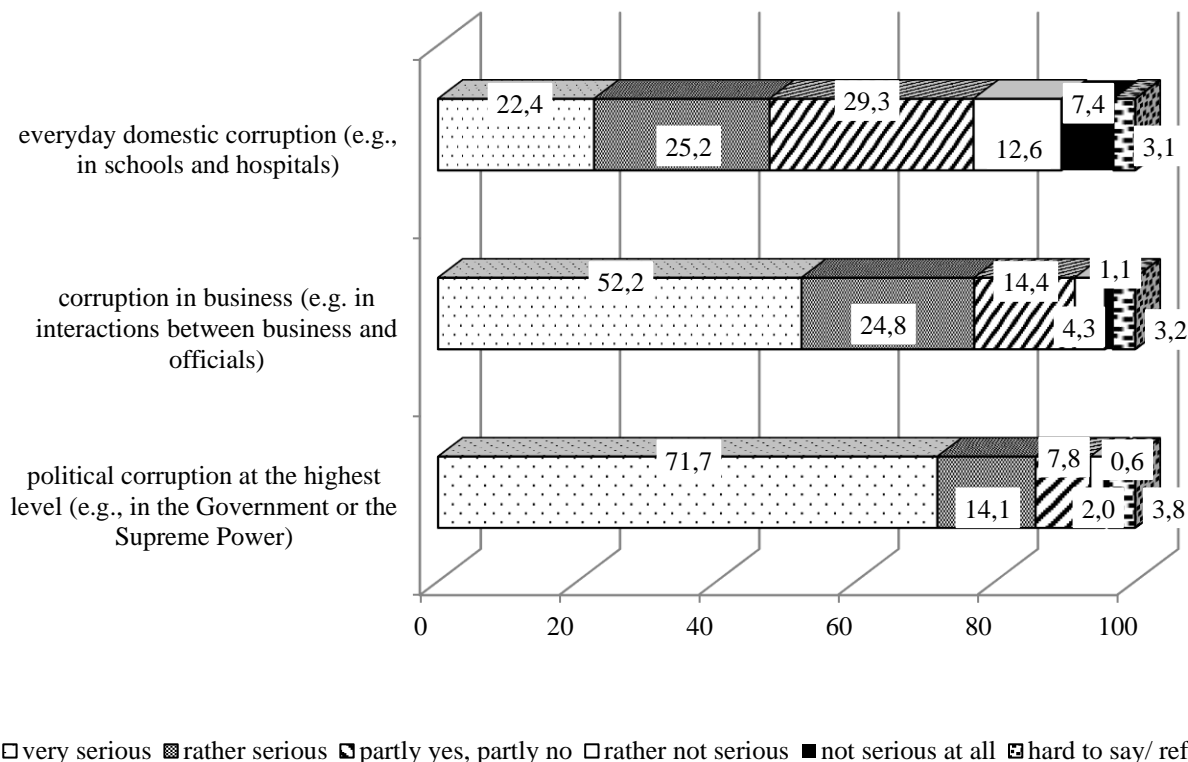


Figure 3. Results of the survey of businessmen regarding the severity of different types of corruption in Ukraine, 2021

Source: [21]

In general, Ukraine is doing a lot to overcome corruption, but its efforts are not achieving the desired success due to the population's "habituation" to corrupt practices. As Ukraine tries to develop in the international market, it is under pressure from its Western partners and international institutions. Thus, the country should intensify the apparatus of anti-corruption structures, increase the scope and quantitative parameters of sanctions, and provide support to domestic producers.

At the same time, the focus of the anti-corruption mechanism should shift from the means to fight corruption to the means to prevent its occurrence. Thus, Hrinenko A. notes that "efforts in this area should go beyond the narrow framework of fighting the direct manifestations of corruption, towards a broader approach in the form of fighting the causes rather than the consequences [22]. First of all, it is necessary to reduce the volume of corrupt manifestations, narrow the scope of their spread, reduce

the level of aggressiveness, isolate corruption from political, legal, economic, social and other processes of public life, increase corruption risks.

The impact of corruption on different spheres of public life and sectors of the economy, enterprises of different types and forms of ownership is manifested in different ways. Large enterprises, in particular, monopolists in the field of energy and metals extraction, with the help of corrupt arrangements try to "promote" the necessary law, gain the support of those in power, get a favorable tender, win in a competitive struggle.

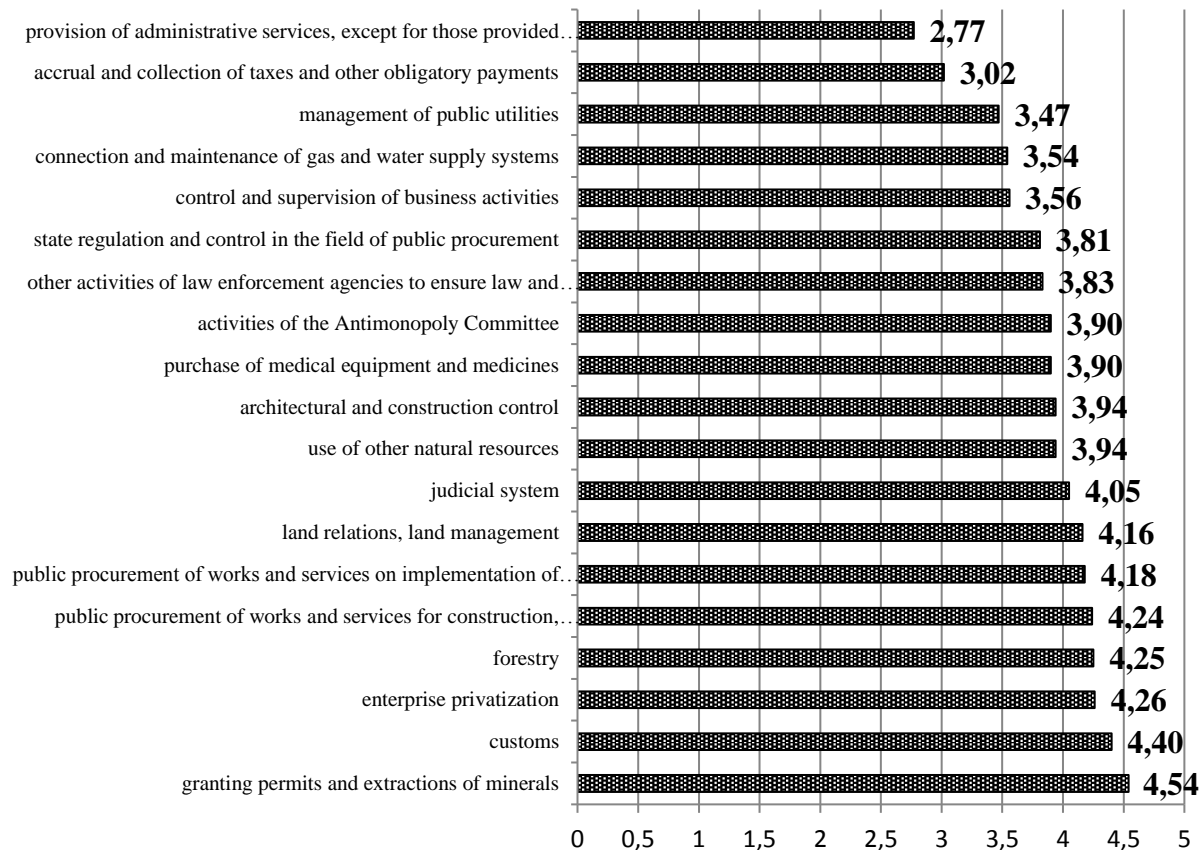


Figure 4. Perception of the prevalence of corruption in individual areas in Ukraine by representatives of business, 2021

Source: [21]

Medium-sized enterprises are smaller in size, but more numerous and concentrated in all sectors of the economy. They try to gain the support of corrupt schemes in order to avoid sanctions and inspections and to preserve their own income.

Small businesses are mainly concentrated in trade and services. It is not profitable for them to enter into corrupt relationships, because the costs may be greater than the benefits received. On the corrupt side they are. Like medium-sized businesses, they enter to avoid inspections and sanctions, looking for every possible way to make a profit and keep the business.

The volume and prevalence of corruption are closely related to large businesses, which benefit the most. For medium and small businesses, bribes are unreasonable expenses; they are funds that could have been invested in the development of the enterprise. Moreover, corrupt officials create additional obstacles for business

development in order to enrich themselves. As a result, there is a reduction in production and profitability of enterprises. The exit of medium and small businesses from the corruption plane will help to increase the number of cases filed in court and the dissolution of corrupt ties at the lowest managerial level.

Each area of the economy, in terms of the size and specificity of companies, is affected by corruption individually. Small and micro-businesses that are not sole IEs, as well as sole IEs that are medium-sized businesses, are slightly weaker than the others, and experience an improvement when the level of corruption drops. It has also become known that such an industry as agriculture - 95-97% in the context of small and medium businesses - feels particularly good and depends almost directly on an honest market. This can be explained by the numerous legislative acts regulating relations in agriculture. Various bills can both help and hinder small and medium - sized businesses in agriculture. This is where the corruption factor comes in. [23, p. 54].

The economic aspect of corruption also consists in the segregation of entrepreneurship by corrupt officials. It is a well-known fact that in order to obtain a permit, license or certain certificate, an entrepreneur, in addition to the mandatory payment, has to separately thank an official for a favorable or accelerated solution of the issue. At the same time, the bribe takes place even if the favorable resolution of the issue belongs to the entrepreneur by law. On the other hand, the economic aspect of this side is closely intertwined with the moral [24, p. 157].

Given the weighty economic basis for the existence of corruption, the economic aspect of its study should be a priority. Because it determines the level of economic freedom in each country.

Methodological foundations of effective anti-corruption policy should be formed as a result of comprehension of its nature, determinants and consequences, on the basis of development of conceptual provisions, tasks and mechanism of formation of institutional support of economy, system of state bodies due to restoration of state monopoly on security production as the most important type of pure public goods. Such a policy is not opposed to measures of non-economic order, but complements them with non-force methods of influence [25, p. 216].

The main emphasis in combating corruption should be focused on the conditions and causes of determination of this phenomenon, which includes the rehabilitation of the human external environment, the characteristics of the person himself and the processes of interaction between the environment and the individual. In this case, the fundamental role should be given to the economic approach [25, p. 215].

The main determinants of corruption include:

- significant scale of the shadow economy;
 - extensive spread of discretionary functions in the civil service;
 - underdeveloped traditions of civil service subject to strict rules and restrictions;
 - underdevelopment of institutions to ensure the attractiveness of public service
- a system of guarantees, benefits, insurance, social security;
- incompleteness of the processes of formation of institutions of control over corrupt practices;

- underdeveloped institutions of civilized interaction between business and government [25, p. 216].

When studying corruption, one should also take into account that "the state is a bureaucratic institution, and bureaucracy is directly related to corruption. Thus, where there is an institution of the state, there are always manifestations of corruption, differing only in scale from country to country [24, p. 156].

In general, from the point of view of the institutional approach, corruption is an agreement between officials, representatives of various kinds of institutions and individuals. It ensures the reduction of transaction costs. Violating all existing restrictions to enrich the client.

The demand for corrupt transactions depends on two factors. The first - institutional factors of corruption - leads to an increase in the level of transaction costs of bureaucratic procedures and customer motivation to enter into a corrupt agreement. The second group - the factors of simplification of the corrupt agreement - leads to a decrease in the level of transaction costs of the corrupt agreement. By increasing the efficiency of existing formal rules, eliminating the institutional factors of bureaucratic corruption can be achieved to reduce its level [24, p. 156].

Institutional factors in the emergence of corruption include inconsistency of formal rules with the moral norms of society, inefficiency of formal rules, and ineffective implementation. The high level of corruption in our state is due to the ineffectiveness of the institutional framework. This is due to the existence of old and new formal rules, which leads to their discrepancy [24, p. 156].

Factors facilitating the conclusion of corrupt agreements include the level of corruption in the country, the presence in society of "corrupt" traditions, the imperfection of the administrative system of the state [24, p. 156].

Conclusions. The connection between corruption and the economy is interdependent: corruption has a negative impact on the development of a country's economy, and economic methods can become one of the most effective in overcoming corruption. This is confirmed by international experience, because economic methods have a fairly powerful potential to prevent threats caused by corruption, as well as to influence the conditions and causes of corruption manifestations.

Given the threats posed by corruption to the development of the economy of the country, it is advisable to focus on enhancing the implementation of the Concept to overcome corruption in Ukraine, to provide favorable conditions for small and medium domestic businesses, to introduce a mandatory declaration of income and justification of their sources, mandatory justification of origin of funds to purchase expensive goods and services, to form an internal resistance to corrupt practices in the population.

Author contributions. The authors contributed equally.

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