

## Research Article

# The Effectiveness of Public Administration Tools in Combating Drug Offenses

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### Abstract

**Aim:** The article examines the effectiveness of state management tools in the fight against drug crime.

**Methods:** The study used a comparative legal method, which allows for the analysis of legislative and institutional approaches to combating drug crime in different countries. The application of this method made it possible to identify common and distinctive features in legal regulation, as well as to assess the effectiveness of public administration tools in the international context. The comparison was carried out according to the following criteria: Features of the regulatory framework, organization of law enforcement activities, mechanisms for preventing drug crime, and the level of responsibility for offenses in the field of illicit drug trafficking. The application of the comparative legal method made it possible to identify the best practices of foreign countries and formulate recommendations for their adaptation in Ukraine, taking into account national characteristics.

**Results:** The main mechanisms of state influence are analyzed, in particular, regulatory, organizational, economic and informational tools used to combat illicit drug trafficking. Criteria for assessing their effectiveness are determined, including effectiveness, economic feasibility and the level of public trust in law enforcement agencies. The results of the study can be used in the formation and implementation of state policy in the field of drug crime countermeasures.

**Conclusion:** Special attention is paid to the problems of the functioning of the drug crime countermeasure system, such as insufficient interdepartmental coordination, imperfect legislative framework and limited resources. The need to improve state policy through the implementation of modern management approaches, digital technologies and the development of international cooperation is substantiated.

**Keywords:** Public administration; Drug crime; Efficiency; Public policy instruments; Law enforcement agencies; Combating crime

security, public health and socio-economic stability of the state. The spread of illicit drug trafficking, the growth of organized criminal groups and the transnational nature of the drug trade necessitate the improvement of state governance mechanisms in this area.

The effectiveness of countering drug crime largely depends on the quality and effectiveness of state policy instruments, among which regulatory, organizational, economic and informational measures play an important role. At the same time, modern challenges require not only increased control and responsibility, but also the implementation of comprehensive approaches aimed at prevention, rehabilitation and international cooperation [1].

Despite the presence of a developed system of state regulation in the field of countering drug crime, there are a number of problems that reduce the effectiveness of relevant measures. These include the imperfection of the regulatory framework, the insufficient level of coordination between state bodies, limited resource provision, as well as the insufficient use of modern information and analytical technologies [2].

In addition, the problem of assessing the effectiveness of public administration instruments remains relevant, since the lack of uniform criteria and approaches makes

it difficult to determine the real results of anti-drug policy. In this regard, there is a need for a comprehensive study of existing mechanisms of state influence and the search for ways to improve them, taking into account best international practices [3].

## Materials and Methods

In the study of the effectiveness of public administration instruments in the fight against drug crime, a set of general scientific and special methods was applied. The main one is the comparative legal method, which was used to compare the legislative approaches of Ukraine and other states to counter the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs. This made it possible to identify common and distinctive features of legal regulation, as well as to determine the most effective practices, in particular by comparing approaches to the criminalization of individual offenses.

The systemic method made it possible to consider public administration as a holistic structure of interconnected elements, including law enforcement agencies, the judicial system and preventive mechanisms. In particular, the interaction between various institutions in the process of implementing anti-drug policy was analyzed. Methods of analysis and synthesis were used for a detailed study of individual instruments of state influence (regulatory, organizational, economic) and their further generalization in order to form a comprehensive assessment of effectiveness.

The statistical method was used to study the dynamics of drug crime and assess the effectiveness of the implemented state measures, in particular by comparing indicators before and after the implementation of the relevant programs. The functional method allowed to determine the role and powers of state bodies in this area and to assess the effectiveness of their practical activities. The generalization of the results obtained made it possible to formulate substantiated conclusions and practical recommendations for improving state management tools in the fight against drug crime.

## Results and Discussion

N.Yu. Kantor, who examines effectiveness through the prism of the goal-setting mechanism in administrative law. She justifies the feasibility of a comprehensive approach to assessment, while emphasizing the priority of the target criterion-the degree of achievement of planned results, which are manifested in the legal consequences of the implementation of norms. At the same time, social and economic aspects are also taken into account, the significance of which depends on the nature of specific norms. Thus, in the field of administrative services, the social effect is of primary importance, while in matters of competition regulation - the economic one [4].

The closest to the issues of this study are the scientific developments, which thoroughly analyze private law instruments of public administration in both the theoretical and legal aspects of their application. I.V. Bolokan treats the effectiveness of the implementation of administrative legal norms as a relative indicator that reflects both positive

and negative consequences of the action of legal regulations for the subject of norm-setting and persons who directly implement them. At the same time, such effectiveness is associated with the achievement of certain goals and is determined by the motivation and behavioral attitudes of law enforcement subjects [5].

In this context, effectiveness should not be interpreted only as a general public benefit, managerial expediency or formal achievement of set goals. First of all, it is a legal characteristic that reflects the ability of specific instruments of public administration activity, within the limits of defined powers and established administrative and legal procedures, to ensure the implementation of the goals of public administration enshrined in law and the achievement of appropriate legal results in the field of public legal relations with mandatory observance of human rights and freedoms [6].

In this sense, the effectiveness of public administration instruments acts as a separate administrative and legal category that requires further in-depth analysis through a clear delimitation of the conditions, criteria and indicators of its definition [7]. The proposed approach allows not only to preserve the logical integrity of administrative and legal research, but also to increase its practical significance, forming a methodological basis for evaluating specific forms and methods of implementing public and government functions [9].

At the same time, this approach raises certain methodological doubts [10]. The combination within one definition of both positive and negative results actually blurs the meaning of the concept of effectiveness, depriving it of clear evaluative certainty [11]. It is more appropriate to consider the negative consequences of the implementation of norms not as an element of effectiveness, but as a manifestation of its absence or evidence of shortcomings in legal regulation [12].

Such a mixture of effectiveness and ineffectiveness complicates the construction of a consistent model for assessing the implementation of administrative legal norms and prevents the formation of clear criteria and indicators [13]. A more reasonable approach seems to be one in which effectiveness is determined by the degree of achievement of the goals of legal regulation, while negative results should be considered as an indicator of defects in the norm, mechanisms for its implementation, or law enforcement practice [14].

In addition, the researcher identifies a psychological aspect that characterizes the level of perception of norms by society and the willingness to comply with them, and an axiological one that reflects the correspondence of legal prescriptions to social values and needs [15,16]. The goal-oriented and utilitarian aspects are related to the relationship between the goals set and the actual results, as well as to the achievement of positive effects at minimal cost. The behavioral dimension reflects the influence of norms on lawful behavior, and the conflict dimension reflects their

ability to reduce the level of social tension [17].

At the same time, despite the complexity of such an approach, it is not without certain shortcomings. First of all, some aspects are excessively abstract, which complicates their further use in the form of specific assessment criteria. In addition, the proposed model looks excessively branched, which may reduce its applied value.

The problem of the substantive intersection of some aspects requires special attention. In particular, the human-centric and axiological approaches largely overlap, since both are focused on assessing norms through the prism of ensuring human rights and freedoms and compliance with social values. This indicates their belonging to a single value plane, which calls into question the appropriateness of their isolation as independent dimensions [18].

Similar remarks also apply to the utilitarian aspect, which actually generalizes the results of other components of efficiency. At the same time, it is more appropriate to consider the economic, political and conflict aspects as areas of manifestation of the results of the implementation of norms, rather than as autonomous evaluation criteria [19].

A similar approach is demonstrated by V.V. Lipynsky, who studies the effectiveness of the interpretation of administrative tort norms and also identifies a number of aspects, in particular, general social, target, utilitarian, political, conflict, economic and behavioral [20,21]. However, in this case, similar methodological shortcomings are observed, in particular, duplication of individual components and excessive descriptiveness of some of them.

Scientist D.M. Pavlov, analyzing the organizational and legal principles of ensuring the effectiveness of the activities

of executive bodies, defines management effectiveness as achieving a specific, realistic and socially useful goal with minimal resource expenditure in the optimal time frame, taking into account the influence of internal and external factors. At the same time, the researcher emphasizes the importance of the nature of the goal itself, since its unrealism or social harm can nullify any management efforts. At the same time, only those costs that ensure the outstripping growth of the social effect compared to the resources spent on management [22].

S.V. Shakhov suggests considering the effectiveness of administrative and legal norms as a multidimensional category that encompasses a number of interrelated aspects. In particular, the human-centric dimension reflects the ability of norms to ensure the realization of individual rights and freedoms in the sphere of public administration. The economic aspect is associated with the costs of implementing norms and their financial results, while the political one is associated with the achievement of the strategic goals of the state and the performance of its functions.

In turn, O. K. Tkacheva, in turn, emphasizes that the effectiveness of public administration cannot be reduced only to the ratio of results and costs, but should be considered as the achievement of socially significant results under the conditions of rational use of resources. It also focuses on the complex nature of this phenomenon, which is formed under the influence of various factors, in particular economic, social, political and.

In this regard, there is a need for some simplification and specification of approaches to assessing effectiveness by identifying key criteria focused on practical application (Table 1).

**Table 1:** Public administration tools and their effectiveness

Public administration tool	The essence of the tool	Advantages	Disadvantages	Level of effectiveness
Legislative regulation	Adoption of laws, criminalization of drug trafficking	Clear rules, possibility of punishment	Sometimes outdated norms, slow updating	High (provided that laws are relevant)
Law enforcement	Work of the police, special services, customs	Direct detection of crimes	Corruption, limited resources	Medium-high
International cooperation	Information exchange, joint operations	Fighting transnational networks	Dependence on partners	Medium-high
Preventive programs	Educational campaigns, work with youth	Reducing demand for drugs	Long-term effect	Medium
Medical and social measures	Rehabilitation, treatment of addicts	Reducing recidivism	Insufficient funding	Medium
Digital monitoring	Control of online sales, data analysis	Identifying new distribution schemes	Technical complexity	High
Anti-corruption mechanisms	Control over the activities of officials	Increasing trust in the system	Difficult to implement	Medium

without taking into account social aspects can lead to an overload of the penitentiary system without significantly reducing the crime rate [25].

Law enforcement activities are a practical tool for implementing legislative norms. Its effectiveness directly

depends on the professional level of personnel, technical support, and the level of integrity [26]. In cases where corruption or insufficient funding is observed, even the best laws do not produce the desired result. At the same time, strengthening the analytical component of law enforcement, the use of modern technologies and increasing transparency

can significantly increase the effectiveness of this tool [27].

International cooperation is an important component, since modern drug crime is transnational in nature. Supply channels, financial flows and organized criminal groups often go beyond the borders of one state [28]. Effective interaction with other countries, international organizations and law enforcement agencies allows for joint operations, exchange intelligence and coordinate actions [29]. However, such cooperation can be complicated by differences in legislation, political factors or an insufficient level of trust between partners [30].

Prevention programs aimed at reducing the demand for drugs require special attention. Their effectiveness is not instantaneous, but they form a long-term strategy to combat the problem. Educational campaigns, youth work, and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle can reduce the level of new drug use. At the same time, the difficulty lies in measuring their effectiveness and ensuring stable funding [31].

No less important are medical and social measures that provide for the treatment and rehabilitation of people with addiction. Their role is to reduce the level of recidivism and the social reintegration of such people [32]. Without proper state support, these programs remain limited in scope and cannot significantly affect the overall situation. At the same time, their development is key to the transition from a punitive model to a more humane and effective system [33].

Modern conditions increase the importance of digital monitoring. Internet platforms, messengers, and the darknet are actively used to distribute drugs, which requires new approaches to control. The use of big data analytics, cyber intelligence, and automated systems allows you to detect criminal networks faster and more effectively. However, this tool requires significant investments, highly qualified personnel and clear legal regulation to avoid human rights violations [34].

Anti-corruption mechanisms are a cross-cutting element that affects the effectiveness of all other tools. Corruption can nullify any state efforts, creating conditions for impunity and the functioning of the drug trade. The introduction of transparent procedures, independent control and accountability of officials is critically important for achieving real results [35].

In conclusion, the analysis of the table demonstrates that the highest level of effectiveness is achieved only with a comprehensive approach [36]. Forceful methods should be combined with prevention, treatment, digital tools and international cooperation. It is also important to ensure a balance between repressive measures and social support, which allows not only to combat the consequences of drug crime, but also to eliminate its root causes [37].

## Conclusion

Summarizing the topic under consideration, we can conclude that the effectiveness of public administration tools in the fight against drug crimes is determined primarily by

their comprehensive and balanced application. None of the existing mechanisms — neither legislative regulation, nor the activities of law enforcement agencies, nor preventive or social measures is capable of independently ensuring a sustainable result. Only their combination creates a holistic system capable of counteracting both the causes and consequences of drug crime.

An important aspect is that the formal presence of tools does not yet guarantee their effectiveness. The decisive role is played by the quality of their implementation, the level of professionalism of the executors, the adequacy of resource provision and the absence of corruption factors. In the event of shortcomings in these areas, even the best-intentioned policies may turn out to be ineffective.

Of particular importance is the shift in emphasis from an exclusively punitive approach to a preventive and socially oriented one. Prevention programs, education, and medical and social assistance to people with addiction form a long-term basis for reducing the demand for drugs, which is a key element in overcoming the problem.

In addition, modern challenges associated with globalization and digitalization require the state to actively develop international cooperation and implement innovative control and monitoring technologies. This allows for more effective counteraction to transnational criminal networks and new forms of drug trafficking.

Therefore, a successful fight against drug crimes is possible only if the state has a systemic, comprehensive, and adaptive approach that combines force, legal, social, and technological tools and is aimed not only at eliminating the consequences, but also at eliminating the root causes of this phenomenon.

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## Conflict of Interest

Authors have no conflict of interest to declare.

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