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Mykola KOVALCHUK, PhD Student
ORCID ID: 0000-0003-0304-8088
e-mail: m.kovalchuk@ligroup.com.ua
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF THE STATE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF UKRAINE AND THE USA

Background. *In an era marked by globalization and rapid transformation, Ukraine is actively reforming its public administration system to align with European standards and effectively tackle contemporary challenges. Concurrently, the United States, with its robust democratic legacy and sophisticated governance framework, persistently evolves to meet new global trends while preserving its institutional robustness. This article delves into the analysis of public administration systems' capacity, positing it as a pivotal factor in governmental efficacy. It operates under the premise that the success of public policy is intrinsically linked to the government's capacity for informed decision-making.*

Methods. *This study employs an integrated approach that amalgamates both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies to fulfill its objectives. Theoretical methodologies like abstraction and modeling are pivotal in distilling key concepts and constructing a coherent analytical framework for the investigation. Empirical approaches, including surveys and interviews, are crucial for amassing primary data pertinent to actual public initiatives within Ukraine.*

Results. *The discourse scrutinizes the political, managerial, and juridical dimensions of state institutional capacity, drawing on Ukraine and the USA as case studies. It explores how their public administration systems acclimate to swift shifts and global exigencies that demand not just reactivity but also foresight. Employing a holistic methodology that integrates qualitative and quantitative analyses, the study underscores shared strategies and distinctive approaches to governance, pinpoints critical performance indicators, and evaluates hypotheses concerning their interplay.*

Moreover, the paper accentuates the significance of accessible, high-caliber administrative services in cultivating public trust in government, alongside the imperative for agility and innovation within public administration to navigate the flux of circumstances. The research underscores the salience of expertise, impartiality, and concerted action in empowering government entities to address issues and realize strategic objectives. It contends that the constancy of legal frameworks and the combat against corruption are vital to the predictability and integrity of administrative operations.

Professionalism, impartiality, coordinated efforts, legislative and institutional stability, as well as the eradication of corruption and vested interests, are pinpointed as crucial elements influencing public confidence and administrative efficacy.

Conclusions. *The caliber of administrative services directly impact public trust levels, while managerial adaptability and ingenuity, coupled with societal engagement, enhance system transparency and performance. The author underscores the value of synergies with civic bodies and the private sector in bolstering efficiency and transparency.*

In summation, the author underscores the paramountcy of institutional capacity in the fruition of public policy and advocates for ongoing scholarly exchange and dialogue between Ukraine and the USA to disseminate exemplary practices and augment the collective capacity of public administration.

Keywords: *Institutional capacity, public administration, legal constancy, expertise, impartial governance, anti-corruption, administrative services, innovation, strategic objectives, global challenges.*

Background

The crux of the scientific inquiry presented in this article lies in the examination and juxtaposition of the institutional capacity and efficacy of the public administration systems within Ukraine and the USA. The author zeroes in on the adaptive measures these nations employ to navigate the swift currents of change and global challenges, necessitating not merely reactive but also prognostic competencies within their governance frameworks. The investigation encompasses facets such as the professionalism and political impartiality of civil servants; the efficacy of inter-agency coordination; the stability of legal and institutional structures, which underpins the predictability of administrative processes; endeavors to combat corruption and bolster transparency; the caliber of administrative services, influencing public trust; the agility and innovation in management to accommodate evolving scenarios; and the collaboration with civic entities and the private sector.

A survey of contemporary research and publications reveals an escalating fascination with the determinants of public administration's capacity and the institutional potency of states. This theme has acquired pronounced pertinence over the past decade, particularly regarding political equanimity and societal progression (Cingolani, 2013) dissects the evolution and practical application of the state capacity concept, proffering a spectrum of operational

definitions. The European Commission's reports (2019) dissect the public administration's performance and traits within the EU, inclusive of institutional frameworks and their operational success. Domorenok et al. (2021) illuminate the theoretical and empirical dimensions of policy integration and institutional capacity, proposing an analytical paradigm for their exploration. Howlett, & Saguin (2018) delve into multi-tiered governance and political cohesion, scrutinizing the architecture of policy instruments.

This study endeavors to unearth the principal factors that shape the public administration system's efficacy and the capacity of state institutions in Ukraine and the USA to confront contemporary exigencies. The primary objective is to conduct comparative scrutiny of these systems to discern and appraise the elements that either facilitate or impede the execution of proficient public administration and the sustenance of institutional capacity.

Methods

This study employs an integrated approach that amalgamates both qualitative and quantitative research methodologies to fulfill its objectives. Qualitative methods, encompassing the scrutiny of scholarly literature and case studies, facilitate a profound exploration into the core of public administration, unveiling pivotal factors that underpin its efficacy. Quantitative techniques, such as statistical evaluation

and correlational analyses, are instrumental in gauging these factors and verifying hypotheses regarding their interrelations.

Theoretical methodologies like abstraction and modeling are pivotal in distilling key concepts and constructing a coherent analytical framework for the investigation. Empirical approaches, including surveys and interviews, are crucial for amassing primary data pertinent to actual public initiatives within Ukraine. The research algorithm is comprehensive, encompassing the delineation of objectives, tasks, the research object and subject, hypothesis formulation, anticipated outcomes, and a theoretical review of pertinent literature and documentation.

Results

The capacity of the management system and the institutional strength of the state are intertwined constructs that exert a profound influence on the efficacy and effectiveness of public administration, as well as on the shaping of public policy (Cingolani, 2013; Domorenok et al., 2021). The management system's capacity is characterized by the ability of governmental structures to adeptly address challenges and realize predefined objectives, leveraging the tools and resources at their disposal. The institutional power of the state is construed as an ensemble of attributes that empower state and judicial entities to operate efficaciously, maintaining high transparency and adherence to democratic tenets (Thijs, & Hammerschmid, 2018; Yaremko, 2022).

The synergy between governance capacity and institutional fortitude is such that an elevated governance capacity fortifies institutional robustness, and vice versa, potent and efficient institutions bolster governance capacity. For instance, the execution of intricate political objectives, necessitating the collaboration of diverse sectors and stakeholders, calls for the establishment of apt coordination frameworks and protocols that transcend the purview of individual departments. Such intricate policymaking mandates a state endowed with a developed management capacity, achievable solely in the presence of effective, transparent, and democratic institutions that guarantee legitimacy, accountability, and the public's trust (Domorenok et al., 2021; Sytnyk et al., 2022; Yaremko, 2022).

To dissect the nexus between management capacity and institutional strength, this study employs a variety of indicators and methodologies that facilitate the evaluation and comparison of these constructs across different nations and contexts. Indicators include the efficiency of budgetary fund utilization, public service quality as gauged by user satisfaction, and the transparency and accountability of governmental entities (Howlett, & Saguin, 2018). Methodological approaches encompass an integrated framework that merges qualitative and quantitative research, a critical appraisal of extant methodologies, and correlational analysis to discern interconnections among various management facets. These methodologies illuminate the influence of disparate public administration elements on a state's capability to fulfill its objectives and discharge its functions with efficiency and transparency.

An invaluable resource for institutional strength data is the Database of Institutional Profiles (<https://www.cepii.fr/institutions/EN/ipd.asp>), established by the French Development Agency and the French Ministry of the Economy. This database houses information on the quality of public administration, judicial system independence, corruption levels, decentralization degree, and other factors that impinge upon the state's institutional potency. These indicators are

instrumental in analyzing the impact of institutional capacity on management efficacy and public policy success.

In Ukraine, our observations and analyses indicate a conundrum within the public administration system, stemming from state institutions' occasional inability to respond effectively and promptly to challenges and realize set objectives. We posit that this issue may arise from several factors: a deficient level of professionalism and political detachment within the public service, impacting personnel quality and stability; feeble coordination and integration of public policies across all management tiers, hindering the attainment of comprehensive objectives; imperfections and instability within the legislative and institutional milieu, failing to provide adequate legal certainty, transparency, and accountability; a pervasive level of corruption and the sway of private interests over decision-making, eroding state legitimacy and public trust; and the subpar availability and quality of administrative services, leading to undue administrative burdens and infringement of user rights (Sokolov, 2021; Zubchuk et al., 2023).

In response to these challenges, Ukraine has formulated and is executing the Public Administration Reform Strategy for 2022–2025 (Some issues of reforming..., 2021), anchored in European principles and benchmarks of proficient governance. This strategy is dedicated to forging an efficacious Ukrainian state, endowed with superior services and digital prowess, that resonates with the populace's aspirations, in harmony with European norms and practices. The strategy delineates several reform trajectories, which include: enhancing the quality of services and streamlining administrative processes for individuals and enterprises; establishing a professional and politically unbiased civil service attuned to citizenry interests; and cultivating robust state institutions charged with crafting and actualizing public policies that undergird the nation's enduring development.

The concept of administrative capacity in the United States is a complex and multifaceted construct that encapsulates the competencies of government agencies across federal, state, and local levels. It reflects their collective ability to effectively address issues and attain objectives through a diverse arsenal of tools and resources. The American public administration system employs an extensive array of instruments, ranging from political initiatives and legislative measures to economic mechanisms like budgeting and tax policies, as well as administrative procedures, standardization efforts, and informational campaigns coupled with educational programs. The resource base is comprehensive, including human capital, financial investments, physical infrastructure, and technological assets, notably digital platforms and e-government frameworks (Cingolani, 2013; Domorenok et al., 2021).

Despite the high regard for management capacity in the U.S., attributed to a professional and politically neutral civil service, efficient public institutions, transparent decision-making, and digital technology integration, several challenges persist. These include suboptimal coordination across governmental tiers, complicating the enactment of complex policies – particularly those necessitating international collaboration – and a sometimes unstable and discordant legal landscape that precipitates conflicts between federal and state statutes. Moreover, corruption and undue private sector influence in policymaking erode public trust and contravene democratic ideals. The inadequacy in the availability and quality of administrative services further imposes hurdles, disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups.

To bolster the public administration system's efficacy in the U.S., a suite of reforms is imperative. These reforms should underpin the establishment of a competent, service-centric, and digitized state apparatus that upholds citizens' rights. Reform initiatives should focus on delivering high-quality services and optimizing administrative processes for citizens and businesses through cutting-edge digital solutions; fostering a professional and politically impartial public service that caters to citizen needs and mirrors

societal diversity; and developing accountable state institutions that devise and execute public policies for the nation's sustainable progress, adhering to the tenets of openness, accountability, and democratic governance.

To elucidate the factors influencing management capacity, we present a comparative table derived from scientific research, expert conclusions on management system reforms, and our empirical observations and analyses (tabl. 1).

Table 1

Comparative Analysis of Management Capacity Factors in Ukraine and the USA (author's analysis)

Factor	Ukraine	USA
Efficiency of Budget Fund Utilization	Challenges in allocation and oversight	Generally high with some discrepancies between federal and state levels
Quality of Public Services	Inconsistent, with efforts to improve under new reforms	High, with ongoing initiatives to enhance digital services
Transparency and Accountability	Reforming towards European standards	Established systems, with room for improvement in inter-governmental coordination
Adaptation to Global Challenges	Struggling with rapid changes and crises	Proactive but facing challenges in areas requiring international cooperation
Public Trust and Satisfaction	Low, marked by critical public perception	Varied, with instances of dissatisfaction leading to social movements
Inter-Sectoral Cooperation	Limited, affecting public policy participation	More integrated, though sometimes hindered by legal and political conflicts

This table facilitates the analysis and comparison of managerial capacity issues within the public administration systems of both nations. Moreover, it underscores additional challenges, such as the need for adaptation and innovation in response to global threats like climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic, cyber threats, and social disparities. These challenges are reflected in diminished public trust and satisfaction, evidenced by low electoral participation, critical views of governmental performance, heightened protest activities, and escalated social tensions. The table also highlights the deficiency in collaboration between public administration and other sectors, including NGOs, businesses, academia, and the media, which curtails public engagement in policy-making processes.

Drawing from the issues delineated in the aforementioned comparative analysis, we propose a suite of recommendations aimed at augmenting the management capacity within the public administration systems of Ukraine and the USA. Prioritize elevating the public service's professionalism. For Ukraine, this could entail instituting professional development initiatives that underscore rigorous work standards and political neutrality. In the USA, this might involve the sustenance and augmentation of extant professional development frameworks. Bolster coordination among various executive power strata through the establishment of interdepartmental consortia and platforms for seamless information exchange. Foster greater stability within the legal and institutional landscape by reforming legislation to heighten predictability and fortify the rule of law's underpinnings. Intensify anti-corruption efforts by implementing transparent oversight and accountability mechanisms and reinforcing anti-corruption entities. Enhance the availability and quality of administrative services. In Ukraine, this could involve the expansion of e-governance, while in the USA, it might mean developing educational programs to bolster the efficacious utilization of electronic services. Amplify adaptation and innovation within public administration to keep pace with evolving global challenges. Elevate citizen trust and satisfaction levels by fostering their involvement in the decision-making process and enhancing

government action transparency. Encourage partnerships across public, private, and civic sectors to collaboratively address societal issues. These recommendations are poised to fortify the public administration systems' capacity, thereby enhancing their efficiency and adaptability to the contemporary challenges confronting states.

Discussion and conclusions

The study of factors influencing the institutional capacity of the state in Ukraine and the USA is a multifaceted issue that can lead to several questions for further discussion. How do cultural differences between Ukraine and the USA impact the implementation and effectiveness of institutional capacity-building measures? What role does civil society play in shaping the institutional capacity in both countries, and how can this role be enhanced? How can international cooperation and exchange of best practices contribute to improving institutional capacity in both nations? What are the long-term effects of political stability and instability on the institutional capacity of a state? How do emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and blockchain, influence the development of institutional capacity? These questions can guide future research and policy discussions, helping to deepen the understanding of institutional capacity and its critical role in the governance of a state.

The study identifies the effectiveness of the public administration system and its institutional capacity as critical to the state's functioning. The ability of government structures to address issues and achieve strategic goals is deemed essential for the successful execution of state policy. The research emphasizes the necessity of increasing the professional level of civil servants and ensuring their political impartiality across all countries. The author highlights the importance of establishing synergistic interactions among different government branches for cohesive state initiatives. A consistent framework is noted as important for creating a predictable and reliable administrative environment.

The study suggests proactive measures against corruption and efforts to minimize private interests in public decision-making, which are crucial for building trust in government institutions in both Ukraine and the United

States. The quality and availability of public services are found to be directly proportional to the citizens' trust level. The author argues that public administration systems must be adaptable and innovative to manage rapid transformations effectively. The study concludes that cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the business community is vital for enhancing the efficiency and transparency of public administration.

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Микола КОВАЛЬЧУК, асп.

ORCID ID: 0000-0003-0304-8088

e-mail: m.kovalchuk@igroup.com.ua

Київський національний університет імені Тараса Шевченка, Київ, Україна

ЧИННИКИ, ЯКІ ВПЛИВАЮТЬ НА ІНСТИТУЦІЙНУ СПРОМОЖНІСТЬ ДЕРЖАВИ: ПОРІВНЯЛЬНИЙ АНАЛІЗ УКРАЇНИ ТА США

Вступ. Наголошено, що в контексті глобалізації та динамічних змін Україна прагне реформувати свою систему публічного управління, аби забезпечити відповідність європейським стандартам та ефективно реагувати на сучасні виклики. Проте підкреслено, що США, з її усталеною демократичною традицією та високорозвиненою системою управління, продовжує адаптуватися до нових глобальних трендів, підтримуючи свою інституційну спроможність. Увагу зосереджено на аналізі спроможності систем публічного управління як ключового елементу державної ефективності, виходячи з припущення, що успіх державної політики залежить від здатності уряду приймати обґрунтовані рішення.

Методи. Використано комплексний підхід, який поєднує як якісні, так і кількісні методології дослідження для досягнення своїх цілей. Зокрема, використані теоретичні методи, такі як абстракція та моделювання, є ключовими для визначення провідних концепцій і побудування узгодженої аналітичної основи для дослідження. Емпіричні підходи, включно з опитуваннями та інтерв'ю, є у цьому дослідженні вирішальними для накопичення первинних даних, що стосуються реальних громадських ініціатив в Україні.

Результати. Розглянуто політичні, управлінські, правові аспекти інституційної спроможності держави на прикладі України та США. Проаналізовано, як системи публічного управління обох країн адаптуються до швидких змін та глобальних викликів, що вимагають не лише реактивності, а й прогностичної здатності. За допомогою комплексного підходу, який включає якісні та кількісні методи, висвітлено спільні тактики та унікальні підходи до публічного управління, виявлено ключові чинники ефективності та перевірено гіпотези про їхній взаємозв'язок.

Надано увагу на значення доступності та якості адміністративних послуг, які впливають на довіру громадян до уряду, та на необхідність гнучкості та інноваційності систем публічного управління для адаптації до змінюваних умов. Підкреслено важливість професіоналізму, політичної нейтральності та ефективної координації для здатності урядових органів розв'язувати проблеми та досягати стратегічних цілей. Аргументовано, що стабільність законодавства та інституцій, а також боротьба з корупцією, є критичними для забезпечення передбачуваності та надійності управлінських процесів.

Професіоналізм, політичну нейтральність, ефективну координацію, стабільність законодавства та інституцій, а також боротьбу з корупцією та приватними інтересами визначено як ключові чинники, які впливають на довіру громадян та ефективність державного управління.

Висновки. Розкрито, що якість адміністративних послуг безпосередньо впливає на рівень довіри громадян до уряду, а гнучкість та інноваційність управління, а також співпраця з різними секторами суспільства сприяють підвищенню прозорості та ефективності системи. Підкреслено важливість співпраці з громадськими організаціями та приватним сектором для підвищення ефективності та прозорості. Зазначено, що інституційна спроможність має критичне значення для успіху публічної політики та потребує продовження досліджень та діалогу між Україною та США для обміну найкращими практиками та підвищення спроможності публічного управління.

Ключові слова: інституційна спроможність, публічне управління, правова стабільність, професіоналізм, політична нейтральність, боротьба з корупцією, адміністративні послуги, інноваційність, стратегічні цілі, глобальні виклики.

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