Conceptual comprehension of strategies for ensuring social stability in the interests of the citizens and the safety of the state

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The article suggests a strategic vision of the main directions, principles and approaches to developing strategies for ensuring public stability in the interests of citizens and the security of the state as a political and legal mechanism. It defines a number of strategic documents that will determine the general course of the state in support of the stable development of the most important spheres of public life in order to ensure the interests of citizens and to optimize public administration. Moreover, the work discloses the essence of the documents in the direction of ensuring the security of a citizen and the state in the external and internal political space, which in general forms the basic ideas of achieving social stability. It outlines the main directions of implementing the suggested strategies and concepts.

Key words: public administration; state security; social stability; strategy of reforms; civil society.

Introduction

The changes taking place today in domestic and foreign policy of the state require radical rethinking of its priorities taking into account the increase of responsibility for events in the country. They open up new ways of state security development in a general sense by ensuring the interests of its citizens, but also deform the present ways of achieving social stability, causing negative trends in the society and state development under the influence of changes taking place in the domestic and foreign political direction of the country.


The goal of the article

is to develop at the theoretical level a strategic vision of the main directions, principles and approaches for ensuring social stability in the interests of citizens and state security as a political and legal mechanism.

Results and discussions

Today, the highest political authority of the country and the highest bodies of state power and administration, to a certain extent, form the vision of the problems and perspectives of stable development of the society. Moreover, the understanding of the above stated issues is combined with the basic priority of foreign and domestic policy – a stable society in the security external and internal political
space. However, nowadays the ways and mechanisms of stabilizing social development and public administration (towards social stability) remain not defined at the level of real state-government practice.

In order to optimize public administration by ensuring social stability, it is necessary to develop a series of strategic documents. They need to determine: the general course of the state towards the support of the stable development of the most important spheres of public life in order to ensure the interests of citizens; the ways and mechanisms of preserving the identity of the state in the geopolitical space, ensuring the creation of its positive image; creating the right conditions for the development of civil society, the social state and security space. Strategic documents are characterized by several basic parameters that emphasize their specifics and determine the content. First of all, it should be noted that the content of the strategy provides guidance and priorities for current activities, medium-term and short-term projects, which should not contradict the so-called general strategy (course) of the state. In fact, it is about the ability of the strategy to set the stages of achieving the goal, within which a constant determination of the problems and ways of their solution is foreseen that provides the dynamics of social development of the society and the state.

At the same time, the goals of the state (general) strategy cannot be related to some primitive actions like survival, debt recovery, improvement of living standards. Strategic goals of the state should have a meaningful role, shape the social priorities of citizens, and allow them to build their lives with an orientation towards a certain declared security perspective. The state strategy must rely on the public interests of the whole society, on certain values, and not on purely idealistic approaches. The conceptual characteristic of strategic planning in Ukraine can now be defined as non-pocket social and cultural design. With this approach, the creation of a new system of values, based on national culture and a perspective value for the holistic development of the state is of particular importance. The strategy is formulated and developed by senior management. However, implementation of the strategy under the strategic management is possible only with the participation at all levels of public administration.

The main document that reflects the strategic vision of the state’s main priorities, functions and mechanisms of public administration to ensure public stability in the direction of state security and the interests of citizens, should be the “State strategy for ensuring social stability”. This program document must be the main reference point for developing a state policy of sustainable development and state policy of perspective development of regions, in which there should be defined the main priorities of the successful implementation in practice of the strategic principles and guidelines of the state and the society in the field of ensuring public stability, as well as mechanisms of public administration of its provision. The importance of developing this particular document as a general strategy of the state is caused by the fact that social stability provides the state, especially the transitive state, with the possibility of opposing any negative changes and enables to resolve them without significant harm to society, and provides further dynamic development of the state. Otherwise, namely in the state of instability of the state, most changes will be aimed at its destruction. An influential factor in the instability of the state is the uncertainty that is manifested primarily by the unevenness of social relations, the unwarranted urgency of emerging events, the unpredictability of their consequences etc. Under these conditions, the state as a social system becomes too sensitive to external influences and internal deviations, reacting to them with disturbances that violate the integrity and, accordingly, the stability.

Consequently, such a document should become the basis for the further preparation of conceptual and program documents defining the goals and directions of public authorities activity, as well as the principles of interaction with civil society institutions in the area of ensuring public stability, citizens’ interests and state security. In fact, such a strategy is aimed at creating conditions for ensuring the implementation of the main priorities of social development and public administration for ensuring social stability. In particular, it focuses on effective solution of urgent problems of social development by means of state governance, the resolution and elimination of contradictions in the socio-political, socio-economic and socio-cultural spheres, taking into account the priorities of the foreign and domestic policy of the state, its national interests.

The strategic vision of the main priorities of the state and society, functions and mechanisms of public administration for ensuring social stability should also be defined within the concepts that cover specific spheres of public life: “Concept of social and political stability”, “Concept of economic security”, “Concept of spiritual and ideological policy” and “Concept of securing inter-confessional, interethnic and intercultural cooperation”. The necessity of developing such documents is conditioned by the transitivity of the state’s development, the political confrontation of the “ruling elite” against the background of aggravation of the socio-economic crisis and the development of social instability, a violation of the security of external and internal political space, which necessarily requires the formation of development concepts of Ukrainian society reflecting the most important principles, interests and priorities of its development on the basis of socially significant spiritual values within the framework of a united doctrine of innovative spiritual development of a personality, the society and the state. Concepts should be aimed at strengthening the unity and international agreement in the society, the revival of national spiritual values; sustainable development of Ukraine, ensuring socio-political and socio-economic stability, reducing the level of social tension, creating a decent image of the state in the world community, developing civil society in the context of world globalization processes, the formation of a democratic state with the rule of law. Concepts substantiate as the highest values the civil security, full sovereignty of an individual, observance of the constitutional rights and freedoms, and serve the function of the ideology of national and cultural revival of the state. Thus, the proposed concepts represent a system of philosophical, political, legal, economic, social, moral, ethical, aesthetic, religious ideas, views, principles and ideals that reflect the interests, aspirations and needs of separate individuals, different social groups, the nation, the state.

“Concept of social and political stability” is a document
that defines the system of socially recognized and established in the state principles, norms and regulations characterizing the system of state administration and civil society, aimed at ensuring their parity, consensus and harmony. If to take as the basis the understanding of political stability as the ratio of social groups and political forces, in which neither party can significantly change the political system according to its interests, then the objective side of stability will be the absence of political tension, and subjectively political stability will allow citizens who are not in opposition to the existing authorities, to be in a state of security, that is, a kind of political comfort. Thus, the state of social and political stability will be characterized by the ability to preserve its identity, to guarantee peace and protection of life without causing panic attitudes, on the basis of achieving a balance of interests of various social actors and political forces. The level of institutionalization of a political society and political participation is also extremely important for the definition and understanding of political stability. In fact, it is a subjective component of ensuring political stability, which is determined by the human factor, and at the political level - by state-political institutions. In the process of ensuring political stability, the power itself acts as the main subject of management, and, accordingly, binds all political structures into a single system. Consequently, within the framework of this concept, there should be identified the main directions of solving problems of creating an effective stabilization policy based on the development of specific tools and mechanisms; harmonization and coordination of decisions taken at the national and regional levels; providing the state with a direct dialogue between the subjects of public administration.

"Concept of economic security" is a document that defines the system of socially recognized and established in the state principles and norms, which characterize the economic status of an individual, the society and the state, as well as the basic elements of the economic system, including the system of institutional relations under the conditions of state regulation of economic activities. This concept is aimed at identifying and developing mechanisms for preventing possible threats and dangers in the economic sphere, ensuring economic security of the state.

Taking into account such a focus of the concept, public administration activity should ensure the process of eliminating the following probable and existing threats to economic stability, namely: increasing socio-economic differentiation and polarization of the society based on the imbalance of social interests and the influence of the development of social conflicts; deformation of the structure of the national economy, which is developing under the influence of increasing resource dependence (especially energy), low competitiveness of enterprises in the domestic and foreign markets, ending production in important industries, reducing productivity and technological backwardness of production capacities; growth of external debt of the state and unbalance of the state budget.

The regional dimension should be also added to the general problems of securing economic stability, as it is connected with the unevenness and imbalances in the socio-economic development of regions. In this area, concepts should take into account such factors of threats to socio-economic development of regions as: real differences between regions; the presence of depressed and economically backward developing regions in the context of structural changes in the system of industrial production, which lead to a decrease in the share of certain industries in the total volume of gross production; destruction of production links between regions and increasing gap in the level of production of national income between regions etc. Taking into account the complexity of these issues, within the framework of the Concept, there should be defined the mechanisms and ways of ensuring the preservation of the common economic space and the extensive structure of inter-regional economic relations along with the functioning of a single national market and an integrated system of regional markets, taking into account their industrial and sectoral specialization. Important in this aspect is the definition and provision of the necessary level of state regulation of economic processes; the ability of the state administration system to regulate the normal functioning of a market economy under conditions of stability and instability.

Actual problems of the modern stage of development of Ukrainian society and the state cause the orientation of the system of public administration on significant transformations also in the social sphere in order to achieve the goals strategically important from the point of view of social stability. Among the main goals there should be pointed out the provision of effective protection of the socially unprotected groups of the population, ensuring the reach of all population groups for social benefits and guarantees, creating economic conditions for the implementation of social programs of the society and the state development, increasing on this basis the general social level of life, formation of institutes in the socio-cultural sphere that promote the development of civil society and realize the spiritual, intellectual, labor potential of the population etc.

“Concept of spiritual and ideological policy” and “Concept of providing inter-confessional, interethnic and intercultural interaction” are documents which define the system of socially recognized and state-established principles, norms and provisions characterizing the spiritual and cultural status of the society, the state and a person from a point the view of favorable conditions for realization of intellectual and creative potential of the person in the course of his/her life in the direction of providing civil security. The necessity and importance of the development of these concepts are conditioned by: the emergence of a spiritual and ideological crisis and the rise of godlessness; the loss of social and moral values, the erosion and degradation of the system of traditional values, the dissemination of spiritual values that are non-native to Ukrainian society; erosion of historically and culturally determined traditional outlook orientations; the absence of an ideological doctrine at the state level that would act as the unifying force of Ukrainian society in conditions of spiritual, political and socio-economic instability; strengthening the social stratification of society; the absence at the state level of an ideologically oriented model of formation of social consciousness and the value system of the society; destructive phenomena in the Ukrainian society, decrease of the general educational and cultural level of the population; lack of stability in the economic and social spheres; political reformism; social
tension in the society, aggravation of interethnic and interconfessional conflicts, development of separatism and extremism; the negative nature of the media influence on the society, in particular on the process of educating young people.

An important structural element of the problem field of cultural development is the weak material base, which reflects the connection of culture with the level of social and economic development, envisaging not only the issues of development of material, but also spiritual culture. Although in the latter case, this issue cannot be limited to insufficient funding, since it involves the use of the entire complex of personality development as a social subject. It is more appropriate to relate these problems with the transformation of the economic priorities of the country that deduces the sphere of culture from budget financing, which puts it in the face of the need for survival in a market environment. Therefore, in fact, issues in the sphere of culture in the market conditions are concentrated on the mechanisms of preserving the dynamics of cultural development, which are profit-oriented, bringing to life such phenomena as mass, conjuncture etc. Thus, a person and society in similar conditions and priorities of cultural development are deprived of the opportunity to develop what is different or doesn’t correspond to the market demands – the spiritual culture is much inferior to the material culture, the culture aimed at the material satisfaction of a social subject, who is in a situation characterized by high the level of social tension, the reduction of the social status of certain groups of the population, the uncertainty of the future, the decline in the overall level of physical and mental culture, that is developing under the influence of activation of anti-social phenomena etc.

Such socio-cultural situation requires the development and implementation of an effective state policy in the field of culture aimed at ensuring social stability based on understanding of culture as one of the most important components of sustainable development, connected with the state’s social policy. The state policy in the field of culture in terms of ensuring social stability aims at supporting such state of the society, which promotes the implementation of all the necessary conditions for the political, social and economic development of the society and the state at all levels, creating conditions for the development and reproduction of the creative potential of culture. The latter also implies attention to the need for the development of a multinational culture, the preservation of cultural heritage and the spiritual traditions of national ethnic groups in a multi-ethnic society, which should be based on effective regional, interregional, intergovernmental and international interaction, since it allows reducing disparities and eliminating deformations in cultural development. Under such conditions, an integrated approach is required to solve the issues of ensuring social stability, on the basis of which the main direction of cultural development is the harmonization of social, economic and cultural priorities of the country, the state and a personality.

From the point of view of the methodological basis of the process of ensuring social stability in practice, it is important to focus on the general tendency regarding comprehension of the processes of cultural development of the society and the state, within which the emphasis is placed on the priorities of specific ways of solving issues related to stability at the level of culture, as well as the main common moments between culture and politics are determined.

In view of this, the mentioned above concepts reflect the process of creation and development of spirituality, national values, state and public consciousness, defining as the basis of spiritual policy a person, the main subject of state construction. Thus, the main components of spiritual policy will be education, that is nationally oriented, aimed at the formation of a new value system of society and upbringing that is aimed at shaping public consciousness on the national-patriotic principles. Important issues addressed by the Concepts are: low level of civic consciousness, activity and legal culture of youth; lack of the system of formation of value orientations; low level of public awareness on issues of participation in all spheres of public life; in the process of formation and implementation of the state spiritual and ideological policy: decrease in the number of sports institutions and cultural establishments during the last years; insufficient coherence between targeted state and regional programs aimed at providing spiritual and ideological development.

Ensuring public stability should be supplemented with the development and implementation of regulatory documents, which in their complex are aimed at taking into account internal and external challenges in the process of ensuring public stability and achieving the maximum level of state security in the external and internal political space, adaptation of the national system of public administration to modern conditions and trends in social development: “Strategy of reforms” (reflection of the inconsistency of the necessary reforms in the society and the state to the demands of preserving public stability, as well as determination of concrete effective ways to quickly overcome the manifestations of destabilization in case of reforms) and “Advancing modernization strategy of Ukraine” (support for the innovative development of the state and the society as a condition of stability regarding external and internal challenges, based on the formation of understanding about possible changes of the state of stability / instability of society in the future, definition of adequate public administration mechanisms of regulating these changes).

It should be taken into account that advancing is becoming one of the main mechanisms for ensuring social stability at the socio-economic level, which provides dynamics in development, directing the state on a new path. Still, along with this, there are certain dangers arising associated with the ambivalent nature of the state’s development as a system: the openness of the system causes the activation of external influences precisely on those components that need to develop at an accelerating pace. In practice, this should ensure maximization of the process of achieving the effectiveness of the functioning of the system and its development in the aspect of realizing the existing competitive advantages within the limits of internationalization and globalization of the world economy, based on the use of the innovative potential of the national economy. The latter, forming an innovative type of economic growth of the national economy, causes the development of new mechanisms for ensuring social stability of a society.
and social development in general. Under the conditions of integration and globalization, the orientation of the national economy to the export-raw material model of functioning becomes a restraining factor in socio-economic development, because it neglects the existing industrial and innovative potential of the national economy, turning it into a raw material application of the economies of developed countries, limiting social development. Under these circumstances, it is not about creating new jobs, diversifying production, eliminating disparities in the national economy etc.

Thus, within the stated policy documents issues should be addressed regarding the development of effective forms of public administration and administrative-territorial reform, creation and implementation of a universal mechanism of public administration in the sphere of ensuring social stability, comprehensive state support of various spheres of public life, humanization of all spheres of social life, transition to new principles of state policy, the development of a comprehensive advanced economic modernization, development and implementation of a model of innovative economy and innovative development of the society and the state etc.

Specifying and detailing of these strategies are carried out in strategic programs aimed at effective public administration of ensuring public stability. First, it is the “Strategic crisis management program” – a document that, based on the forecasting of future periods, presents ways to overcome the likely external and internal threats and risks, taking into account the need to maintain effective and efficient elements of a sustainable system. These threats are complex, but among them, the most urgent are the threats that arise as a result of the development of interstate and internal conflicts that contribute to the risk of worsening the socio-economic situation in the diversity of their manifestations. Secondly, the “Strategic Program for the Sustainable Development of the Regions” is a document that identifies the priority ways and directions of proportional regional development that ensures the preservation of the state’s integrity as one of the most important conditions of social stability. The main priorities in the field of ensuring social stability that should be defined by this document are the achievement of specific long-term goals: ensuring a continuous process of improving the quality of life of the population, forming a high level of social consciousness and public participation in the regions, forming a regional socio-economic policy of public control over the implementation of the strategy of socio-economic development of regions, development and implementation of mechanisms of public participation in the development and implementation of state social and economic policy of regional development, adaptation of available and development of new mechanisms of support civil society institutions by state authorities and local self-government bodies and promotion of socially significant measures at the regional and national level, formation of an integrated approach to increasing the effectiveness of interaction between public authorities and civil society institutions in solving the tasks of socio-economic development of the regions and providing a public stability at all levels. Important in this aspect is also the definition within the program documents of tasks that detail and specify the stated objectives: the development of a new methodology for analyzing and assessing the level of socio-economic development of regions with a widespread use of the scientific resource of non-governmental structures at the local level; the development of alternative budget programs, which clearly identify sources of funding for the regions, but at the same time, provide limited freedom in their choice; developing a system for assessing financial risks and developing mechanisms for managing them; providing regions with greater economic independence, developing on the principle of inter-regional economic cooperation in accordance with the needs and possibilities of the regions; definition of the newest mechanisms of control and responsibility for the state of budget execution; performance of professional training of specialists; understanding of budget financing as an economic basis of regional development.

Conclusions

The suggested documents represent a system of measures designed to implement in the processes of social development a new value system built on the basis of openness, spiritual and cultural plurality, tolerance, the ability to ensure the formation of a citizen and a patriot, consolidation of society on the basis of priority of the individual’s rights, reducing the social inequality, propaganda of resistance to ethnic, religious and political conflicts involving the media, which in general will contribute to the security of the citizen and the state in the external and internal political space. In this regard, the main directions of implementation of these documents will be as follows:

- normative-legal, aimed at improving the regulatory framework, determining the role, place, tasks, functions of each governmental body, agencies, organizations as components of a unified management system, taking into account their specificity and predictive changes;

- scientific and analytical, aimed at developing a system of examination, monitoring and diagnosis of problems identified in strategies and concepts, adaptation of communicative and behavioral technologies for assessing changes in the public consciousness, as well as developing methods and mechanisms for managing them;

- informational, aimed at developing mechanisms for the purposeful and creative use of the positive opportunities of state and civil society institutions in the process of implementing the policy of development of the society and the state;

- educational, aimed at creating the prerequisites for the spiritual development of the individual, the formation of the individual, the formation of the basis for the development of national consciousness and self-awareness, patriotism of children, youth and youth; the establishment of the principles of self-respect and internal freedom of the individual, which does not contradict the system of social and individual values; development of innovative forms and methods of education;

- personnel, aimed at the training of specialists capable of effective, at the level of modern requirements of socio-political and socio-economic development, solution of the tasks of forming a personality as a true social subject and a worthy citizen of the state.