Implementation of constitutional human rights and social guarantees of security in the context of digitalization

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Written by:
Liliia Amelicheva103
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0526-5393
Oleksii Martyniuk104
https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9160-3525
Ihor Pyroha105
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2798-7795
Ceyhun Qaracayev106
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5222-9224
Volodymyr Myroshnychenko107
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2281-1299

Abstract

Consideration of existing and development of new strategies for human rights in the context of globalization is a very significant topic, as careless management of technological change can pose a serious threat to human dignity, autonomy, privacy, and human existence in general. Purpose: to analyze the level of constitutional human rights in the context of digitalization, to consider the positive and negative impact of technological advances on private life, to explore ways to protect fundamental human rights in the context of globalization. The following methods of scientific cognition are used: comparison, historical, systematic approach to research, method of analysis, and synthesis. As a result of the conducted research, the scientific idea of the importance of observance of constitutional human rights in the conditions of digitalization is formed. In addition, the study examines the positive and negative impact of technological changes on the human rights in the context of globalization.

Implementation of constitutional human rights and social guarantees of security in the context of digitalization

Здійснення конституційних прав людини та соціальні гарантії захищеності в умовах цифровізації

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Abstract

Розгляд існуючих та розробка нових стратегій відносно дотримання прав людини в умовах глобальної цифровізації є дуже актуальною темою, так як необережне управління технологічними змінами може стати серйозною загрозою для людської гідності, автономії, приватного життя та існування людини в цілому. Мета роботи: проаналізувати рівень дотримання конституційних прав людини в умовах цифровізації, розглянути позитивний та негативний вплив технологічних досягнень на приватне життя людини, дослідити шляхи захисту основоположних прав людини в умовах глобальної цифровізації. В роботі використано такі методи наукового пізнання: порівняння, історичний, системний підхід до дослідження, метод аналізу та синтезу. В результаті проведеного дослідження сформовано наукове представлення про важливість дотримання конституційних прав людини в умовах цифровізації.

103 Doctor of Law, Associate Professor, Professor of the Department of Civil Law and Procedure, Vasyl Stus Donetsk National University, Ukraine.
104 Candidate of Law, Associate Professor of the Department of Constitutional, International and Criminal Law Vasyl Stus Donetsk National University, Ukraine.
105 Doctor of Law, Associate Professor, Professor of the Department of Constitutional Law and Comparative Law, Uzhorod National University, Ukraine.
106 Doctor of Law, Professor of the Department of Constitutional Law, Baku State University, Judge of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
107 PhD in Pedagogical Sciences, Associate Professor, Department of Legal Courses, Berdyansk State Pedagogical University, Berdyansk, Ukraine.
advances on private life, explore ways to protect fundamental human rights in the context of digitalization and identifies mechanisms for using digitization in public administration, analyzes the legal regulation of informatization is interpreted and effective ways of solving the existing problems of ensuring rights and guarantees are proposed.

**Keywords:** constitutional human rights, digitization, privacy, databases.

### Introduction

Digitization is not only a source of opportunities; digital technologies that use large amounts of personal data pose a threat to everyone’s right to privacy. Digitization as a phenomenon of globalization is rapidly penetrating all spheres of human existence: economics, public administration, health care, education, legal sphere, agriculture, culture, religion, etc. The digital economy creates online markets, online exchange, and payment through online banks, the introduction of online services in public administration reduces bureaucracy and increases the speed of administrative services, digitalization of health care allows to detect of diseases at an early stage and prevent epidemics, digitalization education provides its accessibility and personalized approach, in the legal field digital technologies are able to create robots that are deprived of discretionary powers, and thus reduces the number of corrupt practices, the creation of "smart farms", "smart greenhouses" increases agricultural productivity, etc.

In September 2015, the historic United Nations summit adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This document reflects 17 goals in the field of sustainable human development. UN members recognize that information and digital technologies are integral tools for achieving goals. However, the rapid development of digital technologies not only opens up opportunities but also creates risks, including ethical ones. Digitization undoubtedly increases the ability to communicate with public authorities, promotes speed, objectivity, and the absence of corruption in obtaining public services, but the state receives a large amount of personal information, and the government has the opportunity to increase control and management of privacy man.

This jeopardizes the existence of free and fair elections, reduces freedom of expression, freedom of information, freedom of thought, and belief. There are suggestions that similar phenomena have emerged in the US presidential election, the Brexit referendum, and polls in Brazil and Kenya. Surgical treatment, early detection of diseases, prediction of future diseases, storage of medical histories in digital form, which increases the efficiency of storage of this information, but the risk is a violation of the confidentiality of health data, disclosure, and tracking of devices that monitor health. Increased productivity through digitalization, new sources of employment and income, new markets and opportunities, and the risks in this area - are the full automation of industrial processes, the demise of certain specialties, reducing employment.

Most of the fundamental international instruments on fundamental human and civil rights were adopted in the last century, and global digitalization has begun today. In this regard, it is necessary to consider the development and forecasting of the consequences of digitalization, the study of ethical and legal issues arising from the fact that the international community, states, commercial organizations have a large database of personal data, it is essential to analyze existing regulations, legal framework and development of new strategies in the field of protection of constitutional human rights in the context of total digitalization. In the same way, the purpose of the paper, to analyze the level of constitutional human rights in the context of digitalization, to consider the positive and negative impact of technological advances on private life, to explore ways to protect fundamental human rights in the context of globalization. The subject of the study
is the implementation of constitutional human rights and social guarantees of protection in the context of digitalization.

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**Theoretical Framework or Literature Review**

Some scientific articles and monographs were analyzed to comprehensively study the topic of the implementation of constitutional human rights and social guarantees in the context of digitalization.

Some works by the following scientists are devoted to the study of protection of rights in the development of digital technologies: Androschuk (2019), Bochkov (2019), Golovko and Dubenets (2020), Gracheva, and Cheremisinova (2018), Egorov and Griga (2019), Kolesnikov (2012), Melnyk (2018), Lopushynskiy (2018), Lutsyi (2013), Petrenko and Mashkovskaya (2020), Ryabokon (2018), and Shakhrai (2020).

The definition of the essence of digitalization is examined in the articles of Petrenko and Mashkovskaya (2020), Lopushynskiy (2018), Golovko and Dubenets (2020). Thus, the definition of digitalization is reduced to the use of digital technologies in most spheres of public life.

Androschuk (2019) interpreted the case on the right to forgetting, which was won by Google, and drew attention to the peculiarities of the protection of rights on the Internet in the digital age.

Besides, Bochkov (2019) drew attention to the transformation of state institutions in the age of digital reality. Further, Gracheva and Cheremisinova (2018) paid more attention to the constitutional provision of digital rights.

Moreover, Egorov and Griga (2019) conducted a comparative analysis of the availability of digitalization indicators in Ukraine and other EU Eastern Partnership countries.

Ryabokon (2018) analyzed in detail the state information policy of the formation of the information society, paying attention to foreign experience. In particular, the author notes that the modern state is a catalyst for change in the interests of society and man. It is the state that fights against monopoly and controls the concentration of property in the media and telecommunications business; legally and technologically ensures the rights to access information and information resources for citizens, as well as the protection of personal data; guarantees freedom of speech regardless of the environment of information dissemination; implements measures for the development of multinational culture, opposes the information and cultural expansion of other countries, conducts information policy; carries out purposeful use of information and telecommunication technologies for expansion of dialogue of the power and citizens. One of the conditions for the effective implementation by the state of these areas of state information policy is the development and adoption of relevant strategic documents.

The fraudster, in his work “Digital Constitution”, investigated the fate of the main rights and freedoms of the individual in the total information society (Shakhrai, 2020).

The study of international experience in the implementation of information technology in the legal system became possible through the analysis of the digitalization process in countries such as Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Georgia, Greece, and Estonia.

The following works are devoted to this area: “State policy in the field of information society development in France: prospects for Ukraine” by Melnyk (2018), “Selected decisions of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany” by Schwabe, and Geisler.
In addition, normative documents regulating digital rights and mechanisms of public administration with the use of information technologies were used in this direction (Ukrinform, 2021; European Court of Human Rights, 2012; Committee of Ministers, 2005; Human Rights Council, 2018; The EDRi papers, 2021). In particular, the United Nations E-Government Survey 2018 (UN study on the level of e-government development in different countries), the Constitution of Greece, Georgia, Germany, France, Italy (consolidation of digital rights), etc.

Therefore, we can conclude that the issue of digitalization in the context of human rights has been studied by many scholars, but the implementation of constitutional human rights and social guarantees in the context of digitalization has not been studied comprehensively, so there is a need to analyze this topic in more detail.

**Methodology**

During the study of the implementation of constitutional human rights and social guarantees of security in the context of digitalization, a number of methods were used: comparison, historical, systematic approach to research, method of analysis, and synthesis.

Thus, the historical method has become a way to reveal a retrospective of the development of digital technologies in Ukraine and the world. Using the historical method, it is investigated in which historical periods the main acts regulating the provision of individual rights were established, including in the context of digitalization.

The comparative method made it possible to compare foreign experience in the implementation of digitalization and highlight its positive features, which are considered appropriate to use in building a domestic system of digital services and protection of rights.

The method of analysis was useful for the study of digitalization, gradually dividing the study of the theoretical part of the object and the practical, which consists in the analysis of international and Ukrainian experience in the use of information technology. Analytical assessment of the processes of implementation of information technologies makes it possible to identify patterns, according to which it becomes possible to identify specific features of digitalization as a mechanism for effective public administration.

In the future, it was logical to use the method of synthesis, i.e. the location of the analyzed parts alone, grouping by the similarity of features, or building a hierarchical system. Analysis and synthesis act as fruitful methods of cognition only when applied simultaneously. The method of synthesis allowed to gather the studied theoretical and practical aspects into a single whole in order to find the most effective mechanisms for the introduction of digitalization.

Using the system method, the object of study is considered as a set of interconnected elements that have a common goal. It is crucial that the properties of the object as a whole system are determined not only and not so much by summing up the qualities of its elements, but by the properties of its structure, special system-forming, integrative connections of the object.

**Results and Discussion**

Human and civil rights and freedoms are the most important social values and the main object of constitutional and legal relations. Their implementation, use, and compliance depend on the level of protection and security. That is why the major element of the constitutional-legal status of the person and the citizen is guarantees of these rights and freedoms.

Digital personal rights, digital self-determination, databases, the right to the Internet, digital services, etc. become an integral part of human life. These circumstances are a prerequisite for the formation of a separate legal institution – the Institute of Digital Human Rights.

Digital rights are a relatively new legal category, and therefore their list, definition, and the need for separation are controversial in the scientific legal environment. Thus, there is an opinion that the concept of "digital rights" should not be considered as a separate group of human rights, but as a conditional category that covers the implementation and guarantees of fundamental human rights on the Internet, including freedom of expression and online privacy. Given the huge role that the Internet plays in modern life, the separation of this category helps to better systematize and study the needs of human rights in the online environment, some guarantees of which are now scattered in the recommendations, resolutions, and other acts of international institutions. Other researchers consider digital rights to be derived from informational rights, but not identical, and emphasize the need to
separate them into a separate group. Digital rights are also understood as the rights of citizens to access, use, create and publish digital works, the right to free access to the Internet (other communication networks) using computers and other electronic devices (Bochkov, 2019).

Despite the controversial nature of the problem, it should be recognized that the development of digital technologies does affect the development of constitutional human rights and their further legal regulation and protection.

The UN has repeatedly considered the issue of digital rights. In particular, it was declared that the right to the Internet is an inalienable human right that must be ensured at all levels, and emphasis was placed on its crucial role in the development of society, and the rights that a person has in the offline environment are protected in the online environment. The UN calls on all states to respect and protect the right to privacy, including in the context of digital communication.

However, despite loud calls and proposals for a settlement, the public and legislative consciousness are currently undergoing a process of a qualitatively renewed understanding of the content of human rights, which necessitates the development of a system of constitutional guarantees and mechanisms for human rights protection in the context of digital transformation.

Analysis of the regulatory experience of foreign countries allows us to identify two ways of domestic regulation of digital rights (Table 1):

| Path 1                                                                 | Path 2                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The constitutionalization of digital rights, which changes the text of the constitution in order to regulate digital rights at the highest constitutional level | the digitization of constitutional rights, in which the rights enshrined in the constitution are updated or regulated based on decisions of constitutional jurisdiction, the case-law of the European Court of Human Rights, or in relevant legislation |

The first way is appropriate for those countries that develop and adopt constitutions in the twentieth century, but there are examples of changes to already adopted constitutions. For example, the Constitution of Greece in 2001 was supplemented by Art. 5A, where Part 2 enshrines the right of all persons to participate in the information society and to facilitate access to information transmitted in electronic form. Digital rights are formulated in more detail in the Constitution of Georgia (Law No. 2071, 1995), which is 2018, in the process of constitutional reform, made appropriate changes and defined the right of everyone to access and use the Internet (paragraph 4 of Article 17).

The second way is relevant for countries, that recognize the need for normative consolidation and a renewed understanding of fundamental constitutional rights in the digital age but are not yet ready to change the Constitution.

Quite often, they use either body of constitutional jurisdiction, which, without changing the "body of the constitution", interpret certain constitutional norms in the light of digital reality, or adopt certain laws governing digital rights.

An example of such a transformation is Germany, where the regulation of digital rights (for information self-determination, for ensuring the integrity and confidentiality of information technology systems (IT-law), for the secrecy of correspondence, mail, and telecommunications, for the inviolability of housing) mainly has a so-called "judicial origin" because in the absence of normative enshrinement in the relevant legislation is governed by decisions of the Federal Constitutional Court of Germany. That is, normalization occurs as needed in cases of legal conflict. However, the essence of these rights does not change but is only interpreted through the prism of digital transformation. In this context, the experience of France is impressive, which, carrying out a gradual interpretation of digital rights by a body of constitutional jurisdiction, realized the need to adopt a codified legal act.

The digital transformation presupposes the need to receive appropriate constitutional standards in ensuring and realizing human rights, without which the further development of constitutionalism in the conditions of digital transformation is impossible. One of them is the
need for regulatory definition and regulation of the right to access the Internet.

Ukraine is moving towards defining the right to access the Internet at the level of relevant legislation, which, on the one hand, allows to comply with all ratified conventions and recommendations of international organizations, and on the other – not to amend the Constitution.

In the process of digital transformation, the list of constitutional human rights is gradually expanding and receives a qualitative update of the semantic interpretation.

Increasingly, we have to meet the right to data portability and the right to be forgotten. This is the so-called right of the data subject to object to the further processing of the data and the obligation of the data controller to delete the information immediately after it ceases to be necessary for processing.

For example, the right to forgetting is treated as a human right that allows a person to demand, under certain conditions, the removal of his or her data from public access through search engines i.e. links to data that he or she believes may harm him or her. This applies to outdated, inappropriate, incomplete, inaccurate, or redundant data or information, the legal grounds for storage of which have disappeared over time.

Moreover, the right to be forgotten is a dispute between Mario Costeja Gonzalez's complaint against Google Inc and La Vanguardia Ediciones SL (Judgment No. C-131/12, 2014), which was heard by the EU's highest court, the European Court of Justice, which ruled on 13 May 2014, that European law gives EU citizens the right to apply to any search engine with a request to remove links relating to personal information about the applicant. Inadequate and outdated data, as well as those that are excessive in relation to the purposes for which they were posted on the Internet, are subject to deletion. This decision has set a precedent that provides a basis for revising the list of constitutional human rights and their expansion and provides legal instruments for the protection of human rights and freedoms, as well as a real guarantee of protection of such rights.

But even though the rights are enshrined in the laws of many states, there is a need to regulate legislative guarantees. This circumstance indicates the need to ensure and implement digital human rights. It is necessary to develop a concept of digital duties and responsibilities for the violation of these rights.

Thus, the exercise of constitutional human rights and social guarantees of protection in the context of digitalization require a comprehensive approach both by the state and by the consumer of such rights and by society as a whole.

Conclusions

As a result of the study of the implementation of constitutional human rights and social guarantees of protection in the context of digitalization, the following was established.

1. In the process of legal digitalization an essential role is played by the normative consolidation of digital rights, which allows regulating the relations that arise in the process of human interaction during the use of information technology and use effective mechanisms to protect such rights.
2. Analysis of international experience confirms that depending on the level of interest of a particular country in its integration into the world communication system depends on the direction of digital policy of the state and ways to reform the state in this context.
3. Digital transformation presupposes the need to receive appropriate constitutional standards in the field of ensuring and realizing human rights, without which the further development of constitutionalism in the conditions of digital transformation is impossible. One of them is the need to normatively define and regulate the right to access the Internet.

Thus, based on the analysis of international experience in the field of digitalization of law, we can conclude that there is a gradual “blurring of information borders” and improving the system of settlement of relations arising from the use of digital rights (France, Italy, Germany, Greece, Georgia). For effective public administration, digital technologies are an effective tool that requires applied research and development.

Regarding further scientific research, it is essential to examine the draft laws and the work of the committees of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine on the consolidation of digital rights in legislation.

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