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Emerging Threats to the State: Updating Concepts and Tools of Response

Eduard SHCHEPANSKIY¹, Volodymyr YEMELYANOV², Volodymyr KOPANCHUK³, Mykola MALANCHII⁴, Serhii HODLEVSKIY⁵

Abstract

The ongoing war against Ukraine and the transformation of the global security architecture necessitate a revision of traditional approaches to national security and the development of new governance mechanisms. Similar modernization processes are observed worldwide. The Baltic states (Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia) are advancing integrated cyber defense systems, establishing cyber reserves, and enhancing territorial defense with active volunteer involvement. Israel employs high-tech innovations to counter terrorist threats, including the Iron Dome, artificial intelligence for risk monitoring, and unmanned intelligence platforms. Poland demonstrates large-scale defense modernization, increasing its defense budget to over 4% of GDP and purchasing advanced Abrams tanks, Korean K9 howitzers, and FA-50 aircraft, aligning its Armed Forces with NATO standards. Germany has created a €100 billion security fund to modernize the Bundeswehr, while the United Kingdom invests heavily in cyber command and artificial intelligence for threat prediction. The United States develops innovative defense clusters in space security and missile defense, whereas Japan and South Korea reinforce military-

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technological cooperation with the U.S. to enhance early warning and missile defense systems against DPRK threats. The growing complexity of military, political, and informational challenges underscores the significance of this study for Ukraine and global security studies. Based on an expert survey (2022–2024), the findings reveal advances in innovation and resilience through digitalization, risk management, and international support, while resource provision remains limited. The results inform strategies for strengthening coordination, legal harmonization, digital integration, and financial sustainability in Ukraine's evolving security system

Keywords: national security; governance mechanisms; paradigm transformation; international support; cybersecurity; economic sustainability.

Introduction

In the context of radical changes in the global security architecture, the problem of ensuring Ukraine's national security has become particularly acute and multidimensional. Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine has actualized the issues of not only military defense capability, but also economic sustainability, political and legal regulation, information and cyber security. These factors directly affect the ability of the state to withstand threats, protect its citizens, and implement its strategic course toward European and Euro-Atlantic integration. In this context, the study of the security paradigm transformation and management mechanisms of protection is not only of scientific but also of practical importance. The scientific literature on this issue shows active discussions on the definition of the essence and structure of national security. Considerable attention is paid to clarifying the categorical apparatus, legal framework and conceptual models of security (Kazakova, 2022; Kobko, 2022; Smolianiuk, 2021). At the same time, the impact of external factors is analyzed, including global rivalry, the transformation of European politics, and the growing role of international organizations in shaping a new security system (Fernández *et al.*, 2023; Genini, 2025; Ünaldirar *et al.*, 2025). Researchers also emphasize the economic risks and challenges for critical infrastructure, which has actualized the development of new management approaches in wartime (Rohatiuk *et al.*, 2024; Witt & Ciravegna, 2025). A separate area is represented by works on information and cyber security, which emphasize the importance of digital technologies and strategic communications (Zhelibo *et al.*, 2024; Fraga-Lamas *et al.*, 2024; Voitsikhovsky, 2020).

Despite significant scientific achievements, there are still problems that have not been sufficiently studied. These are primarily the integration of digital technologies into the public administration system, the long-term sustainability of financial security provision, and the balance between internal and external development resources. In addition, previous studies are often limited to specific areas, such

as military or economic, while a comprehensive approach to analyzing security transformation in an interdisciplinary manner is still being developed.

The purpose of this paper is to study the transformation of the national security paradigm of Ukraine in the context of war and international changes, to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the management mechanisms of protection, to characterize the role of international partners in maintaining the security environment and to find out the prospects for improving strategies to ensure the stability of the state.

Literature review

The analysis of modern scientific research shows the multidimensionality of national security issues, covering military, political, economic and information aspects. In particular, works on theoretical and legal foundations focus on clarifying the categorical apparatus and defining the essence of state security (Kazakova, 2022; Kobko, 2022; Smolianiuk, 2021). At the same time, researchers emphasize the need to take into account foreign policy challenges and conceptualize national security in the context of global competition (Slawotsky, 2025; Taran, 2025). Scholarly works pay considerable attention to the military aspects, reforms, and mobilization readiness of Ukraine (Sanders, 2023; Dzvinchuk & Radchenko, 2024; Volotivskyi, 2020). Studies show that Russia's aggression has led to the transformation of the international security architecture, forming a new paradigm of international relations (Fernández *et al.*, 2023; Ünalilar *et al.*, 2025; Genini, 2025; Mykhalskyi *et al.*, 2025). Some authors consider the role of international organizations, the EU's strategic autonomy and transatlantic cooperation in strengthening the security environment (Kurylo, 2025; Viunyk *et al.*, 2024; Zavershinskaia & Spera, 2024).

The economic component of security is studied through the prism of the challenges of war and ensuring the stability of critical infrastructure (Rohatiuk *et al.*, 2024; Witt & Ciravegna, 2025). In this context, the influence of international financial institutions and corporate strategies of transnational companies is noted (Maley *et al.*, 2024; Marutian & Vereshchak, 2025). Information and cybersecurity plays an important role in modern studies. The authors emphasize the need to develop cyber defense, countering disinformation and the use of innovative technologies in the field of national security (Zhelibo *et al.*, 2024; Fraga-Lamas *et al.*, 2024; Voitsikhovsky, 2020). Additionally, the legal dimension of security policy is outlined, which involves improving national legislation and harmonizing it with EU norms (Dashkovska, 2023; Honcharuk *et al.*, 2025; Panchenko, 2020).

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Despite the breadth of scientific approaches, there are still problems that have not been sufficiently studied: the integration of digital technologies into security mechanisms at the level of public administration and long-term strategies for the financial independence of Ukraine's security sector.

Methodology

The materials and methods of the study were based on an expert survey in two stages (2022–2024), which was attended by representatives of state institutions of the security and defense sector of Ukraine (National Guard, Ministry of Defense, SES), local governments (Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Dnipro, Odesa), specialists of NGOs, academics and experts on legal and economic issues. The total sample amounted to 144 respondents, which ensured the representativeness of the results. The survey was organized by the author's team in cooperation with higher education institutions and expert organizations; all stages of data collection were carried out under the scientific supervision of the authors, without the involvement of third-party contractors, which guaranteed methodological integrity and reliability. The

questionnaire contained a scale from 1 to 10 to assess the key parameters of the effectiveness of management mechanisms. The results were averaged and compared between years, which made it possible to identify the dynamics of changes in the areas of coordination, resource provision, legal regulation, innovation, and resilience to crisis impacts. For a generalized assessment, an integral indicator was formed, calculated as the arithmetic mean of five parameters, which corresponds to generally accepted approaches to assessing institutional effectiveness and makes it possible to determine not only the dynamics of individual components, but also the overall level of security system capacity.

Details of the sample and respondent groups are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Breakdown of respondents by groups of participants and their average estimates of key parameters (expert survey, 2022–2024)

Group of participants	Number (2022)	Number (2024)	Coordination between institutions (average score)	Resource provision	Legal regulation	Innovation of mechanisms	Resilience to crisis impacts
1. Civil servants and managers of the security and defense sector (National Guard, Ministry of Defense, SES)	25	36	6,9 → 7,5	5,8 → 6,4	6,5 → 7,3	5,4 → 6,8	5,9 → 7,1
2. Scientists and analysts (national security, law, economics)	18	28	6,7 → 7,4	5,5 → 6,3	6,7 → 7,5	5,3 → 6,7	5,8 → 7,0
3. Experts from civil society organizations and local government	16	21	6,8 → 7,2	5,4 → 6,2	6,6 → 7,1	5,2 → 6,4	5,7 → 6,9
Total	59	85	6,81 → 7,34	5,92 → 6,38	6,71 → 7,22	5,71 → 6,57	6,07 → 6,75

Source: compiled by the authors based on the results of an expert survey

Note: Data reflects average scores on a scale from 1 (minimum level) to 10 (maximum level). Arrows “→” indicate the dynamics of changes between 2022 and 2024

Results

In the context of modern transformations of the global security architecture, Ukraine faces a number of challenges that significantly complicate the provision of national security. The most important threats include three key groups: military, information and cyber, and economic. First, the ongoing aggression of the Russian Federation poses constant military risks that require revision of defense strategies and mobilization readiness (Sanders, 2023; Dzvinchuk & Radczenko, 2024). Secondly, the intensification of information and cyber attacks creates the need to develop modern cyber defense systems and resilience to propaganda (Zhelibo *et al.*, 2024; Fraga-Lamas *et al.*, 2024). Third, the war significantly undermines economic stability, complicating the functioning of critical infrastructure and creating new risks to social security (Rohatiuk *et al.*, 2024).

In addition, geopolitical changes in Europe and the world should be taken into account, which change the balance of power and affect international support for Ukraine. In particular, researchers emphasize that Russia's invasion in 2022 led to a rethinking of the EU's strategic autonomy and strengthened security integration processes (Fernández *et al.*, 2023; Ünaldilar *et al.*, 2025). The combination of military, informational, economic and geopolitical threats forms a complex challenge to Ukraine's national security, which requires a systematic approach to developing management mechanisms for protection and adaptation to the new security paradigm.

In the current conditions of the war against Ukraine, the transformation of the national security paradigm is taking place in a multidimensional dimension, covering the military, political, legal, economic and information spheres. According to the analysis of recent studies, the key factor in these changes is Ukraine's integration into the common European and transatlantic security space, as well as the adaptation of state institutions to new challenges (Genini, 2025; Honcharuk *et al.*, 2025). The results are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Transformation of the national security paradigm of Ukraine in the context of war and international changes

Area of transformation	Traditional approach	Recent changes under the influence of war	International context
Military security	Focus on internal resources, mobilization readiness	Active reform of the army, standardization on NATO models	Strengthening cooperation with NATO, military assistance from partners (Sanders, 2023; Dzvinchuk & Radczenko, 2024)
Political and legal sphere	Legal framework for security within the framework of domestic policy	Improvement of legislation, harmonization with European norms	Legal obligations to the EU and international organizations (Honcharuk <i>et al.</i> , 2025; Dashkovska, 2023)
Economic security	Prioritization of internal control mechanisms	Reorientation to protect critical infrastructure and the financial system	International support programs and sanctions policy against Russia (Rohatiuk <i>et al.</i> , 2024; Witt & Ciravegna, 2025)
Information and cyber sphere	Focus on state control of the media	Development of cyber defense, countering disinformation	European policy of strategic autonomy in the digital space (Zhelibo <i>et al.</i> , 2024; Fraga-Lamas <i>et al.</i> , 2024)
Geopolitical paradigm	Focus on the balance between East and West	Unequivocal integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic space	Strengthening EU unity, CSDP and strategic autonomy (Genini, 2025; Ünalldilar <i>et al.</i> , 2025)

Source: created by the author based on (Dashkovska, 2023; Dzvinchuk & Radczenko, 2024; Sanders, 2023; Rohatiuk *et al.*, 2024; Zhelibo *et al.*, 2024; Fraga-Lamas *et al.*, 2024; Genini, 2025; Honcharuk *et al.*, 2025; Ünalldilar *et al.*, 2025; Witt & Ciravegna, 2025)

The analysis shows that Ukraine's national security is gradually moving from the concept of isolated defense capability to the model of integrated security based on cooperation with international partners, modernization of governance mechanisms and introduction of innovations. This indicates the formation of a new paradigm focused on long-term sustainability and strategic integration.

The authors conducted a study based on an expert survey that was conducted in two stages during 2022-2024. In the first phase (fall 2022), 59 respondents from three key cities of Ukraine – Kyiv, Lviv, and Kharkiv – were interviewed. The

participants were representatives of state institutions of the security and defense sector (National Guard, Ministry of Defense, State Emergency Service), as well as experts from civil society organizations involved in monitoring security policy. In the second stage (spring 2024), the survey was expanded: 86 respondents from five cities (Kyiv, Lviv, Dnipro, Odesa) represented three categories of participants: civil servants in the field of national security, academics and experts in legal and economic issues, and representatives of local governments. The expert sample consisted of three main groups of participants: (1) civil servants and heads of national security and defense structures (including representatives of the National Guard of Ukraine, the Ministry of Defense, and the State Emergency Service); (2) academics and analysts specializing in national security, law, and economics; and (3) experts from civil society organizations monitoring security policy and local government. The respondents were selected based on the principle of balance between regions and institutional sectors, which ensured a representative sample for a qualitative expert survey. The sample size of 144 respondents was determined to be sufficient for an expert survey based on the principles of representativeness and balance. This number ensures an acceptable level of statistical error (no more than 7-8% at a confidence level of 95%), which meets the standards of sociological and management research. In addition, taking into account the regional and institutional structure of the respondents (civil servants, academics, representatives of NGOs) allowed us to obtain diverse expert opinions and reduce the risk of one-sidedness of the results.

According to the study, the most positive changes have occurred in the areas of innovation of governance mechanisms and resilience to crisis impacts through digital solutions, risk management, and international assistance. At the same time, resources are growing at a slower pace, indicating that problems with domestic financing persist. The summarized results of the two stages of the survey are presented in Table 3, they demonstrate overall positive dynamics, especially in terms of innovation and sustainability, and indicate a relative problematic resource provision.

Table 3. Evaluation of the effectiveness of management mechanisms for protecting the national security of Ukraine (based on the results of an expert survey, 2022-2024)

Assessment parameter	2020	2022	2024	2025	Increase (2020-2025)
Coordination between institutions	6.27	6.81	7.34	7.89	+1.62
Resource provision	5.46	5.92	6.38	6.84	+1.38
Legal regulation	6.04	6.71	7.22	7.83	+1.79
Innovativeness of mechanisms	4.95	5.71	6.57	7.29	+2.34
Resilience to crisis impacts	5.18	6.07	6.75	7.43	+2.25

Source: created by the authors

The analysis of the numerical data shows a steady positive trend across all criteria. The largest increase is observed in the area of innovative mechanisms – from 4.95 points in 2020 to 7.29 points in 2025, which is +2.34. A similar trend is also characteristic of resilience to crisis impacts, where the indicator increased from 5.18 to 7.43 (+2.25). This indicates a significant increase in the adaptability of management decisions and the introduction of new technological and digital tools. Legal regulation also demonstrates a steady growth – from 6.04 in 2020 to 7.83 in 2025 (+1.79), which indicates the harmonization of legislation with European standards. Coordination between institutions has increased from 6.27 to 7.89 (+1.62), confirming the improvement of interagency cooperation. The smallest increase is observed in the area of resource provision (+1.38), where the indicator increased from 5.46 to 6.84. This indicates that the issue of financial and material resources remains the most vulnerable point of the national security system, despite the overall increase in efficiency.

The data presented in Table 2 allow us to trace the dynamics of changes in the key parameters of management mechanisms. At the same time, for a more comprehensive interpretation of the results obtained, it is advisable to move from individual indicators to an integrated performance assessment. This allows us to see a generalized picture of the security system development and determine the contribution of each parameter to the overall result. To this end, the management effectiveness index (MEI) was calculated using the formula:

$$IEUM = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m w_i x_i}{\sum_{i=1}^m w_i}$$

- average value for each parameter (coordination, resources, law, innovation, sustainability);
- weighting factors of the parameters (all parameters had the same weight $w=1$).

Based on the data in Table 2 (2020-2025), the IEUM values are presented in Table 4.

Table 4. Index of Effectiveness of Management Mechanisms for Protecting the National Security of Ukraine (2020-2025)

Year	Coordination	Resources	Law	Innovation	Sustainability	IEUM
2020	6.27	5.46	6.04	4.95	5.18	5.98
2022	6.81	5.92	6.71	5.71	6.07	6.64
2024	7.34	6.38	7.22	6.57	6.75	6.85
2025	7.89	6.84	7.83	7.29	7.43	7.46

The calculation of the integral indicator made it possible to summarize the results for all parameters and present them in the form of the index of efficiency of management mechanisms (IEM). The obtained values demonstrate a steady growth of the system during the study period: from 5.98 points in 2020 to 7.46 points in 2025. This confirms the strengthening of the management capacity of Ukraine's security and defense sector. The most dynamic changes were recorded in 2022–2024, when the IEUM increased from 6.64 to 6.85, due to the introduction of digital management tools, the development of a risk management system, and increased international support. At the same time, the data show that even with the positive dynamics, some areas – in particular, resource provision – remain less stable, which limits further growth of the integral index.

For each of the five parameters (coordination, resources, law, innovation, and sustainability), the authors calculated

- absolute growth for 2020–2025 ($\Delta = X_{(2025)} - X_{(2020)}$);
- the average annual growth rate (CAGR) according to the formula showing the average annual percentage increase:

$$CAGR = \left(\frac{X_{2025}}{X_{2020}} \right)^{\frac{1}{5}} - 1;$$

The results of the calculation are presented in Table 5.

Table 5. Absolute increases and average annual growth rates of the parameters of management mechanisms (2020–2025)

Parameter	2020	2025	Absolute increase	CAGR (%)
Coordination	6.27	7.89	+1.62	4.68
Resources	5.46	6.84	+1.38	4.61
Law	6.04	7.83	+1.79	5.36
Innovativeness	4.95	7.29	+2.34	8.01
Sustainability	5.18	7.43	+2.25	7.32

Innovation (+2.34) and *sustainability* (+2.25) showed the largest growth, which corresponds to an average annual rate of 8.01% and 7.32%, respectively. This indicates a systemic breakthrough in these areas. *Legal regulation* also grew relatively fast (+1.79; CAGR 5.36%), which confirms the adaptation of legislation to the conditions of war and international obligations. The least progress was made in the area of *resource provision* (+1.38; CAGR 4.61%), which indicates persistent problems with domestic financing. The overall dynamics shows that Ukraine is gradually reaching a new level of institutional capacity in 2020–2025, but the resource base lags behind regulatory, legal, innovative, and technological changes. The dynamic analysis confirms that the development of governance mechanisms in the national security sector is uneven: innovation and sustainability are ahead, while resource provision restrains overall efficiency. Presenting the results in percentage terms allows for a clearer assessment of the pace of development and identification of priority areas of public policy.

In the current context of the war against Ukraine, international organizations and partners play a key role in strengthening national security and creating a more sustainable security environment. Their support covers the military, political, economic and humanitarian spheres, which ensures a comprehensive approach to overcoming threats. According to studies, Ukraine's integration into the European and Euro-Atlantic security space is accompanied not only by military assistance, but also by active participation in the development of joint strategic decisions (Genini, 2025; Ünaldilar *et al.*, 2025). The results are summarized in Table 6.

Table 6. The role of international organizations and partners in supporting Ukraine's national security

International actor/ partner	Main areas of support	Impact on the national security system of Ukraine
European Union (EU)	Military and financial assistance; sanctions policy against Russia; recovery programs	Deepening integration into the common security and defense policy, increasing economic resilience
NATO	Arms supplies, military training, standardization of procedures	Increasing defense capabilities, modernization of the security sector
UN	Humanitarian assistance, human rights monitoring, mediation in negotiations	Support for human security and international legal legitimacy
The United States and G7 countries	Financial, military and technical assistance; sanctions against Russia	Strengthening Ukraine's defense capabilities, strengthening strategic partnerships
International financial institutions (World Bank, IMF, EBRD)	Loans, economic recovery programs, investments in critical infrastructure	Improving economic security, stabilizing the financial system

Source: created by the authors on the basis of (Dashkovska, 2023; Dzvinchuk & Radchenko, 2024; Fernández et al., 2023; Genini, 2025; Kurylo, 2025; Rohatiuk et al., 2024; Sanders, 2023; Ünalldilar et al., 2025; Viunyk et al., 2024; Witt & Ciravegna, 2025; Zavershinskaia & Spera, 2024)

The analysis of Table 4 shows that international support for Ukraine is multidimensional, combining military, political, economic, and humanitarian dimensions. The most significant factors are military assistance from NATO and the United States, which directly affects the state's defense capability, and financial support from international institutions, which helps maintain stability in a crisis. The EU plays a systemic role in the context of political integration and sanctions policy, while the UN ensures the humanitarian and legal dimensions of security. The combination of these factors forms a new architecture of Ukraine's security environment, focused on sustainability and strategic integration into international defense systems.

As a result of this analysis, there is a need to develop practical recommendations aimed at strengthening Ukraine’s national security and adapting its system to modern challenges. They should take into account both domestic problems and the international context, in particular the processes of integration into the European and transatlantic security space. Generalized proposals are presented in Table 7.

Table 7. Recommendations for Improving Strategies and Tools for Ensuring Ukraine’s National Security

Direction	Recommendation	Expected effect
Military sector	Strengthening the integration of NATO standards, development of the territorial defense system and modernization of weapons	Increased defense capability and resilience to hybrid threats
Legal support	Harmonization of legislation with EU legal norms, updating the national security doctrine	Increasing legal coherence and international legitimacy
Economic sustainability	Expanding economic security programs, attracting investments in critical infrastructure, controlling financial risks	Strengthening financial independence, reducing vulnerability to external shocks
Cyber and information security	Developing a national cyber defense system, strengthening information hygiene and strategic communications	Countering cyberattacks and disinformation, increasing public trust in state institutions

Source: created by the authors on the basis of (Dashkovska, 2023; Dzvinchuk & Radczenko, 2024; Fraga-Lamas et al., 2024; Honcharuk et al., 2025; Rohatiuk et al., 2024; Sanders, 2023; Witt & Ciravegna, 2025; Zhelibo et al., 2024)

Thus, the implementation of these recommendations will create a more adaptive and multilevel national security system, where synergy with international partners, legal modernization, economic sustainability and information security will be key elements. This will contribute to the formation of a holistic strategy capable of meeting the challenges of the modern world and ensuring the stability of the state in the long term.

Discussion

The study found that the most significant positive changes in the national security system of Ukraine relate to the growth of innovation in management mechanisms and resilience to crisis impacts. These results are in line with the

views of those authors who emphasize the key role of digital technologies and the latest management tools in strengthening the state's security (Zhelibo *et al.*, 2024; Fraga-Lamas *et al.*, 2024). At the same time, other researchers emphasize that even in times of war, the adequacy of resources and the effectiveness of the mobilization system remain the key factors (Sanders, 2023; Volotivskyi, 2020). Our results show that resource provision remains the most vulnerable element, which indicates a certain contradiction between the expected and actual dynamics in this area. This points to the need for a deeper analysis of the financial component of security, as modern transformations have not yet fully addressed internal problems (Rohatiuk *et al.*, 2024).

On the other hand, the harmonization of national legislation with EU norms and international legal practices is considered by many scholars to be one of the key prerequisites for sustainability (Dashkovska, 2023; Honcharuk *et al.*, 2025; Panchenko, 2020). Our own results confirm this conclusion: legal regulation has shown steady growth and has become one of the strongest areas of transformation. However, there is another position that the emphasis on regulatory harmonization alone without real resource support may remain declarative and not lead to tangible changes in the national security sector (Kazakova, 2022; Kobko, 2022). Our research confirms that legal changes are not always synchronized with practical resilience, so the integration of legislative decisions should be combined with the strengthening of managerial and economic instruments.

The international dimension remains an important issue of debate. Some authors believe that the strategic autonomy of the EU, NATO, and the US forms the basis of a new security architecture, where Ukraine is integrated as a key player (Fernández *et al.*, 2023; Ünalldilar *et al.*, 2025; Genini, 2025). Others emphasize the risks of excessive dependence on external assistance and point to the need to develop domestic resources (Viunyk *et al.*, 2024; Witt & Ciravegna, 2025). Our results show that the system's efficiency is enhanced by the synergy of internal transformations and external support, but that an imbalance towards international aid may indeed limit long-term sustainability. This means that the development strategy of should provide for a gradual balancing of dependence on partners and internal capabilities of the state.

To summarize, the results of our study are partially consistent with the scientific discourse on innovation, cybersecurity, and legal regulation, but demonstrate an imbalance in the area of resource provision, which remains a weak link. This confirms the hypothesis about the multidimensionality of security and the need for a comprehensive approach to ensuring it. At the same time, there are limitations: the survey is based on expert opinions, which may contain subjectivity, and covers only certain regions and institutions, which limits the possibility of generalization. Further research should focus on an in-depth analysis of financial mechanisms for ensuring security, the interdependence of internal and external resources, and expanding the sample of experts to more accurately reflect the state of national security.

Conclusion

This study has revealed that Ukraine's national security system is in a state of active transformation, combining internal reforms and external support. The results obtained indicate significant progress in the development of innovative management mechanisms and increased resilience to crisis impacts, which exceeded expectations and demonstrated the state's ability to adapt to dynamic challenges. The novelty of the work lies in the complex combination of the empirical dimension of expert assessments with the analysis of international trends, which allowed to show the multi-vector nature of transformation processes. The practical significance lies in the possibility of using the findings to develop management decisions in the security sector, in particular in harmonizing the legal framework with European norms and introducing modern digital tools into the security system. At the same time, the study has certain limitations: it is based on a sample of experts from individual cities and may not fully reflect the national level, and it is based on self-assessments that contain an element of subjectivity. Further research should be focused on quantitative analysis of the financial and material component of security, assessment of the long-term effectiveness of international assistance, and formation of scenarios for sustainable development in the field of defense capability. Another important area is the study of the role of civil society in strengthening national security, analysis of new cyberspace risks, and the search for optimal strategies for balancing internal and external resources. As a result, the article not only confirms current trends, but also opens up prospects for further research that can contribute to the formation of a more adaptive and resilient security system in Ukraine.

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