

Review Paper

# The Role of Public Administration in Ensuring National Security: Analysis and Approaches to Optimisation

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Received: 13-10-2023

Revised: 21-01-2024

Accepted: 06-02-2024

## ABSTRACT

Among the global trends of modern social transformations, the processes of intensification of the public aspect of governance, including in the field of national security, occupy an important place. The purpose of the study is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the role of the public administration mechanism in ensuring national security and to identify ways of optimizing the situation. The study was conducted using general scientific methods of cognition: logical and structural analysis, induction and deduction, comparison, abstraction, specification, generalization and formalization. The paper examines the aspects of public administration in the direction of national security policy as a basis for the implementation of the public administration function. The main problems, challenges and achievements of the process of transformation of the administrative paradigm in the vector of publicity are considered. The experience of developed countries in public administration of national security processes, its public administration, legal and organizational aspects are studied. The main directions of strategic planning for the development of the system of public management of security processes in the context of globalization are identified. The author analyses the feasibility and prospects of using innovative electronic systems, capabilities of modern tools and technologies to optimize the system of public administration in the field of national security. The results of the study are of practical value for the process of transformation of the modern management system based on publicity and balanced development to optimize the national security sector, as well as for the formation of state sectoral development programmes.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- ① The intensification of globalization and integration processes necessitates dynamic, adaptive changes in national structures and local authorities, positioning the concept of national security as an effective trend in transforming the security management paradigm, requiring continuous updates and adaptation to current global challenges for optimal resource utilization.
- ② Public administration's role in ensuring national security is crucial, requiring a symbiosis of activities between state, local authorities, the private sector, and society. A partnership approach, emphasizing decentralization, adaptability, and digital optimization, is essential for effective security management, with innovative technologies seen as key priorities for future development, though potential risks associated with digitalization must be anticipated and addressed.

**Keywords:** Geopolitics, transformational changes, globalization, administration, optimization, digitalization

**How to cite this article:** Grytsyshen, D., Pushkarenko, A., Korchyńska, O., Yaremko, I. and Kobets, Y. (2024). The Role of Public Administration in Ensuring National Security: Analysis and Approaches to Optimisation. *Econ. Aff.*, 69(Special Issue): 79-86.

**Source of Support:** None; **Conflict of Interest:** None



The intensification of globalization and integration processes is creating new challenges that require dynamic, adaptive changes for both national structures and local authorities. The concept of national security, which incorporates elements of public administration to the maximum extent possible, is currently positioned as an effective trend in the transformation of the security management paradigm. It aims to ensure an appropriate level of national security and provides for the optimization of organizational bases, the introduction of effective means of implementation and control, which in synergy enable the protection of national interests and the optimal use of resources. Considering the current global challenges, it is necessary to constantly update and adapt the national security strategy and a set of measures to ensure it, as well as to create conditions for improving the efficiency of the organizational and legal support of the sector.

The issue of public administration in the context of national security is actively studied by Ukrainian and foreign scientists. Some works of modern scientists are devoted to the study of the peculiarities of the functioning of innovative mechanisms of public administration (Chalapko, 2021; Panchenko, 2020), as well as to the subjectivization of security policy and the processes of its regulation within the paradigm of public administration (Poterayko, 2021). Ukrainian scientists mostly study the concept of public administration in the field of national security policy from the perspective of the complexity of the issue (Popova *et al.* 2021; Parkhomenko-Kutsevil, 2020). Some authors, considering the nature of public administration, divide it into certain functional areas (Kukin, 2020).

Researchers emphasize that the potential of public administration in ensuring national security is fully revealed only through the harmonization of the main socio-economic and political factors (Kostenko, 2020). The most significant works of the recent period are those of (Zagorska-Antonyuk, 2020; Klochko and Semenets-Orlova, 2022), which present the concept of innovative approaches to national security management using technological capabilities and digitalization. A number of scientists have considered certain issues of optimizing the organizational, legal and institutional bases of public administration (Zhang, 2022; Prymush, 2022). A number of scientists of modern domestic

scientific space have made a significant contribution to the general methodology of forming the concept of national security (Podkovenko, 2021; Pavliutin, 2020).

Despite the scientific value of the published works, many issues in the research area remain unresolved. The issues related to the development of an algorithm for the successful implementation of modern public administration capabilities to ensure national security in the context of global challenges and crises of our time, as well as the use of digitalization opportunities, remain insufficiently researched today and require further scientific consideration.

The purpose of the study is to analyse the role of public administration in ensuring national security and the dynamics of the conceptual priorities of the management paradigm in the current crisis conditions.

## Literature Review

The scientific and methodological basis of the issues studied was provided by researchers whose scientific investigation is focused on the implementation of the principles of public administration in the context of national security. In particular, Ukrainian scientists have thoroughly analysed the principles of public administration in the security sphere of state activity (Shopina, 2021), highlighted the conceptual foundations of the national security strategy with the involvement of elements of public management (Pavliutin, 2021), and established the functionality of information tools in the system of public administration of national security (Szczepaniuk *et al.* 2020).

There are numerous publications in scientific journals on this topic. The studies of modern scientists consider the information openness of the public administration system as a basis for ensuring national security (Anwary, 2022), the basic conceptual foundations of an effective public administration system are formed (Bonavolontà and D'Angelo, 2021), the need for active implementation of digitalization in the security sector is updated (Putera *et al.* 2023).

Among the array of results of scientists' searches on the subject of the study, it is necessary to highlight the works that fundamentally substantiate the

principles of effective implementation of public administration in the context of modern challenges to the national security of Ukraine (Gryshova et al., 2021). At the same time, some scholars emphasize the complexity of implementing certain elements of public administration in the realities of modernity in terms of globalization (Klijn and Koppenjan, 2020).

Thus, despite the significance of scientific and practical achievements of scientists on the studied issues, there is a need to develop scientific research in the aspects of the outlined issues to ensure a stable trend of positive dynamics of public administration development in the context of national security.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The theoretical and methodological basis of the study is a general scientific methodology based on an interdisciplinary scientific and systematic approach to the conduct of the study. In the course of the research, a number of general scientific methods of cognition were applied, including methods of abstract and logical and comparative analysis, abstraction, induction and deduction, as well as methods of specification and formalization. The methods of analysis and synthesis are used to identify the factors and stages of development of the object under study, as well as its defining elements. We applied the method of comparison to determine the specifics of public administration in the field of national security in comparison with other fields of application. Induction is used to forecast indicators of future development. The method of scientific abstraction is utilized to formulate theoretical generalizations, clarify the conceptual apparatus, assign basic concepts and categories, and formulate the conclusions of the study. Also, we applied the method of formalization to structure the principles, functions, tasks and priorities of public administration in the field of national security. Additionally, the method of specification was used to position the effectiveness and expediency of strengthening the role of public administration in security policy, to identify optimal solutions and conditions for optimizing the system of public administration in this sector.

## RESULTS

Despite the constant socio-political dynamics, the state and the nation are positioned as the basic

categories of the phenomenon of national security. National security, as a part of the security of the state as the highest institution in the organization of society, is aimed at minimizing and preventing existing and potential threats to the normal development of the state in accordance with the established goals.

Considering the urgency of security and defence transformation, which is a real challenge for Ukraine's development in today's realities, it is critical to adapt the security system to the global trend of implementing public administration technologies.

The modern concept of public administration considers a clear system of coordination of activities of different levels of government as a prerequisite for effective implementation of the management paradigm. This approach is particularly relevant for ensuring national security and requires the formation of a symbiosis of public administration entities. At the same time, the formation of a management system based on the principles of publicity requires considering the existing potential, the top priority of ensuring national security, the adaptability to dynamic realities and the synergy of security and management priorities.

Public administration in the context of the existing challenges to national security in Ukraine requires a symbiosis of the activities of state and local authorities, the private sector and society to identify threats and find prompt ways to overcome them within the powers and functions defined by law. Simultaneously, special attention should be paid to preventive measures to ensure security and prevent threats at the stages of planning, organizing and controlling the implementation of management decisions, using the capabilities of modern information systems and digitalization tools, as well as a rigorous monitoring and control system. It is worth focusing on the partnership approach that the public administration system is based on, in which the state and citizens are equal participants in the relationship. The conceptual foundations of such cooperation are reflected first and foremost in the trends towards decentralization, adaptability and digital optimization of administrative processes (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Principles of Public Administration in the field of National Security

Principle	Characteristics
Democracy	Increasing the role of public decision-making in the national security governance process
Decentralization	Decentralization of governance processes
Strategic direction	Prioritizing strategic national security priorities
Systemic approach	Ensuring a balance between state regulation of the sphere and market mechanisms of financing
Adaptability	Regularly reviewing the goals of the public administration system in accordance with current national security challenges.

*Source: Compiled by the authors.*

In the field of national security management, the introduction of innovative digitalized management technologies is seen as a key priority for future development. Risks of espionage using the latest technological capabilities, such as location tracking and personal data collection programmes, require the development of preventive measures and a system of rapid response to threats and challenges. This applies first and foremost to cybersecurity, which is now seen as one of the prerequisites for national security, given the massive digitization of information collection and processing systems. As cyber-attacks become more frequent and diverse, the public administration system must use the latest technological capabilities to protect critical infrastructure and information from cyber-attacks. The issue of the ethical balance between human rights and national security is becoming increasingly important.

The use of innovative technologies is also appropriate in the process of monitoring security activities. For example, modern satellite systems enable real-time monitoring, which provides the basis for an effective and rapid response to threats to national security.

The process of digital optimization is not just about automating some routine security management processes. It can also help to significantly increase the openness and transparency of government activities. In particular, mobile applications, chats and dedicated platforms provide unfettered public access to information about the activities of government and state institutions, stimulating public scrutiny and identifying pressing issues. Thus, public administration in the context of national security involves the use of digitalization and the latest technologies, which significantly optimizes the system of preventive protection of national security. However, it is necessary to anticipate potential

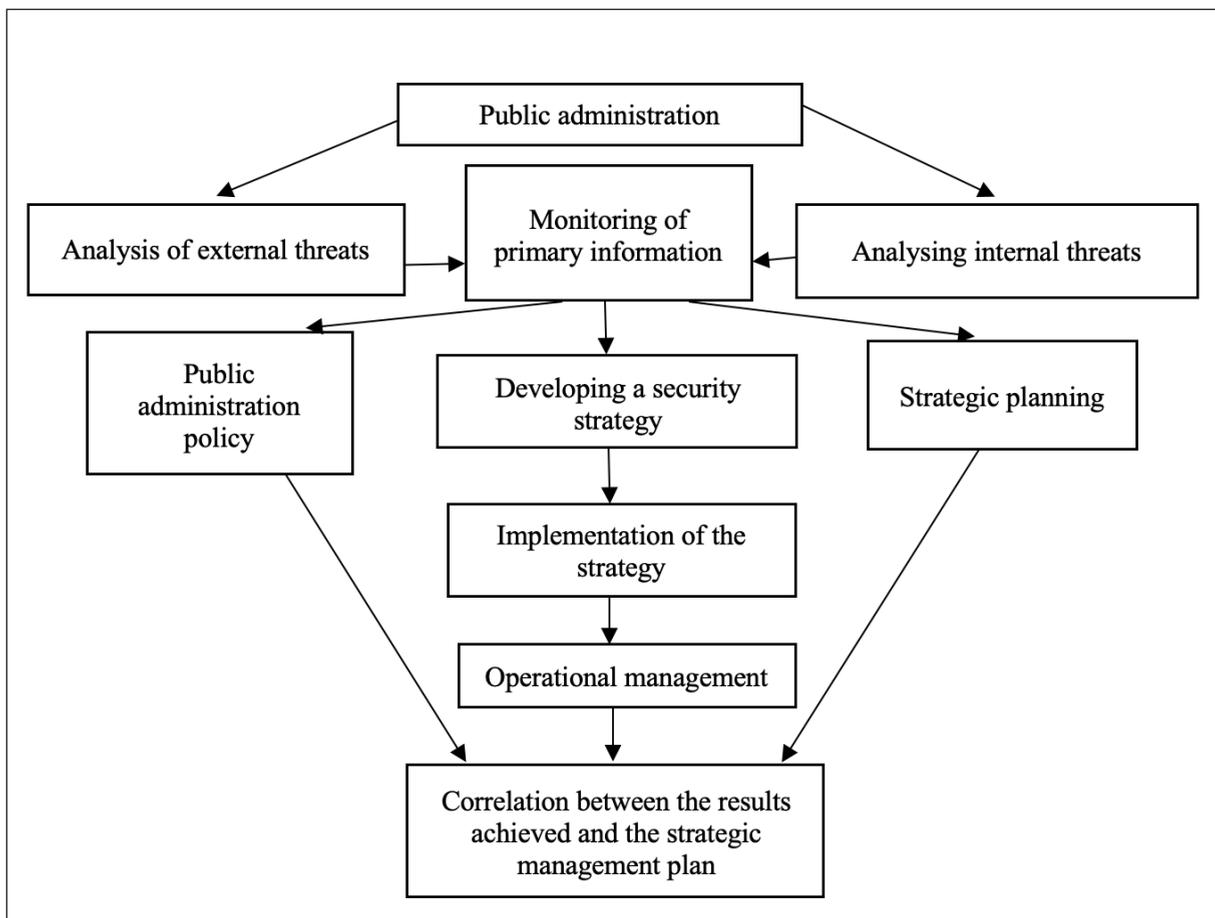
risks associated with digitalization, such as privacy violations and cyberattacks.

The reform of public administration in the context of national security involves the gradual adaptation of current legislation to new forms of interaction between society and the state, the dynamics of the functioning of public authorities and local self-government bodies. In addition, it is necessary to develop effective strategies for the restoration of state sovereignty, the stability of the socio-economic sphere and the representation of a qualitatively new level of Ukraine’s international legal personality. The achievement of these goals requires the development and implementation of state and regional programmes for the development of individual industries, segments and sectors of the national security sector based on publicity and open access to the public. The concept should provide for the availability of tools for active preventive protection and levelling of external threats to national security.

Among the main areas of public administration in the context of national security (Fig. 1), monitoring and prompt neutralization of both external and internal threats and dangers are of particular importance.

Analysing Fig. 1, it should be noted that the process of implementing public administration in the context of ensuring national security includes monitoring as a basis for objective analysis, forecasting and systematic assessment of national security criteria and potential threats. Such monitoring is a prerequisite for the prompt implementation of a set of measures to prevent, identify and neutralize challenges to Ukraine’s national security.

In addition, the role of public administration in the security sector includes a wide range of



Source: Compiled by the authors.

Fig. 1: Algorithm of the Public Administration process in the field of National Security

functions to control the implementation and development of innovative technological solutions in the national security system through their certification and licensing, as well as the formation of state programmes to ensure national security, which should consolidate the synergy of efforts of the state, business and society in this area.

Considering Ukraine's orientation towards the vector of European and Euro-Atlantic integration, it is necessary to implement and develop the principles and standards of public administration for ensuring national security, which are successfully applied in developed countries. To carry out a comprehensive analysis of the possibilities and feasibility of implementing international security standards and requirements, it is advisable to use the methodology of comparative research of management issues of national security, which has the characteristics of universality and complexity, in a preventive manner.

The relevance of a comprehensive assessment of the possibilities of implementation of the successful practical experience of developed countries in the national practice of public administration in the security vector requires the optimization of the above methodology using the basic provisions of institutional theory, which includes the structuring of the social institutions of the external and internal environment of national security and the factors that have a significant impact on the process of formation of the conceptual framework of public administration in the context of national security. At the same time, it seems advisable to preliminarily develop and analyse the geo-economic national model, as well as to form a classification typology of situational variables by the type of managerial culture and the type of national security system. The proposed approach will create an opportunity for preventive prevention of deformations of the public administration process in terms of structure,

strategy, functionality, socio-cultural individual characteristics, in case of practical implementation of foreign experience in the national realities of the national security sphere.

A significant definition of public administration in terms of ensuring national security is its positioning as a category of strategic management paradigm, characterized by a primary focus on the future. At the same time, the studied area of public administration has the characteristics of conceptuality. That is, while solving current problems of the national security sector, the public management system should simultaneously perform the function of improving the security strategy.

It should be noted that the optimization of the public administration system in the context of ensuring national security implies the introduction of a decision-making modelling system, which allows timely prediction of possible negative consequences and risks. The main principles of building a systemic model of public administration in the field of national security should be openness, uncertainty, adaptability, compatibility with regional and global governance systems, as well as the possibility of filtering measures within the developed algorithm of the management process.

Obviously, the growth of the efficiency of public administration in the field of national security requires the basic conditions for the introduction of innovative technologies and management tools, systems of rapid response to threatening destructive factors, and regular evaluation of the effectiveness of the strategic course. At the same time, the stages of formation of the public administration system should reflect the main goal of the process - internal and external integration of agencies, organizations and structures in the security sector.

Thus, the public administration system in national security today is not limited to the function of optimizing the regulatory framework and monitoring. An innovative approach to public security management stimulates the interested cooperation of society and the state, maximizes the opportunities of digitalization and technological solutions, and synergizes efforts to ensure the economic, political and social security of the national space. In the future, the potential of public administration in the overall public administration

paradigm is seen as promising, which will inevitably provoke new challenges and risks, but will significantly intensify the effectiveness of national security policy.

## DISCUSSION

Scientists in current scientific fields argue that one of the most effective means of optimizing the national security system is the active use of public management processes (Putera *et al.* 2023). The works of researchers (Bonavolontà and D'Angelo, 2021) draw attention to the need to develop effective tools for public management processes to maximize the potential of interaction between society and the state in the national security sector. According to some scholars (Szczepaniuk *et al.* 2020), such a concept should level the phenomenon of imbalance in the studied area in the regional and profile context.

Some scientific works consider the possibility of digitalization of a significant part of management processes in the security sector (Klijn *et al.* 2020). According to the researchers (Babuta *et al.* 2020), the main goal of the digital transformation of public administration in the field of national security is the accumulation, protection and optimal use of data sets. The researchers emphasize that insufficient access to modern technologies and unwillingness to implement them in practice are the main factors limiting the potential of digital transformation within the public administration system in the area under study.

Researchers (Mandel and Irwin, 2021) focus on the need to ensure interaction between different levels of government, society and business on the principles of democratic balanced growth. Such an approach will allow forcing a qualitative positive dynamics of the process of transformation of the management paradigm in the field of national security. At the same time, scientists (El-Muhammady, 2021) identify specific prerequisites for the formation of an effective public administration system in the context of national security, among which the basic ones are the availability of an appropriate resource base and the readiness of society for dynamic changes.

According to scientists (Degli Esposti *et al.* 2021), the actualization of the national security issue is positioned in parallel with the trend of increasing dependence of market-based sectoral requirements

on the system of management decisions, and in this context the principle of publicity should be a top priority. In today's unstable environment, public administration has significantly expanded its scope of operation, which demonstrates the effectiveness of implementing innovative technological solutions and digital optimization opportunities in the field under study. Scientists (Zágon and Zsolt, 2021) focus on the vector of public administration optimization in ensuring national security, creating effective mechanisms and taking comprehensive measures to prevent aggression, localize and eliminate the consequences of conflict situations.

In the sphere of information security, researchers (Robinson *et al.* 2021) consider it necessary to take comprehensive measures to protect the national information space, implement Ukraine's integration into the global information space, identify and mitigate the consequences of information space violations and information expansion.

The majority of contemporary scientists consider the formation of active external communication as a priority goal of national security management policy, the basic condition for its achievement is the resolution of existing interstate contradictions, as well as a stable internal environment – the guarantor of national security. At the same time, public administration is positioned as an effective tool for optimizing existing and introducing new approaches to ensuring an adequate level of security.

## CONCLUSION

The study proved that the public administration occupies one of the key positions in the system of implementation of the national security concept. It turns out that the synergy of efforts of society and public authorities, a strong position and stable principles of forming strategic priorities for the transformation of the national security system, considering the global digitalization and the need for proper control, allow to fully and quickly optimize the public administration system in the context of ensuring national security.

The paper examined the main achievements of the process of transformation of the management paradigm in the security policy vector, including the process of digital optimization and the implementation of society in the process of forming

the management paradigm of national security. At the same time, the author identified challenges and risks associated with the process under study, in particular, cybercrime and the lack of adequate regulatory and legal support for practical orientation.

The experience of developed countries in public management of national security processes, its public administration, legal and organizational aspects are studied. The main directions of strategic planning for the development of the system of public management of security processes in the context of globalization are identified. The author analysed the feasibility and prospects of using innovative electronic systems, capabilities of modern tools and technologies to optimize the system of public administration in the field of national security. Based on the conclusions of the work, the author suggested priority areas for further research on the topic.

The results of the study are of practical value for the process of transformation of the modern management system based on publicity and balanced development to optimize the national security sector, as well as for the formation of state sectoral development programmes.

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