

**THE CONNECTION OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST WITH THE MODERNIZATION IN
THE CONTEXT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA:
NOTEWORTHINESS AND PERSPECTIVES**

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Abstract. This article examines the noteworthiness and perspectives of the connection between public interest and modernization in the context of public administration, with a focus on the state and situation specific to the Republic of Moldova, which is in a period of transition to democracy.

The aim of the study is to determine the interconnection between modernization and the public interest in the context of public administration, as two interconnected components that ensure the strengthening of the principles of a rule of law and democracy, trust in the system of government by governments, precisely with the public interest, the maturity of the decision-makers, but also the stability of the internal and external policies.

Keywords: public interest, modernization, public interest - modernization relationship, public administration, Republic of Moldova.

In recent decades, governments around the world have made fundamental changes in the administrative system. And public administration reform has been at the heart of this “modernization” process [12, p.5]. As a consequence, the ordinary public services with public administrations had to adapt to a constantly changing world, transforming their practices, people and cultures to meet the new challenges they face [4, p.7].

The complexity of social problems, typical of many societies in transition, including political and administrative problems, is primarily due to the rapid transformation of society from communist models to a liberal democracy, a market economy and the rule of law. Governing a society in transition is a multidimensional task, in which the government aims to balance the complexity of social issues, especially in the context of rapid change and adjustment to current conditions [8, p.68].

The British politician Tony Blair stated: "Modernizing the government means continuing to better respond to the needs of citizens" [7, p.3]. Finally, in the opinion of the qualified and trained civil servants, the modernization of public administration has several meanings: reform, reorganization, improvement and continuous innovation of the organization and functioning of administrative structures, through the use of information technology and adaptation of electronic systems useful to the population, carrying out an efficient decision-making process in order to fulfill the mission of public administration to meet the public interest.

The administrative system has the task of providing a wide range of public services to the citizens it serves. And a flexible and modern administrative system that can quickly and efficiently adapt to the needs of the population, whilst also maintaining stability and sustainability when speaking about the constantly changing societal trends and the high level of meeting the requirements of local communities, the balanced targeting of funds for the most effective programs and policies aimed at meeting the public interest [11, p.3]. Thus, modernization becomes the component that ensures the increase of the economic level, the improvement of the level of services provided, the identification of those tools, mechanisms and solutions to overcome the problems and challenges that the society faces, by making the right decisions.

From the researcher V. Saca’s point of view, an analysis of the public interest adapted to the requirements of administrative science becomes necessary, but also effective when we relate it to

the conditions of a relatively stable society, with well-defined goals and objectives, important to be taken over and used creatively. on the soil of the changing society to cope with the rigors of modernizing the administrative system [5, p.12]. In this context, the researcher V. Saca defines the public interest, as a *sui generis* phenomenon, as a totality of objective and subjective characteristics of public actors, members of the public related to the factor of necessity, utility, advantage, purpose, value that substantially influences their behavior and social actions - significant. The author describes here the chosen attitude of the members of the public and of the public actors in relation to certain phenomena, processes, attitudes based on certain positions, needs and well-defined goals [6, p.38].

The execution of the public interest has a considerable significance both, theoretically and empirically, in the process of public administration, this fact being recorded including in the normative framework of the Republic of Moldova, but also the international acts and treaties to which our state is a party. Thus, according to the 2030 Agenda for Republic of Moldova Sustainable Development, human interests are placed at the center of the development process, which could be achieved in a sustainable way only by empowering people to participate, to contribute, and to benefit from following economic, cultural, social and political development on the basis of a common position in which all human rights and freedoms are respected [1, p.8]. In this context, the notion of public interest is conjugated with the concept of modernization, which involves reforming vertically and horizontally, theoretically and practically, internally and externally all relations, elements and interconnections between key components. At the same time, we can identify the "chosen attitude of the members of the public and of the public actors" in the context of the processes carried out in the society, described above by the author V. Saca in his own definition.

In Article 18 of the Administrative Code of the Republic of Moldova, the public interest concerns the rule of law, democracy, guaranteeing the rights and freedoms of persons, as well as their obligations, meeting social needs, fulfilling the powers of public authorities, functioning legally and in good conditions [2]. Each approach has its specificity and origin, essential elements that we find in the content of the Fundamental Law of the Republic of Moldova (Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, 1994). Ultimately, the public interest is the common interest, realized in favor of the whole society, which ensures the interrelationships and interconnection between the members of the public, and the results ensure the harmony and the state of well-being in the society. We find that each treatment constitutes similar or distinct features and meanings, with subjective or objective reasoning and direct or indirect results - but which in essence do not distort the basic meaning of the public interest.

The content and evolution of the complexity of the public interest in correlation with the modernization of public administration, depends on a set of factors (European standards, the trend towards globalization, economic and social crises, historical conditions, etc.) that directly influence the system of administration and democratization. .

The literature includes several approaches to the theory of modernization: the institutional approach, the behaviorist approach, the structural-functional approach, etc., which elucidate the idea of promoting substantial changes, qualitative, political system and social system, changes that include certain processes democratic and consistently reflects the content of political modernization [9, p.73]. Author S.P. Huntington defines modernization as industrialization, urbanization, education, wealth, social mobilization, and more complex and diverse occupational structures [3, p.110].

In the author's opinion, the attitudes, values, knowledge and culture of people in a modern society differ considerably from those in a traditional society [3, p.111]. At the societal level, modernization enhances the political, military, and economic power of society as a whole, and encourages its citizens to trust their culture and assert their cultural identity [3, p.126]. The opinion proposed by the author S.P. Huntington, in view of the process approached (modernization), clearly expresses the correlation with the public interest, as the modernization of the administrative system involves restructuring and reorganization on the dimensions: economic, social, political and

cultural, alignment with the requirements of the population with values, culture and discernment. prosperous.

In conclusion, we mention that the public interest has a colossal value for the theoretical but also practical arsenal in the field of administrative sciences, gaining the quality of mobile of social progress and modernization of public administration.

Although the experience of the Republic of Moldova is ambivalent, confronting and aspiring to become an immune and democratic society, adapted to challenges and trends, we consider that the efforts made for modernizing the public administration and ensuring decision-making transparency are considerable and visible even since independence. Focusing on the problems, interests and aspirations of members of society is a key objective in the work of public administration authorities. However, there is a need to develop new paradigms for the development of the governance system adapted to the new standards, taking into account the financial possibilities, organizational capacities, integrity and professionalism of public actors, as well as societal relations. In this context, modernization, as in the case of several states, is an opportune solution, which offers us a series of development possibilities. However, the consensual, multidimensional and interconnected aspects and circumstances of the difficult reality of the society in transition, as well as the constantly evolving and amplifying issues, denote the imperative to readjust, renew and modernize the tools and mechanisms for managing the situations they face. society on the one hand, and public administration on the other, and the construction of a new trajectory, with new rules, standards and values.

Finally, the terms public interest-modernization in the context of public administration are in a relationship of interdependence and complementarity, as demonstrated by some meanings and approaches elucidated in the present study.

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