

Contributions to Economics

Giuseppe T. Cirella *Editor*

Handbook on Post-War Reconstruction and Development Economics of Ukraine

Catalyzing Progress

 Springer

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Contents

Part I Strengthening National Security Through Technology and Governance	
1	Public Governance of the National Security of Ukraine 3 Olena Uhodnikova, Mykhailo Peresyphkin, Giuseppe T. Cirella, Dmytro Prunencko, Serhii Sliusarenko, and Oleksii Piddubnyi
2	Utilizing Information and Communication Technology Systems for the Formation of National Security 15 Gevorkyan A. Yuriyovich, Olesia Solodovnik, Giuseppe T. Cirella, Ivan Parubchak, Oleksandr Dorofyeyev, and Andrii Nosyk
3	Conceptual Framework of Ukraine’s National Security: Regulatory Examination Using Information and Communication Technologies 31 Yurii Lysetskyi, Yurii Semenyuk, Giuseppe T. Cirella, Dmytro Pavlenko, Gevorkyan A. Yuriyovich, and Oleh Demydkin
4	An Integrated Methodological Framework for Advancing Information and Communication Technology in Environmental Protection Within the Context of Ukraine’s National Security 47 Gevorkyan A. Yuriyovich, Oksana Nosyk, Giuseppe T. Cirella, Oleksii Diachenko, Roman Olientiev, Mariia Tsedik, and Tetiana V. Yarmak
Part II Strategies for Sustainable Economic Development	
5	Standardizing Business Management by Greening Domestic Production 65 Nataliia Kondratenko, Ludmila Kovalenko, Giuseppe T. Cirella, Olena Plakhotnik, Militsa Volkova, and Alina Shved

Chapter 2

Utilizing Information and Communication Technology Systems for the Formation of National Security



Gevorkyan A. Yuriyovich, Olesia Solodovnik, Giuseppe T. Cirella, Ivan Parubchak, Oleksandr Dorofyeyev, and Andrii Nosyk

1 Introduction to National Security Concerns

In today's interconnected world, driven by the internet and globalization, security concerns are prevalent and pose both internal and external threats to nation-states (Asogwa, 2020; Li & Liu, 2021; Yarovenko, 2020). These concerns encompass critical information security threats, which constitute a significant aspect of a nation's security framework (Anwar et al., 2018; Ayoob, 2018; Djenna et al.,

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2021). Ukraine, in particular, faces crucial dynamics and challenges related to information and communication technology (ICT) that significantly impact its information society and overall structure. The current ICT interventions, arising from the turmoil of Russian aggression, present various challenges and threats to both individuals and the state. These challenges include the susceptibility of global communication networks to compromise online and cloud-based national security. Additionally, cross-border activities pose threats to information security, and internet-based media can negatively impact the nation's security setup (Asogwa, 2020). Recent research in Ukraine has examined the interplay between individuals, society, and the state concerning ICT-related concerns in the context of national security. Prioritizing a secure information sphere emerged as a key concern (Antoiuk, 2019), with significant findings establishing links between communication networks and progressive national security issues.

Currently in Ukraine, there is a pressing necessity to enhance the participatory involvement of civil society in understanding and utilizing ICT. Civil society, which constitutes the third sector separate from government and business and encompasses families and private individuals, plays a crucial role in facilitating the development, adoption, and implementation of ICT-related decisions. By doing so, it indirectly contributes to achieving national security objectives (Antoiuk, 2019). Emphasizing this bottom-up perspective can empower authorities to formulate strong policies and effective management decisions (Chen et al., 2020; Lewandowski & Cirella, 2022) while promoting active societal engagement at the individual and community levels. Within this context, this chapter delves into the theoretical and methodological underpinnings of how an informed and ICT-aware society can establish a resilient national security system, highlighting its urgency in Ukraine (Khaba, 2017; Malyarenko & Kormych, 2023; Ratten, 2023; Shpiro, 2023). Current advancements in this field of study underscore the need for prompt attention to two significant aspects: first, the focus on information society and second, the emphasis on public authority and administration in timely identifying, preventing, and neutralizing potential and existing information-related challenges and threats. These factors have influenced the development, direction, and relevance of Ukraine's national security, intertwining with various societal components such as the economy, built environment, and social fabric of the country.

An analysis of the literature employing ICT systems for national security formation reveals a diverse array of challenges pertaining to information protection and the development of an information society. This aspect holds immense significance for the stability of the system, as evidenced by numerous studies across various disciplines, including Khaba (2017), Nashynets-Naumova (2017), Politskiy (2017a, 2017b), Ponomarenko (2017), Tkachuk (2017a, 2017b), Zolotar (2017), Gevorkyan et al. (2018), Simakhova (2018), Antoiuk (2019), Byrkovych (2019), Diegtiar et al. (2021), Avanesova et al. (2020), and Nepomnyashchyy et al. (2021). A comprehensive examination of these scholarly works underscores the paramount importance of theoretically and methodologically framing information security in advancing a robust national security agenda. However, certain concerns persist regarding the role of ICT in shaping and fortifying such a system, as highlighted by Shatun (2016),

Dovhan (2017), Lelechenko et al. (2020), and Marutian (2020). This chapter aims to further explore and address these issues, particularly in relation to the status and role of the information society in Ukraine. It is believed that fostering an ICT-aware citizenry is essential for recognizing the necessity of change and its profound impact on the formation and resilience of the country's national security.

2 Framing an ICT-Friendly Information Society

Framing an ICT-friendly information society necessitates a comprehensive approach involving open-mindedness, user cooperation, and reciprocity from both bottom-up and top-down perspectives. In the context of Ukraine, four essential goals are identified to achieve this vision:

- Determine the primary criteria required to classify activities within the information society.
- Systematize the key features and provide a clear definition of “information society,” specifically in relation to the utilization of ICT systems.
- Develop strategies to address and overcome threats and challenges faced by the information society when ICT is employed to enhance national security.
- Evaluate the challenges and essential methods for monitoring ICT protection, as a crucial response to the threats and challenges inherent in the evolution of the information society.

By addressing these goals, Ukraine can lay a strong foundation for building an information society that embraces ICT, fostering an environment conducive to progress and security in the digital era.

The rapid and widespread advancement of new ICT is ushering in a global information revolution with profound impacts on multiple aspects of society. This transformative phenomenon is referred to as the “information society.” Figure 2.1 presents the primary criteria for designating a society as an information society (Antoiuk, 2019; Nashynets-Naumova, 2017; Politanskyi, 2017a, 2017b). The modern information society's development is closely tied to the recognition and fundamental role of ICT among individual users. Information, in its various forms, exerts an increasingly significant influence on diverse facets of public life, shaping the system of socioeconomic relationships within the state and playing a vital role in the establishment of the national security framework (Politanskyi, 2017a, 2017b). As global ICT becomes pervasive across all spheres of life, it brings about entirely new possibilities for fostering social connections, granting access to vast repositories of human knowledge, bridging digital divides, reforming public administration through e-governance implementation, and executing the country's information policy concerning interactions with civil society. Such interactions contribute to openness, transparency, and, most importantly, security at both local and national levels.

To delve deeper into the establishment and structure of an operational ICT system, this chapter also examines Ukraine's information society encompassing its

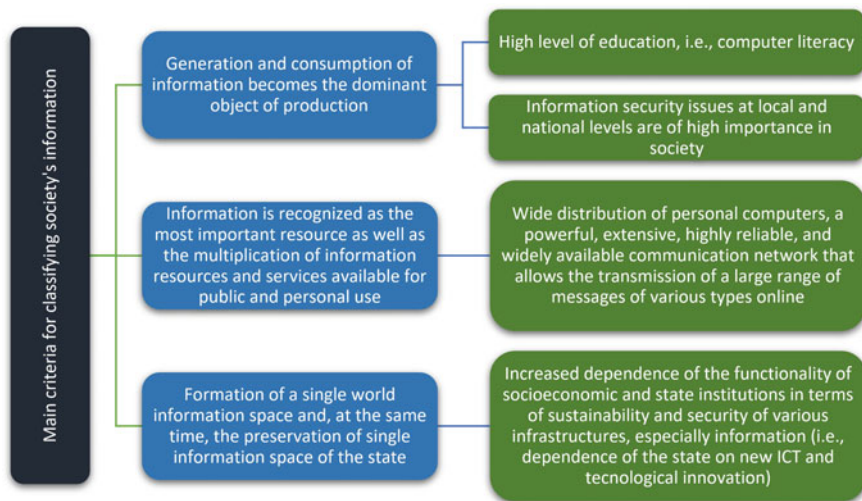


Fig. 2.1 Identification of the main criteria for assigning a society to information [Source: Adapted from Khaba (2017), Nashynets-Naumova (2017), Politanskyi (2017a, 2017b), and Antoiuk (2019)]

economic, philosophical, sociological, legal, and socio-cultural dimensions and explores its domestic and international aspirations. To enhance the theoretical and methodological significance of the research, it is essential to consolidate the findings of renowned scholars, identifying different aspects and characteristics of the information society concept. Moreover, envisioning research that inherently defines crucial categories subject to a functional ICT system for framing Ukraine's national security, as illustrated in Fig. 2.2, further enriches the chapter's value.

According to Fig. 2.2, the concept of an information society involves a complex social entity comprising individuals, economic entities, and public authorities at both local and state levels. This entity is interconnected within a global information space, leading to diverse multidimensional relationships formed through the creation, use, collection, processing, storage, and protection of ICT across various domains (Aggarwal et al., 2020; Aggarwal & Reddy, 2013; Monroe-Wise et al., 2019; Roztocki et al., 2019). The main objective is to ensure universal access to essential public information while considering necessary restrictions (Nevado-Peña et al., 2019; Zonneveld et al., 2019) that dictate conditions for the establishment and maintenance of national security. In this context, national security should be thoughtfully balanced and integrated with the socioeconomic development of communities, serving as the fundamental pillar upon which sustainable progress is built (Fu et al., 2022; Oniszczyk-Jastrzabek et al., 2020; Spring & Cirella, 2022). This holistic approach ensures that not only are we safeguarding the country's security but we are also nurturing the wellbeing of its communities and fostering a future that aligns with the principles of sustainability (Cirella et al., 2007; Cirella & Tao, 2008, 2009a, 2009b; Cirella & Zerbe, 2014a), where prosperity coexists harmoniously with environmental responsibility. In doing so, we recognize the intricate



Fig. 2.2 Main characteristics, categories, and definition of an information society [Source: Adapted from Nashynets-Naumova (2017), Tkachuk (2017a, 2017b), Gevorkyan et al. (2018), Simakhova (2018), and Avanesova et al. (2020)]

relationship between human-nature relations and the environment (Cirella, 2020, 2022; Cirella et al., 2020), acknowledging that prosperity can only thrive when it coexists harmoniously with environmental responsibility (Cirella & Zerbe, 2014b). By addressing these interconnected aspects, we not only secure the nation’s safety but also acknowledge the profound impact of our actions on the delicate balance between humanity and the natural world.

To achieve successful and effective development of an information society, every information user must have comprehensive access and inclusive involvement in all informatization processes (Potnis, 2014; Van Cuilenburg, 2016). Therefore, ICT systems should be user-friendly and accessible, taking into account the needs and preferences of individuals. This necessitates the active integration of local and state authorities, especially concerning information security at the local and national levels (Roller et al., 2019). In the current state of Ukraine, there exists an unsatisfactory level of support for this protocol in the country’s information sphere

(Eichensehr, 2022; Shimchenko, 2019; Streltsov, 2017; Svintsytskyi, 2022; Willett, 2022), hindering the modernization of innovative ICT security measures. Nonetheless, Ukraine's information society protocols are still in developmental stages, showing promising signs of improvement to strengthen and safeguard national security processes (Potii et al., 2015). However, the continuous development and enhancement of the ICT system in Ukraine, especially since the post-24 February 2022 Russian Federation attack, remain burdened by the war effort and bureaucratic complexities. This vulnerability may leave unprepared users susceptible to modern cyberattacks and threats, particularly through the internet (Diorditsa et al., 2020; Eichensehr, 2022; Potii et al., 2015; Streltsov, 2017; Sullivan & Kamensky, 2017; Willett, 2022) and, for example, via the energy grid (Cirella et al., 2021; Goncharuk & Cirella, 2020; World Data and UN, 2023; Zinets & Williams, 2019) or the export of grain (Arndt et al., 2023; Bazhal & Koutchma, 2022; Odiwuor, 2022; Pereira et al., 2022).

3 Formulating an ICT Framing for Ukraine's National Security Apparatus

Targeted cyberattacks can result in a scenario where the cyberattacker, i.e., referred to as a hacker, gains complete control over a mobile or stationary information and communication device, thereby accessing all the information stored on that device, including sensitive and confidential data. When such attacks occur on a large scale, they directly threaten a country's national security. These focused attacks often target specific users, such as political figures, high-profile individuals with financial influence, or others who possess critical national information. To counteract these threats, it is essential to categorize the primary types and forms of cyberthreats and propose effective strategies to mitigate them. Table 2.1 presents an overview of how the information society protocol, through ICT, contributes to the formation and reinforcement of national security.

In reference to Table 2.1, a structured framing can be deduced and modeled around the suggested requisites of potential information society threats. By utilizing ICT for the formation and strengthening of Ukraine's national security, a constant monitoring and control, i.e., a comprehensive assessment of the state of protection of information and communication relations, can be established by considering both negative internal and external impacts. The main tasks of monitoring the information and communication environment of a country should take into account the following procedures:

- Improve the effectiveness of legal instruments.
- Strategically plan for the development of operational systems for the protection of national security in the information sphere.
- Systematize information legislation and continuously (i.e., in an ongoing manner) improve it.

Table 2.1 Types and forms of threats to the information society and ways to overcome it for the formation and strengthening of national security

Types of threats	Threat forms	Comprehensive ways to address threats for building and strengthening national security
Entity (or government body) pursuing the subject that implements the threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence on the consciousness and psychological state of a user of the information society • The provision of destructive effects which may harm the health of the individual • Taking possession of personal (i.e., confidential) information for the purpose of using it for illegal purposes • Dissemination of the ideology of terrorism and radical ideas in information and communication networks • Financial fraud • Development of antisocial behavioral stereotypes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying the user that implements the threat and taking appropriate measures to suppress their unlawful actions • Explaining of the information society the main ways of avoiding threats and the foundations of democracy and freedom, i.e., the main political course of the country • Introduction of economic and financial security mechanisms
Source of the threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminals and criminal groups whose activities are aimed at stealing information, personal data, and embezzlement of other people’s property through fraud in the information sphere • Criminals and criminal groups that spread various forms of sexual violence and trade in illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the global information space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuous monitoring of information and communication sources with a view to detecting and preventing violations of the administrative and criminal laws of the country in the field of dissemination of prohibited information • Creation of new and improvement of existing media security tools for dissemination to information and communication subjects
Internet threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dangerous internet sites (i.e., several search services provide various ways to inform users about the level of reliability of a site) • Phishing sites • Malicious software • Spamming • Fraudulent sites advertised for profit (i.e., financial pyramids, so-called false virus, fake online stores, etc.) • Internet sites aimed at influencing the individual consciousness of young people (e.g., websites that promote cybersuicide, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving the country’s legal framework for controlling the internet and disseminating prohibited information and websites • Improving information literacy of the society and economic entities in the protection of personal and corporate information from criminals • Complete blocking of suspicious sites that may threaten the national security of the country • Identification and prosecution of persons involved in the dissemination of prohibited information and fraud on the internet

(continued)

Table 2.1 (continued)

Types of threats	Threat forms	Comprehensive ways to address threats for building and strengthening national security
	concerted suicides, porn sites, chats, forums that use pedophiles, etc.)	
Threats to national security in the information sphere of the latest type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Threats from cookies that may directly or indirectly affect political views in the information society as well as other threats to national security • Threats to cryptocurrency (e.g., Bitcoin) traffic • Privacy threats due to the latest online advertising technology real-time bidding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of new technologies to block downloads of cookies on information and communication devices • A possible ban on cryptocurrency throughout the country due to the inability to control it by authorized state authorities • Timely response to emerging threats and hazards in a changing information and communication space

Source: Adapted from Ponomarenko (2017), Byrkovych (2019), Diegtiar et al. (2021), Lelechenko et al. (2020), Shevchenko et al. (2020), and Nepomnyashchyy et al. (2021)

- Improve the effectiveness of measures to detect information offenses (Dovhan, 2017).

Moreover, it has been shown that the main methods to facilitate effective monitoring for the formation and strengthening of national security are via the skilled and apt use of ICT by all end user stakeholders (Fig. 2.3).

The continuous monitoring of ICT by authorized state authorities will play a crucial role in promptly identifying both internal and external threats. By providing reliable protection to the information society and other entities (Smolyanyuk, 2018; Tkachuk et al., 2020), this process will significantly enhance the overall national security level of Ukraine. It will also establish a protocol-friendly system, considering both top-down and bottom-up perspectives (Tkachuk, 2017b; Tkachuk et al., 2020). According to Smolyanyuk (2018), the national security of Ukraine is a matter of vital interest, hinging on two main systems: the national security system itself and the system for ensuring national security. These two systems must be harmonized to empower Ukrainian citizens with adequate knowledge about the fundamental principles of national security and offer practical assistance to counter potential negative actions or consequences.

A pressing area of research involves addressing national security concerns in the context of the Russian Federation’s aggression against Ukraine, as it is central to transforming the nation’s security landscape and ensuring its survival and longevity (Eichensehr, 2022; Liu & Shu, 2023; Smolyanyuk, 2018). This approach necessitates the involvement of leading specialists, policymakers, and scientists in the realms of information security and lawmaking. Moreover, it calls for a

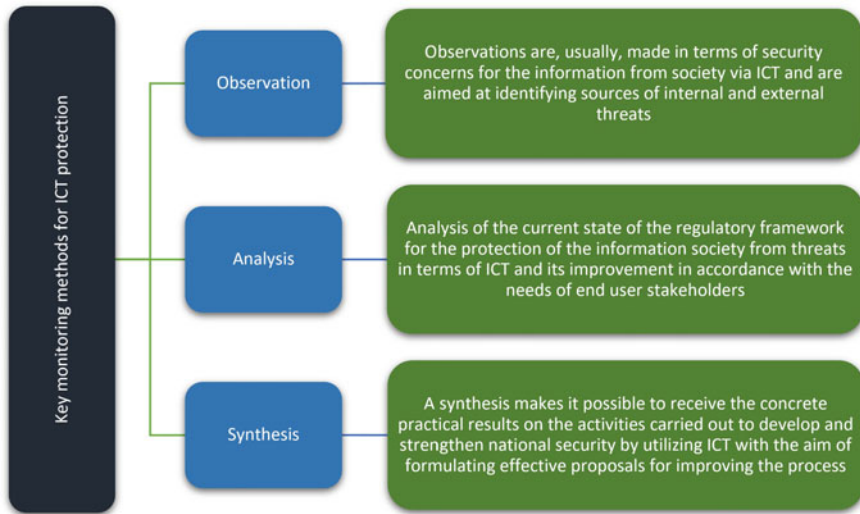


Fig. 2.3 Key monitoring methods for ICT protection [Source: Adapted from Shatun (2016) and Marutian (2020)]

well-informed population proficient in ICT relations. To achieve this goal, policy initiatives should focus on highlighting the key roles of the information society at all levels, aiming to reduce cyber vulnerabilities and bolster nationwide protections. In practical terms, the implementation of such mechanisms should encompass the following measures:

- Minimize security hazards in terms of ICT in the global information society apparatus.
- Improve the legal culture of the information society by implementing protections via ICT—in a general sense—with particular emphasis on information media.
- Effective and mutually agreed cooperation between the various public services on the implementation of national security mechanisms in the field of ICT—with specific interests that incorporate the information society with economic entities.

By adhering to this approach, the country can establish a robust framework for safeguarding its national security and countering potential threats in an effective and coordinated manner.

The advancement of information on a global scale, the establishment of transnational information infrastructure, and the rise of the information society present numerous intricate challenges to national security concerning the use of ICT. Addressing many of these issues requires enhancements in national legislation and extensive international cooperation. Implementing consistent proposals is essential to bring potential sources of threats to information security under both national and international control (Shemayeva et al., 2019; Tkachuk et al., 2020; Yemelyanov & Bondar, 2019). In the context of Ukraine, legislation needs to align with several

crucial aspects of the national security apparatus, encompassing domestic policy, foreign policy, military and defense spending and development, social cohesion, humanitarian provisions, economic growth, scientific and technological innovation, information safeguarding and assurances, and environmental planning and protection. The apparatus must also integrate vital components such as “state security, civil protection of the population, [and] security of the state border” (Smolyanyuk, 2018). Various governmental entities have a responsibility to ensure the national security of Ukraine, including the President of Ukraine, the Parliament of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the National Security and Defense Council of Ukraine, ministries, central executive authorities, the National Bank of Ukraine, courts of general jurisdiction, the Prosecutor’s Office of Ukraine, the National Anti-Corruption Bureau of Ukraine, local state administrations, local self-government bodies, the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the Security Service of Ukraine, the Foreign Intelligence Service of Ukraine, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine, and other designated officer formations committed to upholding the country’s laws (Smolyanyuk, 2018).

Tkachuk et al. (2020) emphasize the significance of addressing information risks and violations of information security. They advocate the development of criteria to counterbalance the potential negative impacts on information security. To achieve this, legislative consolidation, which remains unresolved in Ukraine, must be coupled with ongoing scientific discussions throughout the country. The formulation of national objectives in the information sphere should align with the country’s core values and harmonize with the current state of its development.

4 Security Forecasting and Future Outlook

This chapter introduced concepts specific to creating a comprehensive, theoretical, and methodological examination of the problems with ICT systems in terms of protocols specific to the information society process. Case research specific to Ukraine looked at the impact of these concepts in terms of the formation and strengthening of its national security. Detailed features of the analysis parallels Yemelyanov and Bondar’s (2019) assessment of cybersecurity as one of the top components of national security in Ukraine. Legislative and regulatory support must be prioritized to curb cyberattacks, of any sort, against critical infrastructure and, in general, against any offshoot of civil society. Cyber defense in Ukraine should be focused on internal government corruption, Russian interference, and weak infrastructure. Utilizing international standards, e.g., from the European Union, would be an appropriate approach to developing a proper cyber defense strategy. Key to the strategy would be to develop well-rounded cyber defense mechanisms that incorporate critical infrastructure, private enterprises, and mass media within an overarching umbrella at the national level. Different agencies within the country should be allowed to share information for transparency and quick action. International support and cooperation should be sought when combating cross-border cybercrime with

joint experts from non-hostile nations and partners. This could include an exchange of experience, ICT support, and findings from “cybersecurity experts, mutual financial support, coordinated joint systemic response of countries to cybercrime, introduction of new world standards for cybersecurity, and information security, [i.e.,] national and international strategies, that respond to new cyber challenges” (Yemelyanov & Bondar, 2019). The following synthesis and conclusions are derived from a theoretical and methodological point of view. It recommended that policymakers in Ukraine consider the following four protocols when utilizing ICT systems specific to national security concerns.

First, the main criteria of classifying aspects of an information society should be properly defined and integrated into the advancement of Ukraine’s modernization process—i.e., the development of an ICT-friendly population. It should be stressed that an information society is largely connected with the awareness of individual ICT users and an ICT-aware, conscious, and active community is needed as an integral part of a national security system. This point, in reference, should also consider that information, i.e., in various forms, can influence vast aspects of public life, determine the system of socioeconomic relations in the state, and act as an important factor in the formation of national security.

Second, the features, identification, and classification of Ukraine’s information society should be systematized and based on its definition as noted by Nashynets-Naumova (2017), Tkachuk (2017a, 2017b), Gevorkyan et al. (2018), Simakhova (2018), and Avanesova et al. (2020). In this chapter, the complex social entity of individuals, economic entities, and public authorities at the local and national level should be combined into a single unified information space by creating a set of multidimensional relations. This structuring will allow for the creation, use, collection, processing, storage, and protection of ICT at all levels. It should provide each entity with universal access to the necessary public information as well as consider the necessary restrictions which dictate the conditions for the formation and maintenance of a robust national security system. This should also shape a balanced and integrated socioeconomic community—in parallel with the first protocol.

Third, extensive development, especially internationally, has been made in combatting threats and challenges to the global information society structure. Ukraine should ally itself with non-hostile nations and partners and, within reason, share and cooperate to combat this global threat. ICT-related risks should also be integrated into a preplanned protocol and backup systems secured and developed. The national security apparatus should consider negative phenomena as likely to happen with recurrent threats. A comprehensive and mutually agreed interaction of Ukraine’s main ICT users will alleviate some of this risk.

Fourth, the process of continuously monitoring ICT by authorized state authorities will allow for the timely identification of threats of an internal and external nature and provide the information society and others with reliable protection of their information. This will, directly, increase the overall level of national security and form a security structure in line with international cyber defense standards.

Since the global nature of information development, the formation of transnational information infrastructure, and the information society in general create

several novel and problematic concerns related to safeguarding national security, a sensible stance would be to incorporate the precautionary principle whenever possible. According to Elishakoff (2004), the principle manifests itself as a factor of safety versus reliability. For policymakers, the possibility of harm from making certain decisions must be acknowledged—especially regarding the progress of science and technology and ICT innovation. The practical implications of implementing the four protocols will encourage Ukraine’s national security apparatus to (1) minimize security hazards when using ICT at the macro level, (2) improve the legal culture of the information society in terms of protecting information and information media (i.e., primarily via the internet), and (3) agree to effectively and mutually establish cooperation between various public entities to better unify the country’s security structure as well as create an ICT-compliant information society prone for economic growth and development. Many of these steps can be achieved only by implementing relevant national legislation and multilateral international cooperation, i.e., consistent with proposals that can bring sources of threats to information security under national and international control.

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