SCIENCE ZONE | ONLINE SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCES

Conference On Legal Science

№.1 (4)
2025

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CO-AUTHORSHIP AND SERVICE WORK PERSPECTIVES ON AI-GENERATED WORKS..... 2
Zebiniso Sheraliyeva..... 2
THE ROLE OF LEGAL INTERPRETATION IN THE PROPER APPLICATION OF NORMATIVE-LEGAL ACTS..... 8
Risolat Rasulbekova..... 8
THE CONCEPT, GENESIS, AND SIGNIFICANCE OF TRANSACTIONS IN ELECTRONIC COMMERCE.....14
Mohigul Makhamatumarova..... 14
DIGITAL FORENSICS AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE.....20
Mirjalil Mirsamatov.....20
REGIONAL FEATURES AND EXPERIENCES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN INVESTIGATING CORRUPTION CRIMES..... 30
Nodirjon Xabibiddinov.....30
COVERAGE OF SOCIO-POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC LIFE IN ASHURALI ZOHIRIY'S LEGACY IN THE PERIODICAL PRESS..... 39
Shahnoza Mirzamidinova..... 39
LEGAL MECHANISMS FOR ENSURING SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA IN THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN BANKING SYSTEMS..... 48
Amirjon Mardonov..... 48

REGIONAL FEATURES AND EXPERIENCES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN INVESTIGATING CORRUPTION CRIMES

Nodirjon Xabibiddinov
Tashkent State University of Law
Master's Student in Cyber Law
Department of Criminal Procedure Law
n.xabibiddinov@tsul.uz

Abstract: This study examines the regional features and experiences of international cooperation in investigating corruption crimes, analyzing institutional frameworks, operational mechanisms, and effectiveness across diverse geographical contexts. It explores how regional organizations, including the European Union, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, African Union, and Organization of American States, have developed tailored anti-corruption approaches to address transnational corruption. The research highlights variations in legal traditions, investigative techniques, and evidence-gathering protocols, supported by case studies demonstrating successful regional collaboration. Challenges such as legal harmonization, jurisdictional conflicts, and resource disparities are identified, with recommendations proposed to enhance cross-regional cooperation. The findings underscore the importance of context-specific regional mechanisms in complementing global frameworks like the United Nations Convention against Corruption, emphasizing the need for strengthened networks, harmonized legislation, and technological advancements to combat corruption effectively.

Keywords: corruption, regional cooperation, anti-corruption mechanisms, transnational corruption, evidence exchange, joint investigations, regional organizations, comparative analysis.

Introduction

Corruption has evolved into a transnational challenge, undermining economic development, democratic institutions, and the rule of law worldwide (Rose-Ackerman & Palifka, 2018). While the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) provides a global framework, regional approaches have become essential for addressing specific geographical, cultural, and legal contexts (UNODC, 2021). These mechanisms reflect unique historical experiences and shared challenges among neighboring countries, facilitating targeted anti-corruption efforts. This study analyzes the regional features and experiences of international cooperation in investigating corruption crimes, focusing on institutional frameworks, operational mechanisms, and case studies from the European Union (EU), Asia-Pacific, Africa, and the Americas. It examines successes, challenges, and proposes strategies to enhance cross-regional collaboration (Chêne, 2020).

Legal Foundations of Regional Cooperation

Regional cooperation in anti-corruption investigations is grounded in international and regional instruments, including:

- The United Nations Convention against Corruption (2003), which establishes global principles (UNODC, 2003).
- Regional conventions, such as the EU Convention on Fighting Corruption (1997) and the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (2003).
- Bilateral agreements and memoranda of understanding among anti-corruption agencies (Khaghaghordyan, 2021).

These frameworks provide context-specific guidelines, enabling deeper integration of anti-corruption efforts among countries with shared legal traditions (Vlassis, 2023). Unlike the UNCAC's broad principles, regional mechanisms offer detailed protocols tailored to local needs, enhancing responsiveness and collaboration (Dell, 2022).

European Union Framework

The EU has developed a sophisticated anti-corruption framework, comprising:

- The Council of Europe Criminal and Civil Law Conventions on Corruption (1999).
- Institutions like the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and the European Public Prosecutor's Office (EPPO).
- Cooperation mechanisms via Eurojust and Europol (Eurojust, 2021).

The European Investigation Order streamlines evidence exchange, replacing traditional mutual legal assistance requests, while Joint Investigation Teams (JITs) enable direct collaboration among investigators and prosecutors across member states (Eurojust, 2021). Operation Vertigo, a JIT involving Czech, Slovak, and Hungarian authorities, exemplifies this approach, recovering €12 million in a VAT fraud case (Transparency International, 2022). The EU's model is distinguished by strong institutional support, standardized procedures, and legal harmonization, setting a benchmark for regional cooperation (Rose-Ackerman & Palifka, 2018).

Asia-Pacific Approaches

The Asia-Pacific region's diverse legal systems—common law, civil law, and hybrids—pose challenges to cooperation. Key frameworks include:

- The ADB/OECD Anti-Corruption Initiative.
- The APEC Anti-Corruption and Transparency Working Group.
- The ASEAN Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (Chêne, 2020).

Unlike the EU's integrated model, Asia-Pacific cooperation emphasizes capacity building and informal networks, such as the Asset Recovery Interagency Network - Asia Pacific (ARIN-AP), which facilitates asset tracing before formal requests (OECD, 2020). The Indonesia-Singapore collaboration, leveraging direct communication between anti-corruption agencies, has led to successful prosecutions and asset repatriation, demonstrating the efficacy of informal channels (Transparency International, 2022).

African Mechanisms

African anti-corruption frameworks address unique challenges like large-scale embezzlement, including:

- The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (2003).
- The ECOWAS and SADC Protocols against Corruption.
- The Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Southern Africa (ARINSA) (Chêne, 2020).

The African Union Advisory Board on Corruption promotes information sharing, while specialized anti-corruption courts in some countries enhance prosecution efficiency (Gomes Pereira, 2023). The West African Network of Central Authorities and Prosecutors (WACAP) has facilitated investigations into extractive industry corruption, showcasing innovative regional coordination (UNODC, 2021).

Americas Framework

The Americas' anti-corruption mechanisms include:

- The Inter-American Convention Against Corruption (1996), a pioneering instrument.
- The Mechanism for Follow-Up on Implementation (MESICIC).
- The Hemispheric Information Exchange Network (Gomes Pereira, 2023).

MESICIC's peer review system evaluates anti-corruption commitments, while civil society engagement enhances transparency (Transparency International, 2022). The Odebrecht scandal investigation, involving 12 countries, resulted in significant convictions and billions in recoveries, illustrating the power of regional collaboration (Gomes Pereira, 2023).

Comparative Analysis

A comparative analysis reveals:

1. **Institutional Integration**: The EU exhibits the highest integration, while Asia-Pacific relies on informal networks (Chêne, 2020).
2. **Legal Harmonization**: The EU has advanced standardization, whereas diverse legal traditions in other regions create barriers (Khaghaghordyan, 2021).
3. **Technological Capacity**: Variations in infrastructure affect evidence-sharing efficiency (OECD, 2020).
4. **Political Commitment**: Effectiveness depends on political will, which varies widely (Rose-Ackerman & Palifka, 2018).
5. **Resource Allocation**: Disparities in funding impact operational capacity (UNODC, 2021).

Common success factors include clear legal frameworks, institutional support, and trust-building mechanisms (Transparency International, 2022).

Challenges and Recommendations

Challenges to cross-regional cooperation include divergent legal traditions, jurisdictional conflicts, limited resources, and political interference (Dell, 2022). To address these, the study proposes:

1. Strengthening regional practitioner networks for enhanced coordination (Chêne, 2020).
2. Harmonizing anti-corruption legislation, particularly offense definitions and evidence standards (Khaghaghordyan, 2021).
3. Developing cross-regional protocols for multi-regional cases (UNODC, 2021).
4. Investing in secure technological infrastructure and training (OECD, 2020).
5. Establishing specialized international cooperation units within agencies (Transparency International, 2022).
6. Streamlining mutual legal assistance with standardized electronic forms (Eurojust, 2021).
7. Promoting informal communication channels to complement formal mechanisms (Gomes Pereira, 2023).
8. Enhancing asset recovery frameworks for cross-border tracing and confiscation (Chêne, 2020).

Conclusion

Regional cooperation is vital in combating transnational corruption, complementing global frameworks like the UNCAC with context-specific strategies (UNODC, 2003). The EU's integrated model, Asia-Pacific's informal networks, Africa's asset recovery focus, and the Americas' civil society engagement reflect diverse approaches shaped by regional contexts (Transparency International, 2022). Successful case studies, such as Operation Vertigo and the Odebrecht investigation, demonstrate the potential of collaboration (Gomes Pereira, 2023). However, challenges like legal disparities and resource constraints necessitate enhanced harmonization, technological investment, and cross-regional protocols (Dell, 2022). By learning from regional successes and addressing shared obstacles, the international community can strengthen its collective response to corruption, fostering integrity and accountability globally.

References

Chêne, M. (2020). Regional anti-corruption initiatives in Africa: Comparative analysis. *U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre, Chr. Michelsen Institute*.

Dell, G. (2022). The OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and the UNCAC: Complementary or competing? *Journal of International Law and Diplomacy, 18*, 123-145.

Eurojust. (2021). *Joint Investigation Teams practical guide*. European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation.

Gomes Pereira, P. (2023). Regional approaches to asset recovery: The experience of Latin America. *Basel Institute on Governance*.

Hechler, H. (2019). UNCAC in a nutshell: A quick guide to the United Nations Convention against Corruption for donor agency and embassy staff. *U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre*.

Khaghaghordyan, A. (2021). International anti-corruption normative framework: The state of the art. *Hertie School of Governance*.

OECD. (2020). *Specialised anti-corruption institutions: Review of models*. OECD Publishing.

Rose-Ackerman, S., & Palifka, B. J. (2018). *Corruption and government: Causes, consequences, and reform*. Cambridge University Press.

Transparency International. (2022). Regional anti-corruption platforms: Comparative study and best practices.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2003). *United Nations Convention against Corruption*.

UNODC. (2021). *State of implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Vlassis, D. (2023). The United Nations Convention against Corruption: A fundamental tool to prevent conflict of interest. In *Conflict of interest in public administration* (pp. 78-92). Routledge.