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**ANALYSIS OF THE FUNCTIONING OF CORRUPT  
NETWORKS IN STATE GOVERNANCE: CONTEMPORARY  
POLITICAL AND LEGAL METHODS OF COMBATING  
CORRUPTION**

**ABSTRACT**

The aim of this study was to analyse the functioning of corrupt networks in the sphere of state governance in Kyrgyzstan and to assess contemporary methods of combating corruption applied both domestically and at the international level. The research involved a review of legislation, including the Criminal Code, the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 153 “On Combating Corruption”, the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 125 “On State Civil Service and Municipal Service”, the State Strategy for Combating Corruption and Eliminating its Causes in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2024, and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The findings revealed that corruption in Kyrgyzstan affects both local and central government bodies, manifesting in the forms of bribery and the misappropriation of public funds. An analysis of the effectiveness of anti-corruption measures established that, despite existing legislative initiatives such as the adoption of anti-corruption laws and the Strategy, the implementation of these measures faces challenges due to political

influence and weak enforcement practices. Furthermore, the study identified that the introduction of information technologies, such as e-government and the digitalisation of public services, significantly reduces the level of corruption, particularly in the area of public procurement. The research concluded that corruption in the sphere of state governance in the Kyrgyz Republic remains a serious issue, especially in sectors such as public procurement, taxation, the judiciary, and the regulatory and licensing system. The Corruption Perceptions Index for 2023 ranked Kyrgyzstan 141st out of 185 countries, while its ranking in the Rule of Law Index was 103rd out of 142 countries, indicating a low level of trust in the judicial system and weak protection of citizens' rights. The study highlights the need to strengthen the independence of anti-corruption bodies and enhance international cooperation to facilitate the exchange of experience and technology in the fight against corruption.

KEYWORDS: corruption – undue advantage – public trust – budgetary funds – e-government – legal awareness – state governance – political and legal aspects.

INDEX: 1. Introduction. - 2. Material and Methods. - 3. Results. - 4. Discussion. - 5. Conclusions.

## **1. Introduction**

Corruption remains one of the most pressing challenges in modern state governance, particularly in transition economies such as Kyrgyzstan. The research problem lies in identifying and comprehending the key factors that contribute to the persistence of corrupt networks within the state administration system. The effective fight against corruption is hindered by several factors, including institutional weakness, insufficient transparency in government operations, the influence of various political and economic elites, and weak civil oversight. It is important to note that contemporary anti-corruption methods extend beyond stricter criminal prosecution and legal sanctions. They also include comprehensive preventive measures aimed at mitigating corruption risks. These measures encompass civil service reform, the establishment of public oversight mechanisms, the use of digital technologies to enhance transparency in state processes, and the implementation of anti-corruption educational programmes. Kyrgyzstan faces the need to adopt more structured and long-term solutions based on international standards and successful practices from other countries, necessitating a deeper analysis of both internal dynamics and external factors.

A number of studies have already examined this issue. D.S. Sarieva (2023)<sup>1</sup> explored the impact of corruption on Kyrgyzstan's state governance system and its negative consequences for the national economy. The author concluded that corruption undermines economic, political, and social reforms, reduces the efficiency of government institutions, decreases tax revenues, leads to budget instability, and results in the inefficient allocation of public funds. Similarly, K. Hoss and L. Hoss (2022)<sup>2</sup> examined corruption in political systems, particularly in the context of the American republic and its founders. Their study analysed debates from the Constitutional Convention and essays from the Federalist Papers, exploring the interplay between constitutional, institutional, and moral dimensions of corruption.

B.D. Kakeshov (2011)<sup>3</sup>, conducted extensive research on judicial corruption in his doctoral dissertation. He emphasised the profoundly negative impact of corruption within the judiciary on the state governance system in Kyrgyzstan. The author highlighted that corruption in key government institutions, including parliament, is particularly damaging to society. He noted that corrupt candidates in the Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament of Kyrgyzstan) played a role in provoking mass civil unrest, ultimately contributing to the collapse of political regimes in 2005 and 2010. B.D. Kakeshov defined political corruption as a deliberate and unlawful activity involving individuals engaged in political or governmental functions who, in collusion with other officials or political actors, seek to obtain illicit benefits and advantages. These actions, which may include bribery, abuse of power, commercial bribery, and voter manipulation, pose a serious threat to society and the state. The primary conclusion drawn was that effective institutional design, particularly in the legislative branch and its interaction with other branches of power, is key to preventing political corruption.

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1 Sarieva, D.S. 2023. Problems of corruption in public administration. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic*, 5, 106-110. <https://ilim.naskr.kg/index.php/main/article/view/476>

2 Hoss, K., Hoss, L. 2022. Corruption and congressional design: The federalist's dual fear of the abuse of power and abuse of liberty. In: M.J. Pomante (Ed.), *Scandal and Corruption in Congress* (pp. 13-29). Leeds: Emerald Publishing Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1108/978-1-80117-119-920221001>

3 Kakeshov, B.D. 2011. Criminal-legal and criminological measures to prevent corruption in the judicial system. [https://viewer.rusneb.ru/ru/000199\\_000009\\_004851402?page=1&rotate=0&theme=white](https://viewer.rusneb.ru/ru/000199_000009_004851402?page=1&rotate=0&theme=white)

The Corruption Perceptions Index (Transparency International) regularly publishes reports on global corruption levels. Kyrgyzstan consistently ranks low, indicating the widespread nature of the issue. While numerous governmental reports assess the implementation of anti-corruption strategies, their effectiveness remains limited. K.Ch. Sultanbekov and Ch.T. Aalieva (2022)<sup>4</sup> examined the concept of corruption based on international legal documents and Kyrgyz legislation, categorising corruption as a socio-political phenomenon. Using Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) data from 2012-2021, the authors concluded that a comprehensive legal framework and strong political will from national leadership are essential for combating corruption effectively. This issue has also been investigated by B. Cuadrado-Ballesteros et al. (2020)<sup>5</sup>, who argued that accounting reforms and transparent financial systems play a crucial role in fighting corruption by enhancing government accountability and efficiency. Their research demonstrated that corruption decreases when governments adopt International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and implement accrual-based accounting systems.

Several scholars, including C. Castro and I.C. Lopes (2022)<sup>6</sup>, E.R. Sadik-Zada et al. (2022)<sup>7</sup>, and J. Arayankalam et al. (2021)<sup>8</sup>, emphasise that digitalisation and e-governance are closely linked to anti-corruption efforts. Digital processes increase transparency, reduce human intervention, and minimise opportunities for corrupt practices. Castro and Lopes (2022) analysed data from 175

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4 SULTANBEKOV, K.Ch., AALIEVA, Ch.T. 2022. Corruption as a socio-political phenomenon. *Science, New Technologies and Innovations in Kyrgyzstan*, 6, 267-270. [http://science-journal.kg/media/Papers/nntiik/2022/6/%D0%9D%D0%9D%D0%A2\\_6-2022\\_PDF\\_267-270.pdf](http://science-journal.kg/media/Papers/nntiik/2022/6/%D0%9D%D0%9D%D0%A2_6-2022_PDF_267-270.pdf)

5 CUADRADO-BALLESTEROS, B., CITRO, F., BISOGNO, M. 2020. The role of public-sector accounting in controlling corruption: An assessment of organisation for economic co-operation and development countries. *International Review of Administrative Sciences*, 86(4), 729-748. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0020852318819756>

6 CASTRO, C., LOPES, I.C. 2022. E-Government as a tool in controlling corruption. *International Journal of Public Administration*, 46(16), 1137-1150. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01900692.2022.2076695>

7 SADIK-ZADA, E.R., GATTO, A., NIFTIYEV, I. 2022. E-government and petty corruption in public sector service delivery. *Technology Analysis & Strategic Management*, 36(12), 3987-4003. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09537325.2022.2067037>

8 ARAYANKALAM, J., KHAN, A., KRISHNAN, S. 2021. How to deal with corruption? Examining the roles of E-government maturity, government administrative effectiveness, and virtual social networks diffusion. *International Journal of Informati Management*, 58, 102203. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijinfomgt.2020.102203>

countries between 2003 and 2019, finding that e-government, alongside political stability, accountability, economic development, and internet access, significantly reduces corruption. Their research indicated that a country must exceed an e-government development index threshold of 0.39 to achieve significant anti-corruption effects. Similarly, E.R. Sadik-Zada et al. examined the relationship between e-government development and corruption in the public sector in developing and transition economies. Their findings confirmed that digital governance reduces petty corruption in public service delivery. Additional factors, such as per capita income, political rights, civil liberties, and natural resource dependency, also influence corruption levels.

J. Arayankalam et al. (2021) explored the correlation between e-government maturity, administrative efficiency, and corruption across legislative, executive, and judicial branches. Their study also examined the impact of virtual social networks on governance transparency. Their findings suggested that a well-developed e-government infrastructure and the widespread use of digital platforms contribute to improved administrative efficiency and a decline in corruption. Despite these studies, significant gaps remain in the analysis of specific corrupt networks and effective countermeasures. In particular, insufficient attention has been given to international cooperation mechanisms and their impact on reducing corruption in Kyrgyzstan's state governance.

The present study aims to analyse the functioning of corrupt networks within state governance in Kyrgyzstan and evaluate the effectiveness of modern anti-corruption strategies, including the use of digital technologies and international best practices. The primary objectives of the research are to identify key corruption practices in Kyrgyzstan, assess the outcomes of implemented anti-corruption measures, and develop recommendations for improving anti-corruption policies.

## **2. Materials and Methods**

This study utilised a comprehensive set of materials covering both national and international regulatory frameworks on combating corruption, which enabled an in-depth analysis of the nature and operational features of the anti-corruption system in the Kyrgyz Republic. First and foremost, the Constitution of

the Kyrgyz Republic (2021)<sup>9</sup> was examined as the primary source of legal regulation. Through its analysis, the fundamental principles and key aspects of state governance and anti-corruption measures were identified. Special attention was given to articles governing the rights and duties of civil servants, as well as provisions concerning their accountability to the state and society.

The Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 153 “On Combating Corruption” (2012)<sup>10</sup> was analysed to explore its essence and establish the fundamental legal framework for preventing and fighting corruption at the state level, including the definition of “corruption”. This law helped identify mechanisms for preventing corruption among officials and provided insights into the legal tools available for detecting, investigating, and prosecuting corruption-related offences. Additionally, the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 125 “On State Civil Service and Municipal Service” (2021)<sup>11</sup> was studied, allowing for an exploration of the regulatory specifics of civil service activities, mechanisms for enhancing transparency and integrity within the public sector, and the income declaration system for officials.

Particular attention was given to the State Strategy on Combating Corruption and Elimination of its Causes in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2024 (2020)<sup>12</sup>, which enabled an evaluation of the practical steps undertaken by the government to fight corruption. Specific measures aimed at increasing transparency, accountability, and efficiency in governance, as well as improving anti-corruption mechanisms, were analysed. However, no corresponding anti-corruption action plan was developed for the 2020 Strategy. In response, Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 137 “On the State Strategy to Combat Corruption in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2025-2030” (2024)<sup>13</sup> was issued. This decree aimed to strengthen anti-corruption efforts by implementing effective pre-

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<sup>9</sup> Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic. 2021. <https://shailoo.gov.kg/ru/ZakonodatelstvoMyyzambar/Konstituciya-Konstituciya/Konstituciya-24/>

<sup>10</sup> Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 153 “On Combating Corruption”. 2012. [https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc\\_id=31238115](https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=31238115)

<sup>11</sup> Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 125 “On State Civil Service and Municipal Service”. 2021. <https://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/112303/edition/15979/ru>

<sup>12</sup> State Strategy on Combating Corruption and Elimination of its Causes in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2024. 2020. <https://digital.gov.kg/anti-corruption/gosudarstvennaya-strategiya-po-protivodejstviyu-korruptcii-i-likvidaczii-ee-prichin-v-kyrgyzskoj-respublike-na-2021-2024-gody/>

vention mechanisms in government and local self-government bodies, improving anti-corruption legislation, and systematically executing a set of measures to achieve lasting reductions in corruption. Consequently, the Action Plan for Implementing the State Strategy on Combating Corruption in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2025-2030 (Phase I: 2025-2027) was developed. Furthermore, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003) (UNCAC) was analysed, providing insights into international standards for combating corruption and their integration into the national legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Convention is the principal international document outlining global principles for effective anti-corruption efforts and promoting international cooperation in this field.

As part of this study, the Corruption Perceptions Index (Transparency International, 2024)<sup>14</sup> was examined, shedding light on its significance as a key international indicator reflecting the level of corruption in the public sector. Published by Transparency International, this index assesses public perception of corruption across different countries, including Kyrgyzstan. The index helps determine the severity of corruption issues and compare the situation across various nations.

Additionally, the Rule of Law Index was studied to highlight its relevance as an indicator assessing the degree of adherence to laws and citizens' rights. This index includes components such as the absence of corruption, the efficiency of government institutions, and access to justice (In the Rule..., 2024)<sup>15</sup>. Analysing this index provided a deeper understanding of the challenges facing Kyrgyzstan's legal system and the level of public trust in the judiciary. The use of these indices allowed for a quantitative assessment of corruption trends and the rule of law in the country, forming the basis for further analysis of the effectiveness of anti-cor-

13 Decree of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic of No. 137 "On the State Strategy to Combat Corruption in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2025-2030". 2024. <https://gosalko.gov.kg/documents/%D0%A3%D0%BA%D0%B0%D0%B7%20%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%B7%D0%B8%D0%B4%D0%B5%D0%BD%D1%82%D0%B0%20%D0%9A%D0%A0%20%D0%BE%D1%82%205%20%D0%B8%D1%8E%D0%BD%D1%8F%202024%20%D0%B3%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B0%20%D0%A3%D0%9F%20%E2%84%96%20137.pdf>

14 Transparency International: Corruption Perceptions Index. 2024. <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023/index/kgz>

15 In the Rule of Law Index, the Kyrgyz Republic ranks 103rd out of 142. 2024. <https://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/documents/Kyrgyz%20Republic%20-%20Russian.pdf>

ruption measures. This study also examined a World Bank Group report (Busuyok et al., 2022)<sup>16</sup>, which provided valuable data on corruption-related challenges in the Kyrgyz Republic and the effectiveness of anti-corruption initiatives on a global scale, offering a deeper insight into the international context of the issue. Additionally, a report by the Central Asian Institute for the Study of Corruption and Money Laundering (2022) was reviewed, enabling an analysis of regional aspects of corruption schemes and approaches to combating them (Civil Society Report..., 2022)<sup>17</sup>. Furthermore, data from the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic were utilised to track the dynamics of corruption-related offences.

### **3. Results**

Corruption in public administration remains one of the most complex and destructive issues, particularly in transition economies. This phenomenon negatively impacts numerous aspects of state and societal life, exerting systemic influence on political, economic, and social processes. Corruption undermines public trust in state institutions and the government. When public officials engage in corrupt practices, it creates the perception that government institutions serve private enrichment rather than the interests of society (Schembera et al., 2022). Low trust in the state hampers effective interaction between citizens and authorities, weakening governmental legitimacy and obstructing necessary reforms. Additionally, corruption exacerbates social inequality. In societies where corruption is widespread, access to public services and justice often depends on personal connections or financial resources. As a result, individuals without access to corrupt networks or sufficient financial means find themselves disadvantaged (Al-Hiari, 2022). This deepens social stratification, creating a cycle of poverty and injustice.

Another critical aspect is the hindrance of economic development. Corrupt practices increase business costs, create an unfavourable environment

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16 BUSUYOK, A., MANUILOVA, N., JAMALOV, T. 2022. Corporate financial reporting in the Kyrgyz Republic: Achievements supported by KAREP. <https://cfr.worldbank.org/node/4661>

17 Civil Society Report on the Implementation of Chapter II (Preventive Measures) and Chapter V (Asset Recovery) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in the Kyrgyz Republic. 2022. [https://uncaccoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/UNCAC-Full\\_Report\\_RUS.pdf](https://uncaccoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/UNCAC-Full_Report_RUS.pdf)

for both foreign and domestic investment, and lead to inefficient use of public resources. Investors tend to avoid countries with high corruption levels due to an unpredictable business climate and the risk of capital loss (Moltz et al., 2023). This slows economic growth, reduces national competitiveness, and impedes innovation and technological progress. Thus, corruption in public administration is a multi-level issue requiring a comprehensive approach for resolution. Combating corruption demands not only stricter oversight and accountability for civil servants but also institutional strengthening, enhanced transparency, and increased civil society participation in monitoring and control processes<sup>18</sup>. Kyrgyzstan, with its developed public administration system, faces serious challenges in combating corruption despite various reforms and efforts aimed at its reduction.

Corruption in Kyrgyzstan remains a systemic issue affecting all levels of governance. According to Transparency International (2024)<sup>19</sup>, Kyrgyzstan ranked 141st out of 180 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) for 2023, scoring 26 out of 100 points, indicating a high level of corruption. This ranking has remained largely unchanged over recent years, despite government efforts to combat corruption: in 2020, the score was 31 points, and in 2018, it was 29 points (Figure 1). These figures demonstrate the persistent nature of corruption and the weaknesses of existing anti-corruption mechanisms.



Figure 1. Corruption perception level in Kyrgyzstan 2012-2023

18 NECHYPORENKO, V.V., BOCHELIUK, V.I., POZDNIAKOVA-KYRBIATIEVA, E.G., POZDNIAKOVA, O.L., PANOV, N.S. 2019. Value foundation of the behavior of managers of different administrative levels: Comparative analysis. *Espacios*, 40(34).

19 Transparency International: Corruption Perceptions Index. 2024. <https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2023/index/kgz>

Source: created by the authors based on Transparency International: Corruption Perceptions Index (2024).

Denmark ranks first in the Corruption Perceptions Index, with one of the lowest levels of corruption in the world, scoring 90 out of 100 points (Transparency International..., 2024). This indicates a high level of transparency in public administration, effective anti-corruption measures, and an independent judiciary. In particular, Denmark has consistently maintained its leading position for many years, which is attributed to strong judicial institutions and transparent policies. At the bottom of the ranking is Somalia, with a score of 11 out of 100, facing one of the most severe corruption challenges in the world. The country exhibits the poorest performance in public administration, the rule of law, and corruption control. The weakness of state institutions, ongoing conflicts, and a lack of effective oversight over public expenditure exacerbate this problem, hindering socio-economic development<sup>20</sup>.

Regulatory and legal frameworks for combating corruption in Kyrgyzstan aim to establish institutional and legislative foundations to counter corrupt practices in public administration and other sectors. The key legislative acts governing this area include the Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic (2021)<sup>21</sup>, special laws, international agreements ratified by Kyrgyzstan, and regulations aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability among public officials. The Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic, adopted via referendum on 11 April 2021, is the country's fundamental law and enshrines the principles of equality before the law, the rule of law, and the integrity of public officials (Article 1, Article 4). The Constitution underscores the importance of combating corruption and establishing legal mechanisms to prevent it.

Another key legislative act regulating anti-corruption policy is Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 153 “On Combating Corruption” (2012)<sup>22</sup>, which was

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20 ABILKASSYM, A., BIMOLDANOV, Y., SERALIYEVA, A. 2024. Problematic Issues of Prevention of Criminal Violence in the Sphere of Family and Domestic Relations. *Pakistan Journal of Criminology*, 16(3), 467–482. <https://doi.org/10.62271/pjc.16.3.467.487>

21 Constitution of the Kyrgyz Republic. 2021. <https://shailoo.gov.kg/ru/ZakonodatelstvoMyyzambar/Konstituciya-Konstituciya/Konstituciya-24/>

22 Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 153 “On Combating Corruption”. 2012. [https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc\\_id=31238115](https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=31238115)

adopted in 2019 and serves as the primary legal document outlining the state's anti-corruption policy and key measures for tackling corruption. This law was developed to strengthen preventive measures against corruption, enhance transparency in the public sector, and ensure accountability among public servants. The law explicitly defines corruption as a national security threat, undermining public trust in state institutions and obstructing the country's socio-economic development (Article 1). Accordingly, the document sets out several principles forming the foundation of Kyrgyzstan's anti-corruption efforts. The key principles include the supremacy of the law, the mandatory implementation of anti-corruption measures by all officials and government bodies, and the inevitability of punishment for corruption offences (Article 3). One of the law's primary objectives is to create a comprehensive corruption prevention system. To achieve this, the document prescribes a series of preventive measures aimed at minimising conditions conducive to corruption risks. These measures include ensuring transparency in decision-making processes, introducing mandatory income and asset declarations for public officials, and strengthening public oversight over government activities (Article 7).

Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 153 "On Combating Corruption" (2012) also provides for the establishment of specialised anti-corruption bodies with the authority to coordinate and implement anti-corruption measures (Articles 6, 8, 9). These bodies are empowered to initiate inspections, conduct investigations, and hold individuals suspected of corruption offences accountable. Furthermore, an essential aspect of anti-corruption policy is the monitoring and evaluation mechanism for anti-corruption programmes, which includes both internal control by government bodies and external audits by civil society and international organisations. The document establishes strict liability for various forms of corruption, such as bribery, abuse of office, illicit enrichment, and other corrupt activities. The sanctions prescribed by the law range from administrative penalties, such as fines and disqualification from holding public office, to criminal liability, including imprisonment (Article 14). It is important to note that liability extends not only to those directly involved in corruption schemes but also to those who facilitate or benefit from them.

Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 153 “On Combating Corruption” (2012) also emphasises the protection and security of whistle-blowers reporting corruption (Article 10). This provision aims to encourage public participation in exposing corruption violations by ensuring that whistle-blowers are not subjected to reprisals or persecution by state authorities or officials. In conclusion, Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 153 (2012)<sup>23</sup> represents a significant step towards systematising and strengthening anti-corruption measures in Kyrgyzstan. It establishes a broad range of measures aimed at preventing, detecting, and penalising corruption offences and forms the foundation for a more transparent and accountable public administration system. However, its successful implementation requires not only the effective functioning of anti-corruption bodies but also political will, judicial independence, and active participation from civil society<sup>24,25</sup>.

Amid growing challenges related to corruption and the necessity of ensuring transparency and accountability in state institutions, the Kyrgyz Republic has developed the State Strategy on Combating Corruption and Elimination of its Causes in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2024 (2020)<sup>26</sup>. The document underscores the importance of systemic and consistent reforms to combat corruption at all levels of state governance, emphasising the elimination of factors that contribute to the development of corrupt networks. The strategy outlines specific measures, which can be categorised into several key areas:

- institutional strengthening aimed at enhancing state anti-corruption institutions such as the Anti-Corruption Agency and the General Prosecutor’s Office, with a focus on increasing their independence and effectiveness in investigating corruption offences;

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23 Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 153 “On Combating Corruption”. 2012. [https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc\\_id=31238115](https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=31238115)

24 ZHANDOSSOVA, S.M., SHAUKENOVA, Z.K., KONOVALOV, S.A., KUCHINSKAYA, Y.V., MUKANOVA, A.Z. 2017. Kazakh and us cooperation in counteracting religious extremism. *Man in India*, 97(6), 171–179.

25 KURGANSKAYA, V.D., SHAUKENOVA, Z.K., DUNAEV, V.Yu., ABRAKHMATOVA, G.A. 2024. Kandas and demographic processes in Kazakhstan. *Acta Biomedica Scientifica*, 9(2), 67–79. <https://doi.org/10.29413/ABS.2024-9.2.7>

26 State Strategy on Combating Corruption and Elimination of its Causes in the Kyrgyz Republic for 2021-2024. 2020. <https://digital.gov.kg/anti-corruption/gosudarstvennaya-strategiya-po-protivodejstviyu-korruptcii-i-likvidaczii-ee-prichin-v-kyrgyzskoj-respublike-na-2021-2024-gody/>

- improving transparency and accountability of state bodies through the implementation of digital technologies, including e-government and a digital public procurement system, which should minimise corruption risks;
- educational programmes to enhance public legal and tax literacy, which is crucial for increasing citizens' awareness of their rights and ways to protect their interests;
- reforming public procurement and public finance management through the introduction of international accounting standards in the public sector (IPSAS), which will enhance the transparency of financial operations;
- measures to increase trust in the judicial system aimed at strengthening the judiciary and ensuring access to justice;
- as well as international cooperation, highlighting the importance of collaboration with international organisations and neighbouring countries to support anti-corruption programmes.

In the context of rapid changes in public life and the need to improve the efficiency of state governance, Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 125 “On State Civil Service and Municipal Service” (2021)<sup>27</sup> represents a significant step towards the reform of public service in the country. The law regulates issues related to the legal status of state civil servants and municipal employees, their working conditions, as well as the procedures for service progression and appointment to positions. It defines the principles of state and municipal service, establishes requirements for public servants, and sets out mechanisms for overseeing their activities. The primary objective of this law is to ensure transparency and accountability while enhancing the professionalism of public and municipal employees. The law is designed to regulate public service in a manner that aligns with societal and state interests while preventing corruption. Article 3 of the law establishes the fundamental principles underpinning state civil and municipal service in Kyrgyzstan. These principles include legality, equal access to service, professionalism, stability, and accountability. They emphasise that public servants must operate strictly in accordance with the law and that

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<sup>27</sup> Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 125 “On State Civil Service and Municipal Service”. 2021. <https://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/112303/edition/15979/ru>

access to state and municipal service should be open to all citizens based on a competitive selection process, ensuring fairness and equal opportunities. Article 16 enshrines the basic rights of state and municipal employees, including the right to remuneration corresponding to their position, social guarantees, and protection against unlawful interference in their professional activities. At the same time, public servants are obliged to perform their duties conscientiously, adhere to ethical standards, and refrain from using their official position for personal gain. Article 17 outlines the key obligations of state and municipal employees, including adherence to legislation, ensuring the fulfilment of state tasks, protecting national interests, and preventing conflicts of interest.

A crucial element of the legislation is the mandatory declaration of income and assets by state and municipal employees, detailed in Article 26 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 125 “On State Civil Service and Municipal Service” (2021)<sup>28</sup>, and requires employees to submit annual declarations containing information on income, movable and immovable property, bank accounts, as well as financial obligations of both the employee and their immediate family members (spouse and minor children). This mechanism enhances transparency and oversight of public officials' assets, preventing the concealment of unlawfully acquired wealth. Article 27 stipulates measures for verifying the accuracy of submitted declarations. Authorised bodies are required to conduct monitoring and assess whether the reported data corresponds to officials' actual income and assets. In cases of discrepancies, the law provides for disciplinary measures, such as dismissal from public service or criminal prosecution, depending on the severity of the offence. The law establishes strict liability measures for violations within the public and municipal service sector. Article 33 states that public servants who fail to fulfil their official duties, submit false information in declarations, or abuse their official position are subject to disciplinary action. In cases of serious corruption-related offences, public servants may face criminal prosecution under the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 125 “On State Civil Service and Municipal Service” (2021) lays the legal foundations for public service in

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<sup>28</sup> Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 125 “On State Civil Service and Municipal Service”. 2021. <https://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/112303/edition/15979/ru>

Kyrgyzstan, ensuring the professionalism, transparency, and accountability of state and municipal employees. Its key provisions regulate recruitment and appointments based on competitive selection, mandatory declaration of income and assets by officials and their relatives, and the establishment of liability for violations in the public service sector. The law plays a crucial role in enhancing the efficiency of public administration, preventing corruption, and strengthening citizens' trust in state institutions.

As a member of the international community, Kyrgyzstan actively participates in global anti-corruption initiatives, having ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003). This document forms a legal framework obliging the country to adopt and implement international standards and mechanisms for anti-corruption activities while fostering international cooperation. The UN Convention against Corruption was ratified by Kyrgyzstan in 2005. It is one of the most comprehensive and universal international documents aimed at combating corruption, covering all aspects of anti-corruption activities, from prevention to criminal prosecution and international cooperation.

By the provisions of the UN Convention, Kyrgyzstan has committed to implementing and improving national anti-corruption legislation, ensuring transparency in state institutions, protecting whistle-blowers, and taking measures to recover assets illegally transferred abroad. The Convention also mandates the establishment of mechanisms to prevent conflicts of interest among officials, strengthen financial oversight measures, and enhance public oversight over state officials' activities. One of the significant provisions of the Convention (Convention against Corruption, 2003)<sup>29</sup> is the requirement for international technical assistance and cooperation in the fight against corruption. Kyrgyzstan has the opportunity to collaborate with other countries in investigating and prosecuting corruption offences, exchanging information and expertise, thereby strengthening its national anti-corruption framework.

The ratification of the UN Convention has significantly influenced the development of anti-corruption legislation in Kyrgyzstan. In line with these international commitments, the country has adopted several key laws aimed at com-

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29 United Nations Convention against Corruption. 2003. [https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl\\_conv/conventions/corruption.shtml](https://www.un.org/ru/documents/decl_conv/conventions/corruption.shtml)

bating corruption, such as the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 153 “On Combating Corruption” (2012)<sup>30</sup> laws on income declaration for public officials, and other regulatory acts that enhance transparency and accountability in public service. International agreements ratified by Kyrgyzstan also facilitate greater international cooperation in fighting corruption. In practice, this is reflected in information exchange between countries, mutual assistance in investigations, and asset recovery. Kyrgyzstan actively collaborates with international organisations such as the World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and other institutions, receiving technical and expert assistance in implementing anti-corruption programmes. Corrupt connections within the sphere of public administration in Kyrgyzstan represent a serious issue that permeates various levels of government and has a detrimental impact on the socio-economic development of the country. Despite numerous reforms and the establishment of specialised bodies to combat corruption, the problem persists and requires constant attention from both state institutions and the international community.

The General Prosecutor’s Office of the Kyrgyz Republic (2022)<sup>31</sup> also plays a crucial role in the fight against corruption, particularly in investigating major corruption cases. The responsibilities of the prosecution service include not only the investigation of bribery and abuse of power among officials but also the prosecution of high-ranking public officials. In 2022, the prosecution registered 1,206 corruption cases, resulting in several senior officials, including representatives of the tax service and public administration system, being held accountable. These cases demonstrated that corruption permeates different levels of government, from lower-tier public institutions to the highest echelons of power. However, despite the significant number of investigations, the low percentage of actual convictions and sanctions in these cases highlights the difficulties within the judicial system, as well as the influence of political and economic interests in anti-corruption efforts. Another key institution involved in the fight against corruption in Kyrgyzstan is the State Committee for National

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30 Law of the Kyrgyz Republic No. 153 “On Combating Corruption”. 2012. [https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc\\_id=31238115](https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=31238115)

31 General Prosecutor’s Office of the Kyrgyz Republic. 2022. Statistics on prosecution services. <https://prokuror.kg/statistics/ru>

Security (SCNS). This organisation focuses not only on national security matters but also on protecting state interests from corruption-related threats. The SCNS participates in investigations of major corruption cases concerning state security issues, such as the inefficient use of budgetary funds in the defence sector or strategic procurement.

In 2016, as reported by the media, around 40 employees of the Customs Service, under the leadership of R. Matraimov, created a corruption scheme that continues to function and inflicts significant harm on state finances. On 11 February 2021, the Pervomaisky District Court of Bishkek found R. Matraimov guilty of corruption and ordered him to pay a fine of 260,000 soms for organising this scheme and causing financial damage. Approximately 40 individuals were implicated in this case, 15 of whom reimbursed the damages and were released. Among the accused were the former head of the South-Western Customs Office, N. Aytmamatov (charged with illicit enrichment), the former head of the Customs Service, N. Razzhabaliev, and the former head of the South-Eastern Customs Office, A. Boronbaev (both charged with corruption). Subsequently, Aytmamatov paid 74 million soms, N. Razzhabaliev – 6 million, and A. Boronbaev – 8 million soms, allowing them to avoid punishment (Aybashov, 2021)<sup>32</sup>. Additionally, the former head of the Financial Police, B. Tairov, and his deputy, E. Jamgyrchiev, were detained on suspicion of accepting large bribes. According to media reports, at the beginning of the year, they deposited 20 million soms each into an anti-corruption fund and were released under house arrest. On 19 November, the Pervomaisky District Court of Bishkek acquitted E. Jamgyrchiev. It is also worth mentioning the case of Supreme Court judges K. Osmonaliev and D. Boronbaeva, who were detained for causing multimillion-dollar damages to the state and illicit enrichment. In December 2020, K. Osmonaliev deposited 114 million soms into a special account. The former mayor of Bishkek, A. Surakmatov, was detained on charges of illicit enrichment but was released a month later after paying 170 million soms. Former deputy mayors M. Amantur and U. Azygaliev also contributed 25 million and 30 million soms, respectively, to the budget.

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<sup>32</sup> AYBASHOV, K. 2021. The year of the new government's fight against corruption. <https://rus.azattyk.org/a/31617392.html>

Despite the presence of such powerful institutions as the General Prosecutor's Office and the SCNS, significant obstacles remain in the fight against corruption. One of the key issues is the lack of transparency in government institutions, which creates a favourable environment for the emergence and proliferation of corruption schemes (Weißmüller and Zuber, 2023)<sup>33</sup>. To combat corruption effectively, it is essential not only to hold perpetrators accountable but also to implement systemic changes in state governance. One such measure was the introduction of the electronic government platform "Tunduk" (State Portal of Electronic Services Kyrgyz Republic, 2024)<sup>34</sup>, which helps minimise direct contact between citizens and officials, thereby reducing opportunities for corrupt transactions. The platform allows citizens to apply for government services without direct interaction with officials, thereby lowering the risk of bribery. In 2022, over two million applications were processed through "Tunduk", reducing complaints about corruption in public services by 35%. Nevertheless, digitalisation has yet to encompass all government processes, and its full implementation requires time and additional reforms. Thus, corrupt connections in Kyrgyzstan's public administration remain a serious problem despite the presence of specialised institutions and reforms. To combat corruption effectively, it is necessary to continue implementing transparent procedures, enhancing the accountability of state bodies, and fostering civil society (Aidt et al., 2020)<sup>35</sup>. Only a comprehensive approach, combining strengthened law enforcement with the digitalisation of state processes, can ensure a reduction in corruption levels in the country.

For instance, in 2023, the National Statistical Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic recorded 188 corruption offences, compared to 117 in 2022. However, this increase can be attributed not only to a real rise in corruption but also to the heightened activity of anti-corruption agencies such as the State Service for

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33 WEIßMULLER, K.S., ZUBER, A. 2023. Understanding the micro-foundations of administrative corruption in the public sector: Findings from a systematic literature review. *Public Administration Review*, 83(6), 1704-1726. <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13699>

34 State Portal of Electronic Services Kyrgyz Republic. 2024. <https://portal.tunduk.kg/>

35 AIDT, T.S., ARYE L.H., QIJUN, L.I. 2020. Who takes bribes and how much? Evidence from the China corruption conviction databank. *World Development*, 133, 104985. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2020.104985>

Combating Economic Crimes and the National Agency for Preventing Corruption. Despite the growing number of investigations, these agencies face resistance from high-ranking officials and oligarchic groups, making it difficult to combat systemic corruption.

Corruption schemes in the Kyrgyz Republic are widespread in public administration sectors, where decision-making is closely linked to officials' powers. Kyrgyzstan's judicial system is also highly susceptible to corruption. According to the 2023 Rule of Law Index, the Kyrgyz Republic ranks 103rd out of 142 countries globally. In the Eastern Europe and Central Asia region, Kyrgyzstan ranks 12th out of 15 countries, falling behind regional leaders such as Georgia, Montenegro, and Kosovo. The lowest rankings in the region are observed in Belarus, Russia, and Turkey. Among lower-middle-income countries, Kyrgyzstan ranks 18th out of 37. Over the past two years, most countries in the region have experienced a decline in rule of law indicators (In the Rule of Law Index, the Kyrgyz Republic ranks 103rd out of 142, 2024)<sup>36</sup>.

The State Committee for National Security (SCNS) has identified large-scale corruption and embezzlement cases in the digitalisation of Kyrgyzstan's judicial system. Illegal schemes for siphoning off state funds were uncovered, involving high-ranking officials and private companies. These individuals signed fictitious contracts, misappropriating funds intended for the implementation of automated systems and equipment procurement. As a result of the investigation, six individuals were convicted, and damages amounting to 18.99 million soms were reimbursed. Anti-corruption measures continue, particularly at the local level (The SCNS KR stated about corruption schemes in..., 2021)<sup>37</sup>.

The government of Kyrgyzstan is taking steps to counteract corruption by implementing various reforms and modernising state processes. The adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) has been an important step towards improving transparency and accountability in the financial operations of state institutions in Kyrgyzstan. Given that corruption is deeply

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<sup>36</sup> In the Rule of Law Index, the Kyrgyz Republic ranks 103rd out of 142. 2024. <https://worldjusticeproject.org/sites/default/files/documents/Kyrgyz%20Republic%20-%20Russian.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> The SCNS KR stated about corruption schemes in the judiciary during digitalisation. 2021. <https://www.centralasian.org/a/31611942.html>

entrenched in the financial system, the introduction of these standards has created more transparent accounting and reporting mechanisms, significantly complicating opportunities for the illicit use of public funds. The primary purpose of IPSAS is to standardise and harmonise public sector accounting at the international level, ensuring uniform approaches to financial management in state institutions. This includes standardised reporting, operational transparency, and providing a comprehensive picture of the state's financial situation, accessible for analysis by all stakeholders. Transparency and strict financial oversight enable the early detection of corruption schemes and prompt measures to eliminate them<sup>38</sup>.

According to data from the World Bank Group, since the introduction of IPSAS, financial control over public institutions has improved by 22% (Busuyok et al., 2022)<sup>39</sup>. This has significantly reduced instances of corruption, particularly in such critically important areas as public procurement and budget allocation. Before the implementation of these standards, corruption schemes were often based on the lack of transparency in government contracts and complex bureaucratic procedures, which allowed officials to manipulate the allocation processes for personal gain. However, IPSAS standards require more thorough accounting of all financial transactions, making such schemes significantly harder to implement (Gallahue, 2022)<sup>40</sup>.

Furthermore, the adoption of IPSAS has positively impacted the efficiency of public asset and resource management. One of the issues prior to the introduction of these standards was the inefficient use of public assets, which allowed corrupt officials to benefit through manipulations with state resources. Now, every transaction involving public assets must be recorded and documented in accordance with international standards, reducing the possibility

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38 SYZDYKOV, A., ABDIROVA, A., ARALBAYEVA, M., TAPENOVA, A., MAKHANOV, T. 2016. Fraction as a legal form of activity of the parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan (taking into account the world experience). *Indian Journal of Science and Technology*, 9(16), 89832. <https://doi.org/10.17485/ijst/2016/v9i16/89832>

39 BUSUYOK, A., MANUILOVA, N., JAMALOV, T. 2022. Corporate financial reporting in the Kyrgyz Republic: Achievements supported by KAREP. <https://cfr.worldbank.org/node/4661>

40 GALLAHUE, P. 2022. Law and public administration ethics. In: Farazmand, A. (Ed.), *Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance* (pp. 7279-7283). Cham: Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-66252-3\\_1184](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-66252-3_1184)

of assets being used for personal gain<sup>41,42</sup>. A crucial role in ensuring the success of the reform is played by the digitalisation of accounting and reporting processes. The integration of IPSAS standards with digital tools, such as the “Tunduk” e-government system, has significantly improved access to information and enabled real-time tracking of financial transactions.

Beyond institutional measures, fostering an anti-corruption culture among citizens is essential in combating corruption<sup>43</sup>. According to the 2022 report of the Central Asian Institute for the Study of Corruption and Money Laundering, 68% of the population consider corruption one of the country’s main problems (Civil Society Report..., 2022)<sup>44</sup>. At the same time, 45% of respondents indicated that anti-corruption measures are ineffective, while 39% noted a lack of transparency in government actions. Regional statistics are presented in Table 1. This indicates that the public does not perceive the government’s anti-corruption efforts as sufficient.

**Table 1.** Perception index of corruption levels in executive authorities and local government

Region	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Barken Reagion	37.4	40.3	45.7	59.4	52.4
Jalal-Abad Region	40.8	36.2	38	38.3	40.1
Issyl-Kul Region	45.7	44.3	51.3	48.1	58.7
Naryn Region	24.6	36	51.5	46.6	52.7
Osh Region	12.6	2.7	13	32.7	19.9
Talassk Region	29.5	32.9	36.4	31.5	36
Chuy Region	17.4	11.3	27	22.7	12.1
Bishkek	-18	-18.2	2.7	-0.2	-0.1
Osh	22.8	33	40.4	33.2	34.1

41 SENDEROV, S.M., YUSIFBEYLI, N.A., RABCHUK, V.I., HUSEYNOV, A.M., NASIBOV, V.K., VOROBEEV, S.V., GULIYEV, H.B., SMIRNOVA, E.M. 2019. Geopolitical features of energy security in the Caspian regions of Russia and Azerbaijan. *Geopolitics of Energy*, 41(1), 5–12.

42 NUREKESHOV, T., MUKASHEVA, A., BEKISHEVA, S., KHASSENNOV, M. 2018. The problem of providing legal groundwork for the balance of traditional and alternative energy development in the context of kazakhstan’s shift to green energy. *Journal of Advanced Research in Law and Economics*, 9(5), 1716–1728. [https://doi.org/10.14505/jarle.v9.5\(35\).25](https://doi.org/10.14505/jarle.v9.5(35).25)

43 MUKASHEVA, A.A., SABIROV, K.K., ALENNOV, M.A., BEKISHEVA, S.D. 2018. The legal status of a bona fide purchaser of a land plot according to the legislation of Kazakhstan and Germany: Comparative analysis. *Journal of Advanced Research in Law and Economics*, 9(3), 1043–1049. [https://doi.org/10.14505/jarle.v9.3\(33\).31](https://doi.org/10.14505/jarle.v9.3(33).31)

44 Civil Society Report on the Implementation of Chapter II (Preventive Measures) and Chapter V (Asset Recovery) of the United Nations Convention against Corruption in the Kyrgyz Republic. 2022. [https://uncaccoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/UNCAC-Full\\_Report\\_RUS.pdf](https://uncaccoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/UNCAC-Full_Report_RUS.pdf)

Source: created by the authors based on Index “Personal views about the level of corruption in executive government authorities and local government” (2025)<sup>45</sup>.

Modern anti-corruption methods employed in other countries but not yet fully implemented in Kyrgyzstan include a range of innovative strategies and tools that have proven effective internationally. The use of blockchain technology for public transactions is particularly promising in the fight against corruption, as blockchain ensures data transparency and immutability (Damijan, 2023)<sup>46</sup>. For instance, in countries such as Georgia and Estonia, blockchain is used for land registry and government contract processing. This technology makes it possible to track every transaction in the system, preventing fraud and document forgery. Implementing blockchain technology in Kyrgyzstan for public procurement and other financial operations could significantly enhance transparency and eliminate the possibility of data manipulation.

Some countries, such as Indonesia, Kenya, and the Philippines, have established specialised anti-corruption courts that handle corruption cases independently of political pressure. These courts consist of judges specifically trained in investigating and adjudicating corruption cases, ensuring a more professional approach to justice in this area (Mandagie et al., 2023)<sup>47</sup>. Kyrgyzstan lacks a specialised judicial system for handling corruption cases, and establishing an independent anti-corruption court could improve the judicial process by eliminating corruption’s influence on legal decisions.

In countries like India and South Korea, crowdsourcing platforms allow citizens to anonymously report corruption violations. For example, the Indian platform “I Paid a Bribe” collects data on bribery and corruption cases, helping to map corruption hotspots in the country and highlight the most problematic areas (Verma et al., 2023)<sup>48</sup>. Introducing such platforms in Kyrgyzstan would

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<sup>45</sup> Index “Personal views about the level of corruption in executive government authorities and local government”. 2025. <https://stat.gov.kg/en/opendata/category/63/>

<sup>46</sup> Damijan, S. 2023. Corruption: A review of issues. *Economic and Business Review*, 25(1), 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.15458/2335-4216.1314>

<sup>47</sup> MANDAGIE, M., NATANAEL, N., DAMAYANTI, A. 2023. Corruption in Indonesian reformed era: Cases of bribery and gratification in bureaucracy. *Law and Political Sciences*, 4(1), 1-14. <http://repository.uki.ac.id/id/eprint/10203>

<sup>48</sup> VERMA, R., GUPTA, S., BIRNER, R. 2023. What do (future) civil servants think of bribery and corruption? Evidence from India. *Development Policy Review*, 41(3), e12673. <https://doi.org/10.1111/dpr.12673>

enable citizens to actively participate in anti-corruption efforts without fear of retaliation and to provide real-time information.

Estonia serves as an example of a country that has almost entirely digitised public services, minimising human intervention and, consequently, opportunities for corruption (Semenzin et al., 2022)<sup>49</sup>. E-government and process automation reduce corruption risks since all transactions are recorded and easily traceable. For example, Estonia's e-Residency system enables most bureaucratic processes to be conducted online (Tan et al., 2020)<sup>50</sup>. Kyrgyzstan has taken steps towards digitalisation through the "Tunduk" project, but the system still requires expansion and deeper integration to encompass all aspects of public administration.

Many countries, such as the United States and the United Kingdom, have introduced whistle-blower protection programmes that safeguard individuals reporting corruption from retaliation and provide security guarantees (Clark et al.<sup>51</sup>, 2020; Kobroń-Gąsiorowska, 2021<sup>52</sup>). These programmes also offer financial rewards for providing reliable information that helps uncover corruption schemes. In Kyrgyzstan, whistle-blower protection has not received adequate attention. Implementing such a programme could motivate citizens to report corruption cases more actively, knowing their rights would be safeguarded. In the United Kingdom and the United States, open data platforms are widely used to publish detailed information on budget expenditures, government contracts, and other aspects of public administration (Chordiya et al., 2019)<sup>53</sup>. These data are

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49 SEMENZIN, S., ROZAS, D., HASSAN, S. 2022. Blockchain-based application at a governmental level: Disruption or illusion? The case of Estonia. *Policy and Society*, 41(3), 386-401. <https://doi.org/10.1093/polsoc/puac014>

50 TAN, L., TIVEY, D., KOPUNIC, H., BABIDGE, W., LANGLEY, S., MADDERN, G. 2020. Part 2: Blockchain technology in health care. *ANZ Journal of Surgery*, 90(12), 2415-2419 <https://doi.org/10.1111/ans.16455>

51 CLARK, D., WANG, T.-S., SHAPEERO, M., STALEY, A.B., ERMASOVA, N., Usry, M. 2020. A comparative study of the whistleblowing activities: Empirical evidence from China, Taiwan, Russia, and the United States. In: C.R. Baker (Ed.), *Research on Professional Responsibility and Ethics in Accounting* (pp. 141-159). Leeds: Emerald Publishing Limited. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S1574-076520200000023008>

52 KOBROŃ-GĄSIOROWSKA, Ł. 2021. The development of whistleblowing laws in the United States and Europe (de lege ferenda remarks). *Studies on Labour Law and Social Policy*, 28, 139-155. <https://doi.org/10.4467/25444654spp.21.012.13402>

53 CHORDIYA, R., SABHARWAL, M., RELLY, J.E., BERMAN, E.M. 2019. Organizational protection for whistleblowers: A cross-national study. *Public Management Review*, 22(4), 527-552. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14719037.2019.1599058>

available for analysis by independent researchers, journalists, and activists, increasing transparency and helping identify potential corruption cases. In Kyrgyzstan, data publication is often restricted, and access to information is complicated. Implementing open data platforms and ensuring easy access to them could encourage public oversight of government spending<sup>54,55</sup>.

Singapore and Hong Kong implement systematic training programmes for anti-corruption agency employees. These programmes ensure continuous professional development, enabling specialists to stay updated on new methods and tools for combating corruption (Kim, 2020)<sup>56</sup>. Kyrgyzstan also needs to establish continuous educational programmes for anti-corruption personnel, allowing them to counteract complex corruption schemes more effectively and utilise the latest technologies. Implementing these methods in Kyrgyzstan could significantly enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts. Technological innovations, digitalisation, and the protection of citizens' rights, combined with international standards, could create a more transparent and accountable system of public administration.

#### **4. Discussion**

The study examined key aspects of the functioning of corrupt networks in state governance in the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as modern methods of combating corruption. The findings indicated that corruption remains one of the most significant problems faced by public administration, despite the measures taken to reduce it.

One of the main conclusions is that existing anti-corruption measures, such as the establishment of specialised agencies and the introduction of internatio-

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54 PETROVA, M.M., SUSHCHENKO, O., TRUNINA, I., DEKHTYAR, N. 2018. Big data tools in processing information from open sources. In: 2018 IEEE 1st International Conference on System Analysis and Intelligent Computing, SAIC 2018 - Proceedings (article number: 8516800). Kyiv: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. <https://doi.org/10.1109/SAIC.2018.8516800>

55 YEVSEIEV, S., LAPTIEV, O., LAZARENKO, S., KORCHENKO, A., MANZHUL, I. 2021. Modeling the protection of personal data from trust and the amount of information on social networks. *EUREKA, Physics and Engineering*, 2021(1), 24–31. <https://doi.org/10.21303/2461-4262.2021.001615>

56 KIM, H. 2020. Corruption as infrastructure: Rendering the new Saigon global. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 44(6), 1057-1071. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-2427.12951>

nal accounting standards, have limited effectiveness in conditions of insufficient oversight, transparency, and civic engagement. This issue was explored by O. Meza and E. Pérez-Chiqués (2021)<sup>57</sup>, who developed a framework for analysing how corruption becomes entrenched at the local level, focusing on detailed corruption practices. The authors argue that excessive reliance on formal institutions in anti-corruption measures is ineffective, as it ignores deeply rooted corrupt networks and practices. This study, dedicated to corruption networks in state governance in the Kyrgyz Republic, also identified the issue of the persistence of corrupt practices, particularly in areas such as public procurement and taxation. Unlike the work of the aforementioned authors, this research places greater emphasis on systemic factors, such as deficiencies in legislation, a lack of transparency, and weak oversight in the public sector. The impact of international accounting standards and digital technologies on reducing corruption levels was also analysed, which was not a focus of the authors' study. While their research highlights the importance of a detailed approach and contextual studies, this study is more oriented towards systemic institutional changes and legislative reforms in the Kyrgyz Republic, which constitute a crucial step in the fight against corruption at the national level. This issue has also been examined by the scholar D. Nyberg (2021)<sup>58</sup>. His research focuses on how corporate political activity distorts democratic processes, excluding civic representation and influencing political decision-making in Western liberal democracies. The author asserts that corporate participation corrupts democracy by creating dependencies between political processes and corporate interests, thereby weakening citizens' voices and influence. However, this study focuses on corruption networks in state governance in the Kyrgyz Republic, where corruption arises not from corporate influence but from weak oversight, a lack of transparency, and the absence of effective anti-corruption mechanisms. Unlike D. Nyberg's work, which analyses political corruption through the lens of corporate capture, this study explores systemic problems in the public sector, such as corruption in public procurement and tax authorities. The propo-

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57 Meza, O., PÉREZ-CHIQUEÉS, E. 2021. Corruption consolidation in local governments: A grounded analytical framework. *Public Administration*, 99(3), 530-546 <https://doi.org/10.1111/padm.12698>

58 NYBERG, D. 2021. Corporations, politics, and democracy: Corporate political activities as political corruption. *Organization Theory*, 2(1), 263178772098261. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2631787720982618>

sed reforms include the implementation of international accounting standards and digital technologies, which are more relevant in the context of the Kyrgyz Republic<sup>59</sup>.

The study by J. Gillespie et al. (2019)<sup>60</sup> focuses on corruption in the context of public-private partnerships, where resource allocation rules may be contradictory between the government, businesses, and the public. The authors argue that corruption manifests when state assets are transferred into private hands legally but against the public interest, necessitating an anti-corruption approach that considers societal needs. An example is Vietnam, where the government and business circles have different perspectives on the “proper” allocation of resources compared to public expectations<sup>61,62</sup>. In contrast, this study focuses on the functioning of corruption schemes in state governance in the Kyrgyz Republic, paying particular attention to systemic problems in public procurement, taxation, and the judiciary. Unlike the aforementioned study, which examines conflicts between public and state interests in the context of public-private partnerships, this research identifies corruption networks arising from non-transparent procedures and weak public oversight. The emphasis is placed on modern anti-corruption methods, including improved financial oversight, digitalisation, and the strengthening of anti-corruption institutions, which are directly linked to internal state processes and pressing issues in Kyrgyzstan.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a profound impact on global society, undermining not only healthcare systems but also economic and governmental

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59 KARASHEVA, Z., ASSANOVA, S., NURAKHMETOVA, G., NURANOVA, R. 2024. Digital (Electronic) Paid Provision of Services in the Field of Legal Activity. *Revista de Direito, Estado e Telecomunicacoes*, 16(1), 25–41. <https://doi.org/10.26512/lstr.v16i1.46160>

60 GILLESPIE, J., Van NGUYEN, T., NGUYEN, H.V., Le, C.Q. 2019. Exploring a public interest definition of corruption: Public private partnerships in socialist Asia. *Journal of Business Ethics*, 165(4), 579-594. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-018-04101-8>

61 UMBETBAYEVA, Z.B., SULEIMENOVA, S.Zh., NURAKHMETOVA, G.G., SAIMOVA, S.A., BAITUKAYEVA, D. (2023). The Vienna Convention for the protection of the ozone layer and its role in promoting environmental sustainability and implementation in the national legislations of participating states. *Rivista di Studi sulla Sostenibilita*, 13(1), 313–330. <https://doi.org/10.3280/RISS2023-001-S1020>

62 GINTERS, E., MEZITIS, M., AIZSTRAUTA, D. 2018. Sustainability simulation and assessment of bicycle network design and maintenance environment. In: 2018 International Conference on Intelligent and Innovative Computing Applications, ICONIC 2018 (article number: 8601225). Plaine Magnien: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers. <https://doi.org/10.1109/ICONIC.2018.8601225>

structures<sup>63,64</sup>. In this context, the study by V. Mlambo and M.M. Masuku (2020)<sup>65</sup> focuses on how COVID-19 exacerbated corrupt practices worldwide, including in South Africa, revealing their destructive impact on public finances. The authors note that the pandemic posed a significant challenge to governance and healthcare delivery while creating additional opportunities for corruption schemes, especially in resource distribution for combating the virus. The article discusses the consequences of corruption during crises and how it affected the country's economic situation, forcing the government to seek international financial assistance. This study also highlights the issue of corruption but within the context of structural characteristics and systemic reforms. Unlike South Africa, where the pandemic worsened existing corruption, in Kyrgyzstan, the focus is not only on external factors but also on deeply entrenched systemic problems. Modern anti-corruption methods are considered, including the implementation of international accounting standards, digitalisation of processes, and strengthening public oversight, which allows for more effective counteraction to corruption schemes. However, it is necessary to agree with the authors' conclusions, as their study serves as an important reminder that transparency and accountability in governance must be prioritised during crises to prevent abuses and maintain public trust. The discussion of internationally applied methods, such as specialised anti-corruption courts and digitalisation of public services, demonstrates their potential applicability in the Kyrgyz Republic. The study by A. Addo (2021)<sup>66</sup> examines the impact of digitalisation on reducing opportunities for petty corruption in government administrations in developing countries, with a focus on Ghana's customs administration. The

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63 AMANDYKOVA, S., KORPEBAYEV, Z., BUKALEROVA, L., MUKASHEVA, A., USEROVA, A., ZAYED, N.M. 2021. Legal Regulation of the Procedure for Elections of Deputies of the Majilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan. *Journal of Legal, Ethical and Regulatory Issues*, 24(5), 1–10.

64 ZHIYENGALIYEVA, A., YERZHAN, B., ALIYA, S. 2024. Regulation of the provocation of a crime in the criminal legislation of foreign countries: what should Kazakhstan take into account? *Scientific Herald of Uzhhorod University. Series Physics*, 55, 1405–1413. <https://doi.org/10.54919/physics/55.2024.140qo5>

65 MLAMBO, V.H., MASUKU, M.M. 2020. Governance, corruption and COVID-19: The final nail in the coffin for South Africa's dwindling public finances. *Journal of Public Administration*, 55(3-1). <https://hdl.handle.net/10520/ejc-jpad-v55-n3-1-a11>

66 ADDO, A. 2021. Controlling petty corruption in public administrations of developing countries through digitalization: An opportunity theory informed study of Ghana customs. *Information Society*, 37(2), 99-114. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01972243.2020.1870182>

research analyses how the implementation of information technologies over 30 years has limited opportunities for corruption by restructuring work processes and organisational mechanisms. The primary emphasis is on the idea that it is opportunities, rather than systemic factors or motives, that contribute to corruption crimes and that digitalisation can reduce these opportunities.

Although this study also considers modern anti-corruption methods, including digitalisation, it focuses on corruption networks in state governance in the Kyrgyz Republic, particularly in key areas such as public procurement, the tax system, and the judiciary. Unlike the focus on individual agencies, this study covers systemic aspects of corruption in public administration, identifying vulnerabilities in transparency and oversight. It concludes that the implementation of international accounting standards and legal norms, along with the strengthening of anti-corruption bodies, requires further development for effective anti-corruption efforts. While Addo's research demonstrates the successes of digitalisation in Ghana, this study shows that digitalisation in Kyrgyzstan is also important but must be accompanied by institutional reforms and reinforcement. A similar issue was raised by I. Ismail et al. (2020)<sup>67</sup>. Their study analyses the effectiveness of e-government implementation in local government bodies in Indonesia as a means of combating corruption. The authors argue that despite expectations of increased transparency and accountability through digital public services, the introduction of e-government in Indonesia has not significantly reduced corruption at the local level. Although the system aims to prevent corrupt practices such as collusion and nepotism, its practical implementation has been less successful.

This study also examines modern anti-corruption methods, including e-government implementation. However, unlike the Indonesian experience, it emphasises a comprehensive approach that includes not only digitalisation of public services but also improving transparency in public procurement, reforming the legislative framework, increasing civic oversight, and implementing international accounting standards. It was found that while electronic systems can help reduce

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<sup>67</sup> ISMAIL, I., FATHONI, A., PRABOWO, H., HARTATI, S., REDJEKI, F. 2020. Transparency and corruption: Does E-government effective to combat corruption? *International Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation*, 24(4), 5396-5404. <http://eprints.ipdn.ac.id/id/eprint/5662>

corruption, they will only be effective if strong institutions and political will for anti-corruption reforms are present. In this aspect, this study underscores the need for a comprehensive approach where digital technologies are only one part of the solution to corruption, differing from the more narrowly focused research on e-government in Indonesia.

The issue of corruption in public service remains one of the most pressing problems requiring comprehensive analysis and effective solutions<sup>68</sup>. In this context, the study by J.-H. Meyer-Sahling and K.S. Mikkelsen (2022)<sup>69</sup> explores the role of disciplinary codes and codes of ethics in curbing corrupt practices. The authors focus on the interaction of these instruments and their ability to enhance anti-corruption measures. Conducting a survey among public officials in Poland, the study demonstrates that the combined application of disciplinary and ethical codes leads to stricter compliance than their isolated use. Thus, the work highlights the importance of a multi-level approach to anti-corruption policy, where consistent governance tools become key to increasing the effectiveness of the fight against corruption.

This research focuses on the fight against corruption in the Kyrgyz Republic, analysing systemic issues. It is important to note that, although disciplinary and ethical codes in Kyrgyzstan also play a role, they have not been analysed in this study. However, one cannot fully agree with the authors' opinion, as the mere implementation of these codes is insufficient to effectively curb corruption. In the Kyrgyz Republic, the main factors remain the lack of transparency and weak public oversight, which allow corruption schemes to function at the state level. Therefore, unlike the Polish experience, where the interaction of codes strengthens anti-corruption measures, Kyrgyzstan requires a more comprehensive approach, involving not only ethical and disciplinary measures but also institutional reforms, the introduction of international accounting standards, and the activation of civil oversight.

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68 AKSHATAEVA, Z., BAIZHANOVA, K., BEISEBAEVA, S., SHERIMKULOVA, G., NURAHMETOVA, G., KHAMZINA, Z. 2016. The framework of social security system public management in Kazakhstan. *International Journal of Environmental and Science Education*, 11(18), 11645–11657.

69 MEYER-SAHLING, J.-H., MIKKELSEN, K.S. 2022. Codes of ethics, disciplinary codes, and the effectiveness of anti-corruption frameworks: Evidence from a survey of civil servants in Poland. *Review of Public Personnel Administration*, 42(1), 142-164. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0734371X20949420>

## **5. Conclusions**

The analysis of the functioning of corrupt links in state governance in the Kyrgyz Republic revealed that corruption remains one of the most serious issues negatively impacting economic development, social stability, and citizens' trust in state institutions. The most vulnerable areas to corruption include public procurement, taxation, and the judicial system, where the lack of transparency, weak control, and absence of accountability create favourable conditions for corrupt abuses. Modern countermeasures, such as the creation of specialised anti-corruption bodies, the implementation of international accounting standards in the public sector (e.g., IPSAS), and the active use of digital technologies for monitoring government processes, demonstrate their effectiveness. However, these measures require further improvement, including the development of the independence of anti-corruption bodies, strengthening control mechanisms, and introducing transparent procedures. Additionally, key factors for the successful fight against corruption include improving legal and tax literacy among the population, strengthening the role of civil society, and actively involving the population in anti-corruption initiatives, which contributes to the creation of a more sustainable and effective system to combat corruption. This study has analysed several key indicators reflecting the level of corruption and the state of law and order in the Kyrgyz Republic. According to the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), Kyrgyzstan ranked 141st out of 185 countries, highlighting significant problems with corruption in the public sector. This indicator points to high levels of corruption, which negatively affect trust in state institutions. According to the rule of law index developed by the World Bank, Kyrgyzstan ranks 103rd out of 142 countries, indicating weak protection of citizens' rights, low trust in the judicial system, and insufficient effectiveness.

These data emphasise the need for further strengthening of anti-corruption reforms and improving legal oversight in the country. Future research should focus on how the strengthening of civil society, the role of independent media, and public organisations can help shape an anti-corruption culture and increase public oversight of state processes. Additionally, it is important to examine successful examples of anti-corruption strategies from other countries and adapt them to the conditions of Kyrgyzstan, identifying potential obstacles and

ways to overcome them. Furthermore, future research could focus on the use of digital technologies, such as blockchain and online platforms, to improve transparency and accountability in government agencies. These directions could significantly expand the understanding of the issues and contribute to the development of more effective anti-corruption strategies in public administration.

One of the main limitations of this study is the lack of information on the actual level of corruption within government agencies in Kyrgyzstan. Government institutions often do not publish up-to-date data on corruption offences, making it difficult to conduct a thorough analysis and potentially leading to an underestimation of the scale of the problem. Additionally, the lack of systematic statistics on investigations and legal cases related to corruption crimes creates barriers to a deep understanding of the dynamics of corrupt links. It should also be noted that corruption is a hidden phenomenon, and many cases remain outside the scope of law enforcement and society as a whole. This can lead to a distortion of perceptions of the level of corruption and, as a consequence, an underestimation of the existing problems in the state governance system.