Theory and legal regulation of information support of administrative proceedings in Ukraine

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Received: April 15th, 2021
Accepted: May 20th, 2021
Published: July 6th, 2021

How to cite this article:

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Abstract

The article is devoted to the analysis of scientific concepts and the legal framework of the concept of information support for administrative legal proceedings. The characteristics and peculiarities of information support for administrative legal proceedings are studied; its differences from information support for the administrative court are highlighted. The author’s definitions of the concept of information support for the administrative procedure and information support for the administrative court are proposed. Three stages of formation of national legislation regulating information provision of administrative legal proceedings are singled out. The system of laws and regulations, which provide for provisions consolidating legal fundamentals of information support of administrative legal proceedings, is clarified. Prospective directions for the development of scientific inquiry in the field of information support for administrative legal proceedings and its legal regulation are revealed.

Keywords: administrative proceedings, information support, concept, legal regulation, theory.

Resumen

El artículo está dedicado al análisis de los conceptos científicos y el marco jurídico del concepto de apoyo a la información en los procedimientos judiciales administrativos. Se estudian las características y peculiaridades del apoyo informativo al procedimiento jurídico administrativo; se destacan sus diferencias con el apoyo informativo al tribunal administrativo. Se proponen las definiciones del autor sobre el concepto de apoyo a la información para el procedimiento administrativo y el apoyo a la información para el tribunal administrativo. Se señalan tres etapas de formación de la legislación nacional que regula el suministro de información de los procedimientos jurídicos administrativos. Se aclara el sistema de leyes y reglamentos que prevén disposiciones que consolidan los fundamentos jurídicos del apoyo informativo de los procedimientos jurídicos administrativos. Se revelan las direcciones prospectivas para el desarrollo de la investigación científica en el campo del apoyo a la información de los procedimientos jurídicos administrativos y su regulación legal.

Palabras clave: trámite administrativo, soporte de información, concepto, regulación legal, teoría.

Resumo

O artigo é dedicado à análise dos conceitos científicos e da estrutura legal do conceito de suporte de informação para procedimentos legais administrativos. São estudadas as características e peculiaridades do suporte de informação para processos judiciais administrativos; suas diferenças em relação ao suporte de informação para o tribunal administrativo são destacadas. São propostas as definições do autor do conceito de suporte de informação para o procedimento administrativo e de suporte de informação para o tribunal administrativo. São apontadas três etapas de formação da legislação nacional que regulamenta o fornecimento de informações para os processos judiciais administrativos. O sistema de leis e regulamentos, que prevê disposições que consolidam os fundamentos legais de suporte de informação de procedimentos legais administrativos, é esclarecido. São reveladas direções prospectivas para o desenvolvimento da pesquisa científica no campo do suporte de informação de procedimentos legais administrativos e sua regulamentação legal.

Palavras-chave: procedimento administrativo, suporte da informação, conceito, regulamentação legal, teoria.
I. INTRODUCTION

Modern legal proceedings in Ukraine are impossible without quality information provision. The current state of legal proceedings, as stated in the Strategy for the reform of the Judiciary, Legal Proceedings, and Related Legal Institutes for 2015-2020, approved by the Decree of the President of Ukraine on 20.05.2015 No. 276/2015, has insufficient level of unity and consistency of court practice, as well as insufficient level of use of opportunities of modern information systems (e-justice). The evolution of domestic legislation regulating information relations in the field of legal proceedings takes place in stages and depends on many factors, the main of which are the development of information technology, legal reforms, and the implementation of international law.

A small number of scholars who investigated the issue of information provision of legal proceedings testify to the complexity of this problem and the need to intensify scientific research in this area. Significant volumes of relations in the field of information provision of legal proceedings led only to a fragmentary study of their legal regulation. Recent changes in the procedural law have significantly increased the number of legal rules governing the information provision of administrative legal proceedings, and introduced new unexplored and completely unformed legal institutions. The above-mentioned determines the relevance of the submitted scientific article.

According to O. V. Bryntsev, e-justice is one of the elements of e-democracy, which is being implemented in order to ensure accessibility, accountability, the effectiveness of feedback, inclusiveness and transparency in the activities of state authorities. Judiciary is a key component of democracy, so it is fairly considered that e-justice is the most important front of e-democracy.¹

For the effective functioning of the state and all state mechanisms, information provision of administrative legal proceedings of Ukraine is of key importance. As V. B. Pchelin notes, the proper functioning of administrative legal proceedings of Ukraine, within which the consideration and resolution of public-law disputes related to the protection and restoration of violated, unrecognized, disputed rights, freedoms, and interests of individuals and legal entities take place, may be only in the case of its effective information support.²

The content and scope of information relations arising in the field of administrative legal proceedings with each stage of development of domestic information and procedural legislation are increasingly specified. At the same time, the growth of the circle of such relations, the increase of the types of information used within the administrative legal proceedings, and the growing importance of information support for administrative legal proceedings are observed. The current legal community of Ukraine is looking for ways to optimize the work of the entire judicial system in general and administrative legal proceedings in particular.

The volume of cases handled by administrative courts remains significant every year. Thus, in 2016, 215,319 administrative cases were received for consideration by local administrative courts, and 76,184 cases — by administrative courts of appeals. In 2017, 121,692 cases were submitted for consideration to the local administrative courts, and 73,496 cases — to the administrative courts of appeal. Accordingly, the amount of information used to resolve such a circle of cases invariably grows; the need for optimization of information databases, their integration, and for improving the efficiency of the search for the necessary information increases.

II. SCIENTIFIC AND THEORETICAL FOUNDATIONS OF INFORMATION SUPPORT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN UKRAINE

One of the most important characteristics of the state, which significantly affects all processes of the socio-economic development of society, is the level of information provision of the system of state power, as I. M. Oliichenko emphasizes. Many years of experience in improving public administration confirm that information provision should be considered as one of the strategic directions to improve the efficiency of its activities at all levels: State, branch, regional and international. P. V. Makushev emphasizes that information provision of each civil service is an important element

of its functioning.⁶ As V. V. Lusher notes, the science of administrative law widely uses these terms: «administrative legal support», «the mechanism of administrative legal support», «ensuring rights and freedoms of citizens», «ensuring public safety», etc.⁷

In the dictionaries, the term «provision» is interpreted in similar terms, but it has certain differences. Thus, in the New Explanatory Dictionary of the Ukrainian Language it is considered in two meanings: 1) The provision or creation of material resources; 2) guaranteeing something.⁸ In the Great Explanatory Dictionary, the term «provision» is explained through the verb «to provide», which is used in several meanings: «To create reliable conditions for the implementation of something»; «to guarantee something»; «to defend, to protect someone, anything from danger». The above interpretation of the concept of «provision» allows considering it as an activity, a system of measures aimed at improving something specific. So, one can agree with the conclusion of V. B. Pchelin that the category of «provision» is denoted by a long process aimed at guaranteeing the functioning of the relevant institution, maintaining it in good condition in order to fulfil its tasks.⁹

The term «provision» can be used in various areas of legal regulation and can have some peculiarities depending on it. However, for the study of the issues of information provision of administrative legal proceedings, the results of the search of scientists are important in terms of approaches to the content of the concept of information provision. So, R. A. Kaliuzhnyi, investigating the information supply of a management system, proposes to understand it as a combination of all the information used, specific means and methods of its processing, as well as the activities of specialists on the efficient use of data, information and knowledge in the management of a particular system [9]. Studying the provision of management information, S.M. Petrenko believes it is a set of implemented decisions on the volumes of information, its qualitative and quantitative composition, location, and forms of organization. The purpose is the timely provision of necessary and sufficient information for the adoption of managerial decisions that ensure the effective operation of both the enterprise as a whole and its structural subdivisions.¹⁰ O. K. Yudin and V. M. Bohush, studying the

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⁹ Vitely Pchelin, supra, note 6.
¹⁰ Svetlana Petrenko, supra, note 9.
provision of information security, define it as a set of measures designed to achieve the state of protection of the needs of individuals, society and the state in information.\textsuperscript{11}

Directly informational support as an independent concept, L. V. Balabanova proposes to understand it as a set of actions to provide the necessary management information in the specified place on the basis of certain procedures with a given periodicity.\textsuperscript{12} A. V. Chernoivanenko sees it as a system for managing the totality of representations, concepts, data, and as activities related to means of collecting, registering, transmitting, storing, processing and presenting information. A. Tytorenko understands it as the most important element of information systems and information technology, designed to display information that characterizes the state of the controlled object and which is the basis for the adoption of management decisions, and includes a set of unified system of indicators, flows of information — options for document management, systems of classification and coding of economic information, unified documentation system, and various information arrays (files) stored in a computer and technical carriers and having different degrees of organization.\textsuperscript{13} Y. D. Bondarenko sees it as a process to meet the needs for information based on the use of special means and methods for its acquisition, processing, accumulation, and output in easy-to-use form, and the structure of this provision includes an information fund and special techniques and methods of information provision; i.e. this phenomenon simultaneously represents, firstly, a certain organizational activity of obtaining, processing, accumulation, and output of information, secondly, methods and techniques of its implementation, and thirdly, certain material objects — information fund. I. O. lierusalyomov defines it as an act, as well as storage, performance of something that serves as a guarantee of one or another process.\textsuperscript{14}

Investigating the information support of the state criminal-executive service, Y. Y. Barash defines its main features, namely: in its essence, it acts as a process of processing, obtaining, storing, and using management information about various aspects of the functioning of the service; by a periodicity, it represents an uninterrupted process of processing and using information; by the nature of existence, it is a part of the management of the service; by the form of implementation, it is carried.


\textsuperscript{13} Galina Titorenko. \textit{INFORMATION MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGIES.} (2003). Pg. 439.

\textsuperscript{14} Igor Jerusalem. \textit{The Concept of “Provision” in Legal Science. SCIENTIFIC BULLETIN OF KYIV NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS} 1. 2007. Pg. 11-17.
out using means and methods inherent in this type; by the consequences of the implementation of information provision, it is associated with the formation of certain information funds, documents, regulatory framework; for the purpose of functioning, it is aimed at ensuring the proper functioning of the system, for example, an automated control system; for the main purpose as an instrument of effective management, it finds its implementation in the analysis, planning, and preparation of effective managerial decisions.\(^\text{15}\)

Studying the information provision of the state executive service, P.V. Makushev defines it as a part of managerial activity in the analysis, planning and preparation of management decisions, which is an uninterrupted process of processing and using information on the state of the functioning of the state executive service system. This process is carried out with the help of information tools and methods, leads to the formation of information funds, and aims to ensure the proper functioning of the system of the state executive service of Ukraine.\(^\text{16}\) O. V. Kostenko determined the features inherent in information provision in more detail, taking into account its content, methods of implementation, goal and purpose.\(^\text{17}\)

Taking into account features of administrative legal proceedings, the most modern definition of its information provision is formulated by V. B. Pchelin. Thus, this scholar proposes to understand the information support of administrative legal proceedings of Ukraine as the set of measures based on the requirements of the current national legislation on the operation (collection, fixation, analysis, storage, dissemination, etc.) of information that is implemented in the framework of the performance of its functions by authorized subjects, and due to the functioning of automated systems, and aimed at ensuring the proper functioning of administrative courts for the consideration and resolution of public-law disputes.

In our view, the term of «operating information» is not traditional in the field of law and its use in this area needs a deeper justification. Therefore, in our opinion, in the definition proposed by V. B. Pchelin, the term «operation» is supposed to be replaced by the term «circulation». In the current legislation of Ukraine, the term «circulation», which can be applied to information, is defined in the Law of Ukraine «On Electronic Document Circulation». So, in Article 9 of this law, electronic document flow is defined as a set of processes for creating, processing, sending, transmitting, receiving,

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storing, using and destroying electronic documents, processes that are performed using integrity checking and, if necessary, confirming the fact of receipt of such documents. Thus, in the opinion of the legislator, the information circulation includes its processing. At the same time, an electronic document, under Art. 5 of this law, is a document with information recorded in the form of electronic data, including the mandatory details of the document. Although the concept of an electronic document is somewhat narrower than the concept of information, in general we believe that the concept of electronic document circulation characterizes the content of the concept of information circulation.

Information provision of administrative legal proceedings is carried out in the course of activities of authorized entities, as well as through the operation of the relevant automated systems. V. B. Pchelin stresses that the judges as the main subjects of cognition in the administrative process, the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, and the courts are the main subjects that carry out the information provision of administrative legal proceedings.

At the same time, according to Art. 147 «System of Ensuring the Functioning of the Judiciary» of the Law of Ukraine «On the Judiciary and Status of Judges», in this country there is a unified system of ensuring the functioning of the judiciary — courts, bodies of the judiciary, other state bodies and institutions of the system of justice. This system includes: The Supreme Council of Justice, the High Qualifications Commission of Judges of Ukraine, the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, and the National School of Judges of Ukraine; other bodies of state authority and local self-government bodies are involved in the organizational support of the activities of courts in the cases and in accordance with the procedure established by this and other laws. According to Articles 152 and 155 of the above-mentioned law, the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine and the court apparatus have the basic authority regarding the information provision of administrative justice in the system of bodies for ensuring the functioning of the judiciary.

Information support for administrative legal proceedings is provided through the functioning of the relevant information systems. Nowadays, such systems are the Unified State Register of Court Decisions, the Register of Electronic Addresses of State Authorities, their Officials and Officers, the Automated System of Court Documents,
and the Single Judicial Information and Telecommunication System.\textsuperscript{20} According to Article 18 of the Code of Administrative Legal Proceedings of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as CALP), the Single Judicial Information and Telecommunication System operates in courts, which was created for the fulfilment of such tasks as: Registration of documents coming to court; determination of a judge for the consideration of a case; exchange of documents electronically between courts, as well as between the court and the participants in the trial; fixing the trial, and participation of participants in the trial in a court session in a video conferencing mode. However, the adoption of the provision on this system still requires time and certain measures.

Thus, the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine has elaborated a Plan of Measures for the Implementation of the Law of Ukraine on 03.10.2017 No. 2147-viii «On Amendments to the Commercial Procedural Code of Ukraine, the Civil Procedural Code of Ukraine, the Code of Administrative Legal Proceedings of Ukraine, and other legislative acts».\textsuperscript{21} Consequently, as V. B. Pchelin emphasizes, the corresponding automated information systems serve as important constituent elements of the information provision of administrative legal proceedings, because precisely due to their functioning: The subjective factor is eliminated; tasks on information provision are carried out continuously and promptly; everyone, except for cases provided by law, is provided with the necessary information on administrative legal proceedings, and other related data in this area.\textsuperscript{22} It is through the information support for administrative legal proceedings that the principles of its publicity, openness and transparency are implemented.

### III. Legal Fundamentals of Information Provision of Administrative Legal Proceedings in Ukraine and the Stages of their Formation

Under the legal principles of information provision of administrative legal proceedings, V. B. Pchelin proposes to understand the totality of legal acts of various legal forces. Taking into account the hierarchical links of the latter, they carry out statutory regulations of the activities of authorized entities and the functioning of automated


\textsuperscript{21} Galina Titorenko, \textit{supra}, note 17.

\textsuperscript{22} Vitaly Pchelin, \textit{supra}, note 6.
information systems with the operation of information, in order to ensure proper activities of administrative courts for the consideration and resolution of public-law disputes.\textsuperscript{23}


The stages of formation of the legal regulation of information provision of administrative legal proceedings, determined by us, are based on large-scale structural changes that have led to global processes in the field of information provision of administrative legal proceedings. We associate the first stage of the formation of legislation regulating the information provision of administrative legal proceedings with the adoption of the CALP on July 6, 2005. Thus, the first edition of the CALP identified such important components of the information provision of administrative legal proceedings as the principles of transparency and openness of the administrative process (Article 12), the principles of recording the court session by technical means (Article 41), the reproduction and printing of the technical record of the court session (Article 44), and types of procedural information and its carriers.

The second stage of the formation of legal norms regulating information provision of administrative legal proceedings is connected with the introduction of an automated system of document circulation in administrative courts. The Law of Ukraine «On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine Regarding the Introduction of Automated System of Document Circulation in Administrative Courts» on June 5, 2009, No. 1475-VI, supplemented the CALP by Art. 15-1 «Automated System of Court Documents». By the Order of the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine as of 03.12.2009 No. 129, the provision «On Automated System of Document Circulation in Administrative Courts» was approved, which expired pursuant to the Decision of the

\textsuperscript{23} Vitaly Pchelin, \textit{supra}, note 6.

The second stage in the formation of information provision of administrative legal proceedings is also characterized by a fragmentary development of certain rules regulating the information provision of certain categories of administrative cases. One of such legal acts, which caused changes in this area, is the Law of Ukraine «On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on Elections of the President of Ukraine» as of August 21, 2009, No. 1616-vi, which identified the features of the use of procedural information under the proceedings in cases related to the election of the President of Ukraine.

The Law of Ukraine «On Alienation of Land Plots and Other Immovable Property Located thereon, which are in Private Property, for Public Needs or Social Necessity» on November 17, 2009, No. 1559-vi, supplemented the CALP by Article 183-1 «Peculiarities of the Proceedings in Administrative Cases Concerning the Compulsory Alienation of a Land Plot, Other Objects». This article defines a circle of procedural information characteristic for this category. Also, at this stage, there was an extension of the circle of legal norms regulating the information provision of certain stages and types of proceedings in administrative legal proceedings (Article 174, Article 183-2 of the CALP), the circle of information used in administrative legal proceedings was expanded, etc. At this stage, the formation of the legal regulation of the information provision of administrative legal proceedings also introduces changes to Art. 12 «Publicity and Openness of Administrative Process» regarding the recording of the trial by technical means.24

The third stage of the formation of the legislation regulating information provision of administrative legal proceedings began on November 22, 2017, with the signing of the Law of Ukraine «On Amendments to the Commercial Procedural Code of Ukraine, the Civil Procedural Code of Ukraine, the Code of Administrative Legal Proceedings of Ukraine, and other legislative acts». This stage is characterized by the introduction of the electronic justice system at all stages of the process and the transition to the Single Judicial Information and Telecommunication System, the creation of the possibility of remote participation in the trial, the presentation of various documents, and familiarization with the case. The specified system provides for the exchange of documents in electronic form between courts, between the court and

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IV. Conclusions

The conditional stages of the formation of the legal regulation of the information provision of administrative legal proceedings determined by us were based on events of key importance for the formation of the information support system of administrative legal proceedings, and were accompanied by secondary fragmentary changes that concerned only information provision of certain types of administrative cases.

When investigating the information support of administrative proceedings, it is necessary to distinguish it from the information support of the administrative court. In our view, the information support of the administrative court is a part of the administrative activity for the analysis, planning and preparation of management decisions. The latter is an uninterrupted process of processing and using information on the state of functioning of the court apparatus and work of judges, which is carried out with the help of information tools and methods, leads to the formation of information funds, and is aimed at ensuring the proper functioning of the administrative court. At the same time, as information provision of administrative legal proceedings of Ukraine, this is, based on the requirements of the current national legislation, a set of measures related to the circulation of procedural information are implemented in the framework of their functions by authorized agents and through the functioning of automated systems, and are aimed at ensuring the proper functioning of administrative courts on consideration and resolution of public-law disputes.

Some aspects of the information provision of administrative legal proceedings of Ukraine are regulated at the level of subordinate legislation adopted by the State Judicial Administration of Ukraine, which approved the Typical Job Instructions for Employees of the Administration of the Local General Court, the Instruction on the Procedure for Working with Technical Means of Recording Court Proceedings (Court Sessions), the Instruction on Case Management in Administrative Courts, etc.

The nearest changes in the system of information provision of the administrative process, in accordance with the Action Plan on the implementation of the Law of Ukraine as of 03.10.2017 No. 2147-viii «On Amendments to the Commercial Procedural Code of Ukraine, the Civil Procedural Code of Ukraine, the Code of Administrative Legal Proceedings of Ukraine, and other legislative acts», is the introduction of the Unified State Register of Executive Documents and the Single Judicial Information and Telecommunication System.

V. References


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