

Issues of Identifying and Eliminating Corruption Risks

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Abstract: This article analyzes the concept of corruption risks, their types and factors of origin. Legal, organizational and digital mechanisms for identifying, assessing and eliminating risks in reducing corruption are highlighted.

Keywords: corruption, risk analysis, prevention, internal control, risk map, digital technologies, public oversight, anti-corruption policy, Uzbekistan, integrity standards.

Introduction . Today, corruption has become one of the biggest problems on a global scale. It causes serious damage not only to economic stability, but also to social justice, the rule of law and an environment of trust in society. Therefore, combating corruption is one of the priorities of modern public administration. At the same time, approaches based on prevention and risk identification are considered effective in preventing corruption. The concept of "corruption risk" plays a central role in this regard. Corruption risk refers to situations, weaknesses and mechanisms in which corruption is likely to occur in a particular organization or system. This article analyzes the content, types, methods of identifying them and mechanisms for eliminating them [1, 2, 3, 4].

Main part . Corruption is a socially dangerous phenomenon that seriously hinders the development of the state and society, and in its prevention, not only criminal punishment measures, but also prevention and management mechanisms based on identifying risks are of great importance. From this point of view, in recent years, the concept of "corruption risk" has taken a central place. Corruption risk is a situation, weakness or systemic deficiency that indicates the possibility of corruption in a certain organization, sector or process. In other words, it is a potential situation associated with the presence of factors that create conditions for corruption to occur. Corruption risks can manifest themselves in various directions. Their main types are:

1. Institutional risks. These risks are associated with shortcomings in the organizational structure, unclear authority, excessive authority in one person, or insufficient internal control mechanisms of the organization. For example, if one manager holds the functions of approving, monitoring, and executing tenders, this is a major source of risk.
2. Financial and economic risks. Lack of transparency, lack of oversight and weak accountability mechanisms in budget allocations, procurement, subsidies and financial settlement processes increase the risk of corruption. Irregularities often manifest themselves in tender processes, allocation of funds and falsification of reports.
3. Information risks. Lack of transparency of information, limited access to information, and citizens' lack of awareness of electronic information systems are also sources of risk. For example, if public procurement or cadastral data are not open, this creates a fertile ground for abuse.

4. Moral and spiritual risks. Employees' putting personal interests above the common good, and the lack of development or monitoring of standards of honesty and ethical norms in the workplace are also considered dangerous. This is especially common in the recruitment, appointment and reward processes.

5. Personnel risk. Conflicts of interest, employment on the basis of kinship (nepotism), use of official positions for personal purposes and lack of transparency in personnel selection are also circumstances that increase the risk of corruption.

In general, identifying the types of corruption risks and systematically assessing them is an important tool in protecting the state and society's potential from corruption. Therefore, it is necessary for every organization to carry out a corruption risk analysis in its activities and introduce mechanisms to eliminate them.

There are various internal and external factors that contribute to the emergence and spread of corruption, and if they are not systematically analyzed, it will be difficult to ensure honesty in society. In order to identify and eliminate corruption risks in advance, it is necessary, first of all, to deeply study the causes and conditions that cause these risks. The main factors that cause corruption risks are listed below.

Corruption often occurs due to weak or contradictory legal foundations. If the laws do not clearly allocate powers and responsibilities are vague or unclear, this opens up wide opportunities for abuse of the law in practice. For example, assigning one specialist to perform both approval, control, and executive functions is a potential source of risk. Also, gaps in the system of detecting and punishing corruption-related crimes can lead to impunity in the workplace.

One of the biggest factors contributing to the spread of corruption risks is the lack of effective internal and external control mechanisms. If organizations do not have mechanisms for monitoring each other's work between departments, or if inspection bodies operate in a formal manner, corruption cases will not be detected early. The lack of independence of control bodies and the mechanical way the accountability system works can keep abuses hidden.

One of the most important factors that increases the risk of corruption is the lack of information transparency. If information on public procurement, personnel selection, tender results, or the spending of budget funds is not publicly available, the risk of its misuse is high.

The existence of corruption risks is a serious source of danger to the activities of organizations and society. Therefore, along with identifying risks, developing and implementing mechanisms for their effective elimination is an important aspect of any anti-corruption policy. This requires a complex and multi-stage approach, since risks can be not only legal, but also organizational, ethical, social and technological in nature.

Below are the main mechanisms aimed at eliminating risks:

1. Legal and regulatory mechanisms. The first and main condition for eliminating the risks of corruption is to have a strong and clear legal framework. It is necessary to clearly define powers in the legislation, to develop norms for avoiding conflict of interests, and to introduce a mechanism for their implementation. Establishment of strong accountability measures for corruption-related crimes, introduction of special anti-corruption standards and risk assessment regulations in each field, practical control of regulations on elimination of conflicts of interest.

2. Internal control and audit systems. Regular internal control over each type of activity in the organization is important for eliminating risks. This control is carried out through internal audit, compliance control, personal responsibility and reporting systems. Establish an internal audit department for corruption risk analysis, introduce transparency tools such as developing systematic indicators for risk assessment and monitoring.

3. Digital technologies and e-governance. Digitalization and minimizing the human factor are very effective tools in reducing the risk of corruption. E-government, automated tender systems,

open data platforms reduce risks. Real-time analysis and response to risks through information systems, giving citizens the opportunity to monitor government activities through open data.

4. Preventive measures and personnel capacity building. In order not to create a risk of corruption, it is necessary to form a culture of honesty, responsibility and ethics among employees. This is done through a preventive approach.

5. Public oversight and open dialogue. The activity of civil society institutions, the media, and independent observers also plays an important role in reducing risks. Establish public commissions in areas where corruption risks exist, encourage active civic engagement - anonymous appeals, open portals, and strengthen public dialogue and accountability with government agencies.

6. Management based on corruption risks. This approach assumes that any decision and management process begins with a risk analysis. That is, the organization assesses the risk of corruption in its activities based on the probability level and takes measures to reduce the risk in each area.

Identifying and eliminating corruption risks is one of the most effective approaches to combating corruption. Such risks manifest themselves in the legal, organizational, ethical, and informational spheres and can be mitigated through proactive assessment and systematic measures. In particular, a strong legal framework, internal control, digital governance, ethical education, and public oversight can significantly reduce the risk of corruption.

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