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## CONCEPTUAL PRINCIPLES OF ENSURING SOCIETAL SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT OF SOCIAL CHANGE

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**Abstract.** *In the conditions of social change, new articles of opportunities for societal security appear, according to which new social archetypes are formed, which set the parameters of the innovative model of societal security system, which will not only overcome existing problems and threats, but also will promote the development of tools of prejudice, protection of society from their occurrence. The purpose of the study is to substantiate the theoretical basis of the conceptual foundations of societal security, which will allow the development of new approaches to societal security in order to preserve the livelihood of society. It has been studied that the conceptual foundations of societal security address issues such as identity, social cohesion, inclusion, exclusion and the security dilemma. The research areas of the concept of “societal security” are highlighted: the first studies the subjective construction and protection of identity, the second develops according to objectivist ontologies focused on imminent external threats and the importance of protecting social systems that support life. The methodological contribution is a clear and systematic design of the study to promote transparency, structure and understanding of future research on the conceptual foundations of societal security. New ideas and dimensions for the concepts of societal security in the context of social change are offered. The concept of “societal security”, in contrast to the existing ones, is considered by us as a holistic system of interconnected elements, built on the relationship of social system and environment to prevent negative effects of social risks and reduce hazards and ensure the absence of social threats to human security. state, society and protection of their social interests, values and needs. According to the results of the study, the concept of “societal security” is comprehensive, contains economic, political, social, humanitarian and value aspects, reflects everything that affects life, including the human environment, quality of life, makes society sustainable, capable of development.*

**Keywords:** *societal security, human security, national security, social policy, threats to social security*

### Introduction

**Relevance of the study.** Modern transformational processes in public life give rise to new theoretical approaches and forms of conceptualization. Investigating the diversity of security, you can not bypass its social component. Social problems are the key systemic foundations of society. In today's conditions there is an increase in challenges and exacerbation of threats to social societal security. Therefore, the problem of societal security is one of the key to modern science.

The social sphere is connected with almost all areas of human life and is a very diverse, uneven object of study. Therefore, we consider it important to delineate the boundaries of societal security and place emphasis on its subject field.

Modern social changes create new opportunities for societal security, which form new social archetypes that set the parameters of the innovative model of the system of societal security. Such a system should not only ensure the overcoming of existing problems and threats, but also, first of

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all, promote the development of tools to prevent and protect society from their occurrence. Therefore, it is important to substantiate the theoretical basis of the conceptual foundations of societal security, which will allow the development of new approaches to societal security in order to preserve society.

**The research subject is the** conceptual principles of ensuring societal security in the context of social change

**The objective is of the article** is to substantiate the theoretical basis of the conceptual foundations of societal security, which will allow the development of new approaches to societal security in order to preserve the livelihood of society.

**Research methods:** The study used a set of scientific methods (empirical and theoretical), which allowed to achieve this goal and confirm the original hypotheses. Among the empirical methods used content analysis of normative and other sources, comparison, description, generalization and classification, elements of the modeling method for analysis of previous research on this issue, as well as to identify and illustrate the subject. In order to consider the system as a whole, as well as its components, the methods of theoretical research were used - analysis and synthesis, system method. In order to comprehend the information obtained, conceptualization was used in the study to structure scientific knowledge about societal security and develop new concepts. The comparison made it possible to establish the similarities and differences of knowledge about the societal security system, as well as to identify quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the object under study, to determine its content. The method of analysis allowed to divide the object of study into its constituent elements and parts in order to study its structure, individual features, properties, internal connections, relationships, ie to determine the essence of the studied phenomena and societal security processes. The research also used the methods of induction and deduction - during the study of the concept of “societal security”, which is reflected in the conclusions and recommendations of the study.

## **Main content**

Scientists use different ontological and epistemological positions to study societal security. Therefore, we used the following areas of research on the concept of “societal security”: the first studies the subjective construction and protection of identity, the second develops according to objectivist ontologies focused on imminent external threats and the importance of protecting social systems that support life.

In order to define the conceptual foundations of societal security, it is important to find answers to two questions: the first “what is the object of societal security?” and the second “for whom is societal security?”.

A social system is an organizational dynamic system created by people to achieve certain goals. Such systems are closely linked to their environment. They seem to grow out of it, function in it, and the results of this functioning, in turn, change the environment. Therefore, in the process of development of organizational systems, the structuring and development of the environment take place at the same time by introducing a certain order into it. Such an order in this case can be considered as a defining prerequisite for ensuring the stability of certain oriented elements of the environment, one of the elements of which is the social system (Abramov B. et al., 2016, p. 65).

**Table 1. The main elements of the concept of "societal security"**

*Source: Koval, O. (2016) supplemented by the author*

Basic concept elements "societal security"	Positive essence (subject)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• state (level) of protection;</li> <li>• security;</li> <li>• ability of public institutions (to resist, neutralize);</li> <li>• absence (threats, dangers);</li> <li>• set of conditions (measures);</li> <li>• prevention;</li> <li>• the social ideal of a stable society;</li> <li>• certain characteristics of the system and its main components;</li> <li>• timely resolution of emerging conflict</li> </ul>
	Object of influence	Negative essence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• threats;</li> <li>• negative impact (consequences);</li> <li>• danger;</li> <li>• external factors;</li> <li>• challenges;</li> <li>• risks</li> </ul>
		Orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• interests (social, vital);</li> <li>• social values;</li> <li>• social needs;</li> <li>• life, health, well-being, education, cultural</li> </ul>
	Beneficiary		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• society (society, population);</li> <li>• social actors (groups);</li> <li>• person (individual, citizen, person)</li> </ul>
Subject of influence	The essence of influence		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• neutralization;</li> <li>• collateral;</li> <li>• protection;</li> <li>• provision</li> </ul>
	Subject of influence	state non-state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• society;</li> <li>• the state;</li> <li>• public institution</li> </ul>
	Auxiliary sign		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the result of the implementation of social policy;</li> <li>• achieving social harmony and integrity in society;</li> <li>• guaranteeing the possibility of meeting basic needs;</li> <li>• preservation of social perspective;</li> <li>• preservation of the viability of man, society, state, etc.</li> </ul>
	Principles of formation and provision of societal security		
	Goal		harmonious and comprehensive human development; ensuring the satisfaction of growing needs, achieving a decent standard of living
	mechanisms and instruments of state policy to ensure societal security		
	Result		achieved a decent standard of living

In today's conditions it is important to recognize the fact that the real content of the general understanding of the concept of societal security and bring it to practical implementation is possible

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only if comprehensive consideration of all components and elements of societal security (see Table 1).

The complex transformation of the concept of “security” in the modern world has resulted in the replenishment of security discourse with the concept of “human security”, which means shifting the emphasis from the state to individuals and communities. The state-centric notion of “national security” is being changed and supplemented with a more humanistic, micro-oriented notion of “human security”.

Due to the globalization, the line between the security of society and the state is gradually blurring. Threats that have traditionally been linked to societal security and the competence of public authorities tend to have increasingly subnational roots, consequences and solutions.

Comparing the concepts of traditional, societal, national security and human security, we can see fundamental differences. The scale and nature of threats in the concept of human security, in contrast to traditional security, includes not only the threat to the physical existence of the state, but also threats to other, relatively new types of security: economic, environmental, socio-cultural and so on. The main subject of societal security in its traditional perception is the state, while the concept of human security involves the effective involvement of other actors: non-governmental organizations, international organizations, local communities and more.

The difference between the societal security system and other subsystems is that it is always a combination of material and ideal, objective and subjective, spontaneous and planned, random and natural. This is due to the fact that in society, in contrast to nature, there are people endowed with consciousness and will, their actions are always purposeful (Ilyash O., 2011, p. 27).

Summarizing the approaches of scientists to the definition of societal security, we can say that it primarily guarantees the protection of society from various threats. Its components generally cover all spheres of human life as a member of society - social, economic and natural-ecological, which forms the general field of social activity. That is, societal security in its components as a whole reflects the structure of sustainable development and in this context determines the consistency of factors that affect the relevant processes (Kutsenko V. et al., 2019, p. 14).

Societal security has become a part of the political, military, and economic security agenda. Securitization has added to societal tensions in almost every area of everyday life, when ethnic groups in the country are threatened. One of the ideas common in all studies on societal security is related to the coherence of society. The ability of any country to protect itself from external provocations and internal instability largely depends on the coherence of its society and its ability to reduce potential risks and vulnerabilities hidden in social structures (Ozoliņa, Ž. 2016).

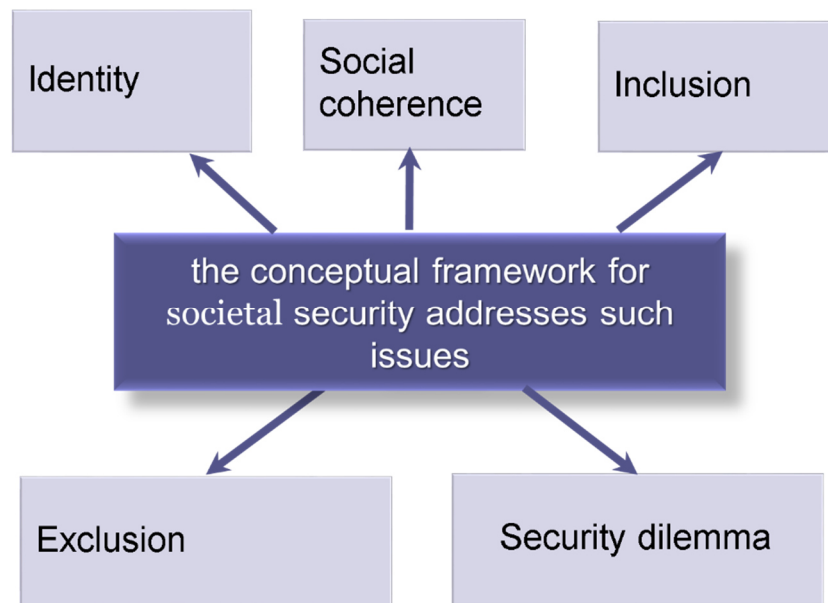
It is almost impossible to neglect relevant factors for societal security issues in the future, such as resilience, societal resilience, securitability (building individual and group security strategies based on central human capabilities), inclusion–exclusion, and, most importantly, the societal security dilemma (Ozoliņa Ž., 2016).

Traditional concepts need to be revised in order to form a comprehensive and evidence-based public policy, which could replace failed or stagnant social integration strategies (Ozoliņa Ž., 2016).

The formation of a new, modern vision of societal security is difficult, because for many years security in our country was perceived solely as its protection from external threats of political and military orientation. Societal security, despite the severity of social problems and the danger

of their consequences, has not found adequate development in the system of protection of national security of Ukraine. In the circle of priority national interests determined by law, social interests are not sufficiently systematized, they are not related to economic and political interests (Gnybidenko I. et al., 2006, p. 8, 16). However, the post-Copenhagen school development illustrated that societal security can become a referent object in its own right. Eventually, as noted by Vitkus in this volume, societal security has the potential to become “a dominant security policy referent object of top priority, to which all the other sectors, including national security, are subordinated”(Aaltola M. et al., 2018).

Conceptual principles of societal security in the context of social change address the following issues (see Figure 1).



**Figure 1. Main directions of societal security in the conditions of social changes**  
*Source: Created by the author*

Researchers at the Copenhagen School have shown that societal security has become synonymous with “identity security”, which is achieved by preserving the key features of society (Rhinard M., 2020). The concept of societal security of this school determines mainly the resistance to non-military threats, the subject is not the state (national security), not the person in it (human security, security), but society (Hough R., 2004).

In O. Weaver's updated concept of B. Buzan's theory, it is stated that the societal security of society concerns only threats to the identity of society (if a society loses its identity, it will not survive as a society) (Waever et al.1993, p. 23). “Social security refers to the ability of society to maintain its basic character under changing conditions and possible or real threats”. This security is under threat when “society perceives the threat in terms of identity” (Waver et al. 1993, p, 23). I. Chiufu defined societal security as dealing mainly with the preservation and affirmation of the

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society's identity and cohesion of society's members defining societal security (Aaltola M. et al., 2018).

Societal security is provided in the process of transformation of public, in particular social relations. The main components of social relations are welfare, income, wages, health, employment, demographic situation, socio-class differentiation, social protection, pensions and more. It depends on socio-economic development, the availability of human, material and natural resources. Without developed social relations there can be no stable societal security of man, society, and the latter largely determines the development, maturity of the processes of social development.

The object of protection is the societal security of man and citizen, society and the state. Human security is ensured through the enshrinement of social rights in the law and the creation of an effective mechanism for guaranteeing these rights. The security of individual social groups and society as a whole is shaped by the state apparatus and civil society institutions by creating favorable conditions for their existence and development. State security presupposes the successful implementation of the functions of the welfare state by the state apparatus and the prevention of social problems that lead to the destabilization of the existing system (Stashkiv B., 2007, p. 34).

The state must ensure the combination of the interests of the individual, the nation and even humanity based on the fact that a priori there is a system of universal values. Public administration in the field of societal security is characterized by patterns, features and characteristics of intersectoral and functional management, as a continuous process of subject-object relations, in the process of which is the performance of functions and tasks aimed at realizing national interests.

The main purpose of these managerial influences is forecasting, timely detection, neutralization of threats to sustainable development of man, society and the state (especially their vital interests) and prevention.

Ensuring societal security should contribute to the clear functioning of all components and elements of the country's security system, as well as the implementation of appropriate state policy in this area. The latter is ensured through purposeful activities of state authorities, local governments and civil society institutions to prevent, identify and eliminate threats to the security of individuals, society and the state and counteract them as a mandatory and indispensable condition for protecting national interests of Ukraine.

In the system of effective public administration, societal security of society should be an important priority and provided with appropriate implementation mechanisms (legal, institutional, economic, financial, organizational, managerial, informational, personnel, etc.).

It is important to create conditions for institutional support for the practical implementation of societal security, constructive and coordinated actions of institutions of all branches of government to eliminate (minimize) social threats in the formation and implementation of state and regional social policy. Societal security should be ensured in such a way that it covers all those categories of actions intended to hinder unwanted events or conditions and to reduce the consequences should these occur (Burgess J. et al., 2007).

It is necessary to promote the formation of constructive solidarity and mutually responsible relations between the main social actors - citizens, society, state, government, business. Joint and several responsibility should become the main basis of public relations in Ukraine to ensure social security.

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## Conclusions

Given the above, new ideas and dimensions for the concepts of societal security in the context of social change are proposed. It is substantiated that the content of societal security policy largely depends on the choice of conceptual approach to its provision.

The concept of “societal security”, in contrast to the existing ones, is considered by us as a holistic system of interconnected elements, built on the relationship of social system and environment to prevent negative effects of social risks and reduce hazards and ensure the absence of social threats to human security. state, society and protection of their social interests, values and needs. According to the results of the study, the concept of “societal security” is comprehensive, contains economic, political, social, humanitarian and value aspects, reflects everything that affects life, including the human environment, quality of life, makes society sustainable, capable of development.

The conceptual foundations of societal security address issues such as identity, social cohesion, inclusion, exclusion and the security dilemma.

Societal security as an object of protection is a specific phenomenon, primarily associated with threats of systemic destructive effects of external or internal origin, as well as natural or man-made disasters.

The modern system of societal security of Ukraine should become not just a set of interacting institutional elements, but also a process of formation of the legal field, values and ideological principles of state building, ideological and political strategy of national interests and relevant political decisions. At the same time, a necessary prerequisite for the proper validity and practical implementation of the chosen conceptual approach should be a clear delineation of political, administrative and operational functions of public administration in this area.

Developed human potential, decent work, high quality of working life, social responsibility, social justice, public control, etc. are the main conditions and opportunities for societal security. Achieving this will provide conditions for social development of man, society and the state, the foundation of state independence, achieving a decent standard and quality of life and overcoming poverty, protecting the social interests of the individual, society, state from internal and external threats.

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