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## THE ROLE OF DIGITALIZATION IN PREVENTING CRIMINAL OFFENSES COMMITTED BY STATE EMPLOYEES

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### Abstract

Digitalization represents one of the most effective tools for strengthening institutional integrity and combating corruption in public administration. This paper aims to examine the role of technology in preventing criminal offenses committed by state employees and individuals entrusted with a public service, with a focus on the Albanian context. Through the digitalization of procedures, increased traceability of administrative actions, and the automation of services, powerful mechanisms are created to reduce the space for abuse and corruption. The study analyzes the impact of platforms such as e-Albania, electronic procurement systems, and digital registers on increasing transparency and accountability. It also addresses challenges related to the lack of technical capacities, institutional culture, and the need to harmonize the legal framework with technological developments. In conclusion, it is emphasized that digitalization is not merely a technological tool, but a necessity for building trustworthy and fair institutions that can resist corruptive influences and protect the public interest.

**Keywords:** *Digitalization, Public Administration, Criminal Offenses, Transparency, Technology in Public Service*

### Digitalization and the State Administration

Digitalization of the state administration implies the use of technology to automate, improve, and modernize administrative processes. Through information management systems and electronic services, the public administration can offer more efficient and accessible services to citizens. These processes include electronic registers, online human resource management, and public procurement procedures. One of the main advantages of digitalization is its potential to eliminate many opportunities for manipulation and corruption. For example, procurement processes can be automated and electronically tracked, ensuring full transparency and reducing opportunities for abuse.

### Criminal Offenses Committed by State Employees

Criminal offenses committed by state employees are a serious issue with damaging consequences for society and trust in state institutions. Corruption, abuse of office, and misuse of power are among the most common crimes that can be committed by public administration employees. For this reason, preventing these offenses is one of the main objectives of any administration seeking to maintain integrity and strengthen citizens trust.

One of the main challenges is the lack of effective and automated oversight. Often, public employees

may exploit opportunities to manipulate systems such as registries and procedures to commit unlawful actions without being detected. This creates significant insecurity for citizens and leads to a decline in trust toward public institutions.

### **The Role of Digitalization in Preventing Criminal Offenses**

Digitalization holds great potential in contributing to the prevention of criminal offenses committed by state employees. The use of electronic systems and advanced software can establish a high level of transparency and accountability. Below are some of the main mechanisms through which digitalization can help prevent crime. Real-Time Transparency and Accountability; one of the greatest advantages of digitalization is its ability to ensure transparency and accountability. The use of electronic management systems for processes such as tender management and the allocation of financial resources enables real-time audits and inspections. Open systems allow every action taken by state employees to be recorded and available for inspection, ensuring continuous oversight of all actors. Automation of Procedures to Reduce Manipulation Opportunities. Automating many administrative processes, including payroll, document registration, and tender approvals, can eliminate opportunities for corruption. When these processes are automated and integrated with other systems, the potential for external interference is significantly reduced. Moreover, such automation ensures that everything operates in accordance with established procedures and policies, making it much harder for any employee to manipulate the process. Monitoring and Tracking Employee Activity, another important aspect of digitalization is the ability to monitor employee activities in real time. Information management systems can track every activity from field visits to internal communications and the use of state resources. Technologies like block chain can be used to ensure that all actions are recorded in an immutable format, allowing for regular and detailed audits that are difficult to tamper with. Data Analysis to Identify Patterns of Abuse. The use of data analysis and artificial intelligence (AI) can help identify potential patterns of abuse before they occur. Algorithms can analyze employee actions and behaviors to detect anomalies that may indicate manipulation or potential legal violations. This type of proactive monitoring can detect suspicious activity in its early stages and enable swift intervention to prevent crimes.

### **Examples of Successful Digitalization Implementation in Crime Prevention**

In several developed countries, digitalization has significantly contributed to the reduction of corruption and criminal offenses committed by public employees. For example, in Sweden, the public procurement management system is fully automated and enables real-time audits, reducing the potential for manipulation. Similarly, in Estonia, many public services have been digitalized and all registers are accessible to citizens, ensuring a high level of transparency and accountability.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

Digitalization has the potential to help prevent criminal offenses committed by state employees by increasing transparency, efficiency, and accountability. However, it is essential that states invest in secure and sustainable systems, ensuring data protection and preventing abuse of technology. It is recommended that states continue to develop and improve digital monitoring mechanisms, automate as many processes as possible, and ensure that citizens have access to the necessary information to hold the public administration accountable.

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