

EPISTEMOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE-LEGAL PRINCIPLES IN RESEARCH ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

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Abstract. This research delves into the evolving epistemological foundations of administrative-legal principles within the domain of law enforcement agencies. A meticulous analysis of over 200 scholarly works, with a specific focus on more than ten dissertations, has been conducted to illuminate the essence and content of activities undertaken by law enforcement agencies. The study offers a comprehensive understanding of administrative-legal principles, encompassing their functions, forms, methods of operation, and their legal underpinnings as reflected in sectoral legislative acts. The investigation explores the concept of „administrative-legal principles” and establishes its intricate interrelations with key categories in administrative law, such as „principles of administrative law,” „legal regulation,” and „administrative-legal norms.” Findings reveal that administrative-legal principles form a cohesive system influencing the functions, forms, and methods of operation employed by law enforcement agencies. Key outcomes of the study emphasize the paramount importance of delving into administrative-legal principles within the specific context of law enforcement agencies. A nuanced examination of their functions, forms, and methods of operation underscores their critical role. This research advocates for understanding administrative-legal principles as foundational elements of administrative law, shedding light on their pivotal function in regulating the multifaceted activities of law enforcement agencies.

Keywords: Law enforcement agencies, epistemological development, administrative-legal principles, legal regulation, administrative rule.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the modern world, where states actively work on improving the systems of law enforcement agencies, epistemological foundations of research on administrative-legal principles have become a pivotal aspect in comprehending and analyzing this sphere of state activity. Focusing on the crucial issue of the development and transformation of law enforcement agencies, scholars and researchers are dedicated to refining theoretical approaches that define the functioning of these structures in the contemporary legal landscape.

Particular attention is warranted to analyze the evolution of the epistemological groundwork, which relies on the study of law enforcement agencies. Reforms in this

field in various countries, including Ukraine, necessitate a comprehensive examination and assessment of their impact on the effectiveness of legal protection and public safety provisions.

Over the past decade, law enforcement agencies in Ukraine have undergone significant transformations to enhance their performance and adapt to contemporary challenges. The reforms launched in 2014 aimed at building public trust, combating corruption, and rectifying legal infractions, encompassed legal and organizational restructuring and improvements in material-technical and personnel support. These initiatives impacted Ukraine's political dynamics, leading to conflicts and uncertainties in legal governance. Scholars express a critical perspective on this process of re-forming law enforcement agencies while also acknowledging achievements such as the establishment of the National Police, the Bureau of Economic Security of Ukraine, the creation of new anti-corruption bodies, and the implemented reforms in other spheres of law enforcement activity.

The epistemological development of administrative-legal principles in research on law enforcement agencies is a complex and multidisciplinary endeavor that requires various general scientific and unique research methods.

General Scientific Methods:

1. Analysis and synthesis: we conducted an in-depth analysis of existing legal literature, scientific publications, and relevant legal documents to understand the historical and contemporary evolution of administrative-legal principles in the context of law enforcement agencies. We synthesized this information to identify key trends and developments.
2. Historical and comparative analysis: to trace the historical development of administrative-legal principles, we employed historical and comparative analysis, examining legal texts, policies, and practices over time. This method allowed us to understand the evolution of these principles.
3. Systematic approach: we utilized a systematic approach to categorize and organize administrative-legal principles into coherent frameworks, distinguishing between the principles' different aspects, functions, and applications in law enforcement.

Special Methods:

1. Content analysis: We performed content analysis on legal texts, academic papers, and policy documents to extract and assess the conceptual underpinnings of administrative-legal principles and their practical implementation within law enforcement agencies.
2. Case studies: To delve into specific instances and real-world applications, we conducted case studies of selected law enforcement agencies. These case studies provided insights into the practical impact of administrative-legal principles on these organizations' functioning and decision-making processes.
3. Expert interviews: Expert interviews with legal scholars, practitioners, and law enforcement professionals were conducted to gather firsthand insights and expert opinions on the epistemological development of administrative-legal principles.

2. EXPLORING THE INTERPLAY OF ADMINISTRATIVE-LEGAL PRINCIPLES AND REGIMES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS

The administrative-legal principles that govern the activities of law enforcement agencies

represent a complex system of administrative law principles that exert a significant influence on their functions, organizational structures, and operational methodologies. Understanding these principles is crucial for comprehending the fundamental framework within which law enforcement agencies operate.

When we delve into the comparison between the concept of „administrative-legal principles,” which encompasses a comprehensive set of administrative law norms, and the broader notion of the „administrative-legal regime” as a system of administrative law norms, we can discern their inter-connectedness. This analytical exploration provides valuable insights for a deeper comprehension of the body of scholarly work dedicated to the intricate issue of administrative-legal regimes.

By dissecting the essence of the categories „administrative-legal regimes” and „administrative-legal principles,” we can appreciate the extensive scope of the latter category. Administrative-legal principles extend beyond mere norms; they encompass a specific subject matter, focusing on safeguarding security and ensuring the proper functioning of specific entities and relationships within society.

The relationship between the categories of „administrative-legal principles” and „administrative-legal regimes” can be approached from both a general and specific perspective. In particular, when we consider various domains of scientific research related to administrative coercion, the application of administrative contracts, the provision of administrative services, the reform of executive authorities (including law enforcement agencies), administrative activities, and control mechanisms, we find that these areas of study intersect with and contribute to our understanding of the administrative-legal principles that govern the operations of law enforcement agencies, including their organizational forms and operational methodologies.

In essence, the administrative-legal principles act as a foundational framework that guides law enforcement agencies in their duties, ensuring that their actions align with legal norms and serve the overarching goals of maintaining security and upholding the integrity of specific entities and societal relationships. Further research in these interconnected areas will continue to enhance our understanding of the dynamic and evolving landscape of administrative law and its applications within law enforcement contexts.

3. THE IMPERATIVE OF COMPREHENSIVE REFORM IN UKRAINE’S LAW ENFORCEMENT: A HUMAN RIGHTS PERSPECTIVE

Despite the reforms implemented in the law enforcement system, scholars point to a consistently high level of crime and the absence of detective units and effective investigation procedures for minor criminal offenses, as well as the overburdening and inefficiency of pre-trial investigation authorities (Reform of law enforcement agencies, 2022).

The need for further reform of the law enforcement system is also substantiated by analytical data provided by the President of Ukraine. President Zelenskyi emphasized the registration of 651 criminal proceedings «related to state betrayal and collaboration activities of employees of the prosecution authorities, pre-trial investigation authorities, and other law enforcement agencies» (Kunyskyi, 2022). These numerical data objectively underscore the necessity for continued efforts in reforming the law enforcement system.

The necessity of law enforcement reform, determined by social and political factors, underscores the objective nature of optimizing reformative transformations related to addressing such issues:

1. The precise definition of the reform's target orientation is in a separate law, considering the Constitution of Ukraine.
2. Strict legal limitations on the use of coercive measures.
3. Utilization of indirect and incentive measures.
4. Regulation of the functions and competencies of law enforcement agencies to avoid duplication and unproductiveness.
5. Ensuring openness, transparency, and accessibility to citizens.
6. Transition to a system that prioritizes protecting citizens' rights and freedoms.
7. Effective collaboration within and among law enforcement agencies and other state authorities, local government bodies, and communities.

The decisions made by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) regarding specific cases related to the European Convention on Human Rights are as follows: 1) «Korostylyov v. Ukraine» (Case of Korostylyov V. Ukraine, 2019) - Concerned Article 5(3) of the Convention re-garding the excessive duration of pre-trial detention. The ECHR found violations in this case. 2) «Tsatsenko and Ryabokon v. Ukraine» (Case of Tsatsenko and Ryabokon V. Ukraine, 2019) - Also related to Article 5(3) of the Convention and focused on the issue of excessive pre-trial detention. Violations of the Convention were found in this case. 3) «Sokolovskyy v. Ukraine» (Case of Sokolovskyy V. Ukraine, 2019) - Concerned several aspects of Article 5 of the Convention, including subparagraph (c) of paragraph 1 and paragraphs 3, 4, and 5, regarding the arbitrariness and lack of legal remedy for alleged unlawful detention. The ECHR found violations in this case. 4) «Chenchevik v. Ukraine» (Case of Chenchevik V. Ukraine, 2019) - Focused on Article 3 of the Convention, which prohibits torture and the lack of an effective national investigation. This case also addressed the procedural aspect of criminal prosecution. The ECHR found violations in this case (Decision of the European Court of Human Rights, 2021).

These decisions from the ECHR highlight the court's role in upholding human rights and ensuring that member states, in this case, Ukraine, adhere to their obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights. The ECHR's findings of violations indicate areas where improvements are needed to protect and uphold the rights of individuals in Ukraine.

The mentioned decisions from the European Court of Human Rights highlight the necessity of ensuring the effectiveness of measures to prevent human rights violations in the activities of law enforcement agencies. This should be implemented at all stages and phases of reform. Human rights compliance should be the cornerstone of law enforcement agencies, and implementing such an approach is crucial to prevent the risk of diminishing their effectiveness in carrying out their tasks and functions.

Accumulating legal and organizational problems accompanying reforming law enforcement agencies necessitates a scholarly basis for identifying approaches and directions for their resolution. Given the above, it is imperative to turn to academic research, particularly in the field of administrative law, characterized by its organizational and regulatory potential and its purpose in the realization and protection of the rights, freedoms, and interests of

individuals, as well as in the establishment of conducive conditions for the functioning of society and the state.

4. COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF ADMINISTRATIVE-LEGAL REGIMES IN UKRAINIAN LAW ENFORCEMENT: A DISSERTATION-LEVEL STUDY

An analysis of scientific research conducted at the dissertation level and available on the National Repository of Academic Texts website (National Repository of Academic Texts, 2023) reveals that between 2000 and 2021, over 200 studies were carried out, focusing on aspects of administrative-legal regulation of relationships involving executive authorities, including law enforcement agencies. Specifically, more than 30 of these studies were dedicated to the activities of internal affairs (police) and the National Police.

Systematizing these studies by subject allows for the identification of several main groups:

General aspects of regulatory research - 59 works, administrative coercion, administrative liability, and proceedings in cases of administrative offenses - 72 works, the use of administrative agreements and the provision of administrative services - 2 works, reform of executive authorities, including law enforcement agencies - 1 work, organizational activity - 65 works, control - 1 work.

This systematization reveals that researchers paid the most attention to analyzing administrative coercion, administrative liability, and proceedings in cases of administrative offenses (36%). Second in focus is the analysis of administrative activities of state executive authorities (32.4%). General issues of administrative-legal regulation of the activities of law enforcement agencies are in third place (29.7%). However, the interest in issues related to the application of administrative agreements, the provision of administrative services, reform, and control was relatively lower (1% each).

This trend suggests that researchers are primarily interested in matters directly affecting the rights and freedoms of citizens in their interactions with government authorities, including law enforcement agencies, courts, and local self-government bodies.

Referring to these academic achievements allows for the assertion that the subject of their research primarily concerned administrative-legal regimes. The disclosure of the essence of administrative-legal regimes directly relates to the fundamentals of administrative-legal regulation reflects the specifics of regulatory impact through administrative law norms on social relations, characterizes the limits of administrative-legal influence, and pertains to the issue of forming a perspective on the category of «administrative-legal principles». It also underscores the necessity of elaborating on the corresponding scholarly approaches.

Administrative-legal regimes are defined as a particular order of legal regulation of its subjects and objects based on administrative law norms aimed at protecting socially significant relations and overcoming negative phenomena in the relevant sphere of public administration. These regimes are characterized by specific regulatory techniques, such as the unique process of the emergence and formation of rights and obligations, their exercise, the specificity of means of implementation, and the unity of legal norms and methods (legal instruments) applicable to a specific sphere of social relations, which reflect on the status of their participants. Administrative-legal regimes are also defined as a complex of legal instruments and methods of legal influence that feature a particular combination of

administrative-legal regulatory methods, including positive obligations, permissions, and prohibitions (Great Ukrainian legal encyclopedia... 2016/2020).

The definition of the «administrative-legal regime» concept in a contemporary encyclopedic legal publication reflects an established (non-conflicting) scientific approach to disclosing its essence. Therefore, it can be recognized as the most prevalent approach in administrative law science at the present stage of its development. Notably emphasized in this scientific approach is the foundational understanding of an administrative-legal regime as the norms of administrative law forming the basis for a distinctive order of legal regulation. The sectoral determination of legal norms and the identification of those governing the regulatory order characterized as «special» allow for the distinction of administrative-legal regimes within the institution of administrative law. This distinction helps to depict their peculiarities in regulating specific groups of social relations, endowing them with a relatively autonomous character.

Summarizing the scientific research dedicated to the issue of administrative-legal regimes allows for their classification into three main groups:

1. studies that lay the groundwork for a general approach to defining the essence and content of these regimes;
2. works that delve into specific administrative-legal regimes (e.g., a state of war, a state of emergency, the regime of an anti-terrorist operation, etc.);
3. Research that analyzes individual administrative-legal regimes established by legislation (e.g., customs regimes) or reasoned in respective publications (e.g., migration regimes, the administrative-legal regime of restricted access information, the administrative-legal regime in the field of executing punishments, etc.).

The first scientific research group is represented by works authored by individuals such as O. Bokii (2010), O. Krestianinov (2002), T. Minka (2011), and A. Slavko (2020).

According to O. Bokii, it is advisable to consider an administrative-legal regime as a comprehensive system for regulating critical state security-related social relations within the purview of administrative law, with its foundation based on imperative principles (Bokii, 2010).

Researchers have proposed viewing administrative-legal regimes as legal norms to ensure sovereignty, maintain public order, safeguard general security, and ensure the normal functioning of all essential state and societal institutions (Krestianinov, 2002).

It is noteworthy to highlight T. Minka's doctoral dissertation, which is dedicated to the problem of administrative-legal regimes and their enforcement by internal affairs agencies. The scholar substantiates her authorial concept of a legal regime within the field of administrative law as a legal form of functioning of relations that comprise the subject matter of administrative law. These relations are secured through a unique combination of lawful means, types, and methods of administrative-legal regulation, determining the dynamics of these relations and specifying the purpose of administrative-legal regulation (Minka, 2011).

A. Slavko suggests defining the administrative-legal regime as a set of legal means, primarily prohibitions and obligations, specifically regulating a clearly defined scope of administrative-legal relations within a specific time/space/circle of individuals. The

researcher proposes an authorial typology of administrative-legal regimes, which includes five types of administrative-legal regimes: emergency, regulatory, subject-specific, control-service, and preferential regimes (Slavko, 2020). Within the emergency type, the researcher includes regimes such as a state of war, a state of emergency, and the regime of conducting an anti-terrorist operation. Regulatory regimes are designated as the regime of an occupied territory and the legal regime of an area affected by radioactive contamination due to the Chornobyl NPP accident. Subject-specific regimes encompass regimes concerning firearms, narcotics, psychotropic substances, their analogs, and precursors, as well as waste management, including radioactive waste and the regime of state secrets. Control-service regimes include customs regimes, border regimes, border zone regimes, regimes at the border crossing points of Ukraine's state border, and passport regimes. Preferential regimes comprise the regime of a special (free) economic zone and licensing regimes (Slavko, 2020).

In the research of Yu. Zhvanko (2019), A. Basov (2007), V. Holub (2017), F. Vasylykiv (2012), and S. Kuznichenko (2010) examine various aspects of administrative-legal regimes, focusing on the regime of a state of emergency.

The regime of a state of emergency is a system of legal norms that defines the grounds, purpose, and procedure for implementation, the subject authorized to establish its spatial and temporal boundaries, and a particular mode of operation for state authorities and administration. This system of legal norms limits citizens' rights and freedoms and imposes additional obligations on them (Basov, 2007).

Yu. Zhvanko investigates the administrative-legal principles of the National Police of Ukraine in the area of permitting systems under special legal regimes, such as a state of emergency, a state of war, an emergency ecological situation, the conduct of an anti-terrorist operation, and the operation of joint forces (Zhvanko, 2019).

F. Vasylykiv suggests defining the regime of an anti-terrorist operation area, which may evolve into a legal regime of a state of emergency based on the existing legal framework and with the presence of legal grounds provided for by law, subject to approval by the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine (Vasylykiv, 2012).

V. Holub points out the differences between the administrative-legal regime of a state of war and other administrative-legal regimes in terms of their subjects and objectives (Holub, 2017).

S. Kuznichenko studied the institution of extraordinary administrative-legal regimes and defined them as a specific mode of legal regulation aimed at governing social relations in particular areas of public administration in cases of emergencies. He categorized these regimes into two classes: extraordinary (a state of war, a state of emergency, zones of an emergency ecological situation) and extraordinary (an anti-terrorist operation, quarantine, an emergency) based on their specific characteristics and purposes (Kuznichenko, 2010).

It is worthwhile to mention research dedicated to specific administrative-legal regimes as defined in current legislation or those whose identification is justified by researchers. These include customs regimes (Kolisnyk, 2021), migration regimes (Leleko, 2021), the administrative-legal regime of restricted access to information (Koreniuk, 2019), and administrative-legal regimes in the field of organizing the execution of punishments (Karelin, 2019).

The mentioned research studies do not cover all aspects of investigating specific administrative-legal regimes. However, they allow for delineating their specificity, which lies in considering the subject-specific orientation of scientific inquiry and their standard features, such as their administrative-legal nature and relative separation of norms determined by subject characteristics of regulation. They also involve the presence of subjects with a legal status that entails competence in governance content and the presence of legal means of influence, primarily prohibitions and obligations, with a predominant focus on security aspects.

In summary, it is essential to note that the category of «administrative-legal regime» has been explored by researchers in both broad and narrow senses. In the broad sense, it is regarded as a system of administrative legal norms (Minka, 2011), a combination of legal means (Slavko, 2020). In this sense, the category «administrative-legal regime» may be related to the «administrative-legal principles» concept

5. DELVING INTO THE SPECIFICS AND SCOPE OF ADMINISTRATIVE-LEGAL REGIMES AND PRINCIPLES IN UKRAINIAN LAW: A SCHOLARLY PERSPECTIVE

In the narrow sense, specific administrative-legal regimes associated with restrictions and prohibitions are examined. They are also known as extraordinary, extreme, exceptional, or special regimes. Specific administrative-legal regimes are singled out, including customs regimes, restricted access to information regimes, regimes in organizing the execution of punishments, and others. Most researchers focus on elucidating the essence of administrative-legal regimes in the narrow sense of this category, which highlights the study of the protection of citizens' rights and freedoms and the rights and legitimate interests of legal entities under special administrative-legal regimes.

It should be noted that among administrative-legal regimes, there are also separate regimes not directly related to restrictions but closely tied to the implementation of the legal status of their participants. According to the approach presented by A. Slavko, these regimes could be classified as preferential regimes.

More than 1000 scientific works related to the keywords «administrative-legal principles» have been registered in the National Repository of Academic Texts. These works were conducted from 2004 to July 2022. Among them, 34 doctoral dissertations focus on the issues of the essence and content of activities involving law enforcement agencies. Some of the authors of these dissertations include A. Polyansky, Y. Dubovyi, V. Liukh, O. Popivniak, and others. They analyze various aspects, such as the interaction of forensic institutions with law enforcement agencies (Polyanskyi, 2021), the optimization of law enforcement agencies' activities in ensuring the financial security of Ukraine (Lyukh, 2021), supervisory activities in the circulation of excisable goods (Dubovyi, 2021), customs security (Popivnyak, 2020), and more.

While analyzing the essence of administrative-legal principles, researchers shape the legal understanding of managerial activities. They examine its content by studying the norms of administrative law and the subjects involved in this activity. They elucidate the influence of these principles on societal relations and the methods of conducting managerial and regulatory activities. The positions of N. Panova (Panova, 2008) and M. Lehenkyi, who

consider administrative-legal principles as key principles and methodological foundations of administrative law (Lehenkyi, 2018), underscore the legal essence of these principles. It is noted that they are reflected in the respective sectoral legislative acts (Panova, 2008). Differences in defining administrative-legal principles are determined by the specific features of the studied areas of societal relations, as pointed out by Y. Lavreniuk, emphasizing their decisive role in specific spheres of activity (Holodnova, 2017).

The scientific approaches of researchers to the disclosure of the essence of administrative-legal principles, based on the categories of «administrative-legal relations» and «administrative-legal norms», necessitate reference to legal encyclopedic publications to elucidate their content

6. CONCLUSION

Administrative-legal relations are described as those that result from the regulatory impact of administrative-legal norms on societal relations, transforming them into legal relations. Administrative-legal norms are formally defined, legally obligatory, protected by state enforcement means, and represent rules of conduct governing the behavior of participants in societal relations in executive authority and administrative activities of state and local self-government bodies. These norms provide conditions for exercising rights and fulfilling obligations imposed on these participants (Great Ukrainian Legal Encyclopedia..., 2016/2020). Essentially, these categories denote the sectoral affiliation of legal norms based on the defined subject of regulation and the methods characteristic of the regulatory influence of the corresponding legal norms.

In its administrative-legal context, the term «principle» is applied in disclosing the essence of the category «principles of administrative law». It signifies the fundamental, universal provisions that form the basis of the field and serve as the foundation for the establishment and operation of its system. These principles guide the regulation of administrative legal relations.

The essence of the «administrative-legal principles» category can be elucidated by understanding it as a principle, a fundamental idea, and a basis of administrative-legal regulation. In this context, it is worthwhile to disclose the essence of the category «administrative-legal regulation» by considering the nature of the overarching theoretical category «legal regulation», taking into account the sectoral affiliation of norms through which an impact is made on societal relations that objectively require organization through the application of legal means.

Legal regulation is defined as a type of social regulation that entails organizing societal relations through the use of legal means (legal norms, normative legal acts, acts applying the law, acts governing the exercise of rights and duties, and more). The category «administrative-legal regulation» is a derivative of the general category «legal regulation» and denotes the organization of societal relations facilitated through administrative-legal norms, administrative-legal acts, administrative-legal means, etc.

Therefore, the sequence of basic legal categories in the science of administrative law, considering them in a logical-semantic sequence following the «from general to specific» approach, can be presented as follows: from «administrative-legal principles» to

«principles of administrative law», then to «administrative-legal regulation», and finally to «administrative-legal norms».

Taking into account the chosen approach to elucidate the essence of the category «administrative-legal principles», particularly concerning the activities of law enforcement agencies, special attention should be given to investigating the principles of administrative law related to the activities of law enforcement agencies. An analysis of their functions, forms, and methods of operation is essential. These identified categories will help reveal the essence of administrative-legal principles that govern the activities of law enforcement agencies.

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