

UDC 243.9:343.35](489)

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DENMARK'S EXPERIENCE IN COMBATING CORRUPTION

Corruption as a global phenomenon is widespread in many countries around the world. The influential research organization Global Financial Integrity (GFI) estimates that countries which are still developing lose more than \$ 1 trillion a year due to "illegal financial flows" stemming from crime and corruption [1]. High levels of corruption automatically increase the additional costs of doing business in such countries. Corruption is further closely linked to organized crime.

There is also a number of countries with low levels of corruption. The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) is used to determine the level of corruption, an indicator that the international non-governmental organization Transparency International has calculated since 1995 on the basis of 13 studies by reputable

international institutions and research centers. Each country is rated on a scale from 0 to 100 points (where 0 - the highest level of corruption, 100 – corruption almost absent).

According to the Corruption Perceptions Ranking for 2020, the Kingdom of Denmark is recognized as the best in the world, receiving 88 points out of 100 possible [2]. Anti-corruption methods are practiced in Denmark by many public and private institutions. The main reasons for the low level of corruption in the Kingdom are the cultivation of disapproval of this phenomenon not only among government officials, but among ordinary citizens. Most organizations follow the rules of «absolute intolerance», which entails the inadmissibility of obtaining illegal benefits within their own organization and in the process of interaction with external partners. In addition, criminal liability for corruption in the country grows every year.

Denmark's anti-corruption package includes about twenty pieces of legislation and provides for criminal and administrative liability of individuals and legal entities for intentional use of official position to illegally obtain property and non-property benefits or advantages.

The most effective measure to prevent corruption in Denmark is the Corruption Act which was passed in 2002. According to the law, representatives of the Danish government are obliged to publish information about their property and personal income every year. In addition, in order for officials not to be able to use their official position for personal purposes, they must sell their shares in foreign companies [3].

It should be noted that Danish civil servants have a high level of social protection: they receive free medical services and education, have social guarantees, which significantly reduces the likelihood of corruption. Moreover, the media provide significant support in combating corruption. It is enough to publish an article or a report on a suspicion of a civil servant in corruption, as the investigation of this fact will be immediately started by law enforcement agencies. That is why transparency of public administration is one of the key conditions for reducing corruption risks by officials. Denmark is also one of the most successful countries in Europe where e-government is effective. The public sector provides organized services at the local and regional level. This approach reduces the level of corruption risks and increases public confidence in government officials.

In conclusion, we can say that the experience of the Kingdom of Denmark in combating corruption is the successful formation of «absolute intolerance» of corruption, involving developed civil society in anti-corruption policy and the availability of effective mechanisms to reduce venality in the country.

References

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Received 17.11.2021