

# ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL MECHANISMS OF REINTEGRATION OF WAR VETERANS IN THE CONDITIONS OF A SPECIAL PERIOD

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**Annotation.** The article is devoted to the study of administrative and legal mechanisms for the reintegration of war veterans in the conditions of a special period, which is caused by military aggression against Ukraine and the long-term impact of crisis processes on all spheres of public life. The work proves that war veterans constitute a specific social group that requires a holistic system of legal, organizational and administrative guarantees for successful adaptation to peaceful life, return to professional activity, as well as ensuring proper social and psychological protection. It is determined that administrative and legal mechanisms are a key tool of public administration aimed at forming a transparent, effective and inclusive state policy in the field of veteran support.

The article analyzes the modern regulatory and legal framework of Ukraine that regulates the issues of social protection and reintegration of veterans, outlines its strengths and weaknesses. Particular attention is paid to the problem of fragmentation of legal regulation, insufficient coordination between central and local authorities, as well as a weak mechanism for monitoring the implementation of state programs. The importance of integrating international experience, in particular the practices of NATO and EU countries, where comprehensive models of rehabilitation, professional retraining and long-term support for veterans operate, is emphasized. The author emphasizes that the effectiveness of reintegration policy is possible only if administrative procedures are combined with innovative social services, the development of e-governance and the broad involvement of civil society institutions.

It is concluded that administrative and legal mechanisms in the field of veterans' reintegration should provide for: systematic legal support; clear procedures for veterans' access to services and benefits; the creation of a single digital platform for accounting and support of veterans; the implementation of socio-psychological rehabilitation programs; the introduction of an effective mechanism for interdepartmental coordination. The implementation of these areas will contribute to the formation of an effective state policy in the field of reintegration, increasing the level of trust in the authorities and ensuring sustainable development of society in the conditions of a special period.

**Key words:** administrative and legal mechanisms, public administration, veteran reintegration, special period, state policy, normative and legal regulation, social protection, psychological rehabilitation, professional adaptation, e-governance, interdepartmental coordination, civil society, international experience, post-conflict development, sustainable development.

## 1. Introduction.

The issue of reintegration of war veterans has become one of the most pressing challenges for Ukraine in the context of ongoing armed aggression and the transformation of national public administration systems. Veterans constitute a unique social group whose needs go far beyond traditional approaches to social protection, requiring comprehensive mechanisms of legal regulation, institutional support, and coordinated public administration. In conditions defined as a "special period," which is characterized by the prolonged impact of military actions, economic instability, and increased social risks, the role of administrative and legal instruments in ensuring successful reintegration becomes particularly significant.

Modern public administration must respond to complex challenges related to the restoration of social justice, protection of veterans' rights, psychological rehabilitation, and economic adaptation. Administrative and legal mechanisms serve as the basis for forming effective state policy, ensuring consistency between legislation, administrative procedures, and institutional capacities. At the same time, the lack of systemic approaches, fragmentation of legal norms, and insufficient interagency coordination hinder the full realization of reintegration goals.

This research aims to identify, systematize, and substantiate the administrative and legal mechanisms that can provide an integrated model of reintegration for war veterans. It also seeks to determine how international experience and best practices can be adapted to the Ukrainian context, particularly in terms of digital governance, interagency cooperation, and partnership with civil society. The article emphasizes that effective reintegration is not only a matter of social policy but also a strategic direction of state-building, national security, and sustainable post-conflict development.

## **2. Analysis of scientific publications.**

The problem of reintegration of war veterans under conditions of armed conflict and post-conflict development has attracted increasing attention from scholars, policymakers, and international organizations. In global academic discourse, researchers such as David Albright and Anthony King have studied the multidimensional nature of veteran reintegration, emphasizing the need for psychological rehabilitation, employment opportunities, and social inclusion as core elements of state policy. Peter D. Feaver has highlighted the role of civil-military relations in shaping institutional approaches to reintegration, while OECD and World Bank reports provide comparative data on best practices in administrative and economic mechanisms for supporting veterans across different jurisdictions.

In the Ukrainian scientific context, this issue has been explored by scholars such as Artur Zamryha, Halyna Striashko, and Oleksandr Minin, who have drawn attention to the administrative and legal dimensions of social protection and the challenges of public administration during a special period. Their works emphasize the necessity of comprehensive legal frameworks, effective interagency coordination, and adaptation of international practices to national conditions. However, the research remains fragmented, with limited focus on systemic administrative-legal mechanisms of reintegration as a strategic component of public administration. This gap underlines the relevance of further studies aimed at developing integrated models of reintegration policy that combine legal, economic, social, and psychological tools.

## **3. The aim of the work.**

The aim of the study is to substantiate and systematize the administrative and legal mechanisms of reintegration of war veterans under special period conditions, to identify their institutional and normative foundations, and to develop proposals for improving public administration practices in Ukraine through the adaptation of international experience and the implementation of innovative legal and organizational tools.

## **4. Review and discussion.**

The key mechanism for an individual's return to active social life is social activity, which determines the depth and quality of his or her interaction with the social environment. It serves as the main criterion for realizing one's own significance in society and shapes the ability of a person to act consciously and purposefully in professional, cultural, and civic spheres [1, p. 29]. Social activity enables the individual to restore ties with society, recognize his or her own value (internal level), and develop initiative in social processes (external level). This, in turn, contributes to overcoming the consequences of social isolation, returning to employment, and achieving successful self-realization in society.

Taking into account that a personality can realize its potential only in a socialized environment [2, p. 45], reintegration is viewed as a holistic process that includes not only external support but also

the internal efforts of the individual to restore his or her place in society. A systemic approach to reintegration presupposes the provision by the state of certain social services and opportunities from which the individual can choose the most important and contribute personal efforts to achieve inner harmony and social stability. Reintegration removes barriers that hinder full participation in social life and includes two interrelated processes: external reintegration, which involves the creation of favorable conditions and support, and internal reintegration, which depends on the active actions of the individual to overcome difficulties and restore his or her own social status [3, p. 31].

Thus, reintegration is a complex, multidimensional process that encompasses both state support and the creation of conditions for an individual's social return, as well as his or her internal readiness to restore psychological balance, social ties, and active participation in public life.

In the case of Ukraine, the concept of reintegration is considered in two key dimensions:

- reintegration of individuals – the process of returning and including vulnerable groups in social life through the provision of necessary support (legal, social, psychological, etc.). This concerns, in particular, residents of temporarily occupied territories, war veterans, former prisoners of war, orphans, and internally displaced persons who require assistance in restoring their place in society;
- reintegration of territories – a complex political, legal, and administrative process aimed at restoring constitutional order, ensuring security, rebuilding infrastructure, returning state institutions, creating conditions for the functioning of local self-government, and guaranteeing civil rights and freedoms.

Therefore, reintegration performs a dual function: the restoration of the individual's social status in society and the return of territories under state control, ensuring their harmonious integration into the legal, social, and economic framework of Ukraine.

The reintegration of individuals is characterized by the following features:

restoration of social status, which includes returning a person to active participation in social life, professional activity, civic relations, and personal connections;

systemic and comprehensive nature, since it covers legal, social, psychological, economic, and cultural aspects aimed at creating conditions for the full functioning of the individual;

the presence of adaptive mechanisms that help the person overcome difficulties associated with past experiences, crises, or prolonged isolation from society;

dependence on the level of social activity of the person, his or her ability for self-organization, acceptance of new social roles, and restoration of stable ties with society;

support from the state and society, expressed through legal protection, social assistance, psychological rehabilitation, and the creation of economic opportunities for self-realization;

dynamic and long-term character, with no universal timeframe for completion, as it depends on the individual's characteristics, readiness for change, and the quality of support received.

Among the reintegration of individuals, a specific type is distinguished – the reintegration of war veterans (combatants) and disabled veterans, which becomes especially significant in the context of large-scale armed aggression. It involves not only the return of former servicemen to civilian life but also adaptation to new socio-economic conditions, overcoming the consequences of military experience, and engagement in active social activity.

As for the direct reintegration of war veterans (combatants) and disabled veterans, attention should be paid to the conceptual definition of this process formulated in international documents. In particular, UN analytical materials define the reintegration of combatants as a process through which former fighters transition to peaceful life, acquire a stable civilian status, and gain opportunities for employment and economic independence [4, p. 121]. This approach remains relevant to the Ukrainian context, but the scale of war requires a much broader understanding of reintegration, one that considers not only the individual needs of veterans and disabled persons but also societal interaction, state support, and institutional mechanisms.

At the same time, the reintegration of war veterans and disabled veterans in Ukraine includes not only the process of demobilization but also the restoration of social roles in both professional and family life [5, p. 417]. For servicemen, law enforcement officers, members of volunteer formations, and others who participated in repelling armed aggression, this also means returning to peaceful life after performing combat missions. For career military personnel continuing their service, it may mean returning to a permanent base after long combat rotations, which requires comprehensive measures of adaptation and psychological recovery [6].

Given the scale of the current war, the reintegration of war veterans and disabled veterans cannot be reduced to returning the ex-combatant to the state he or she was in before military service. It must include adaptation to new social realities, effective management of the consequences of combat experience, and overcoming psycho-emotional and physical challenges that have become part of veterans' lives. In this context, reintegration is presented as repeated social and professional integration, which includes not only state support but also the creation of opportunities for veterans' self-realization in civilian life, ensuring access to employment, education, social guarantees, and adequate medical care [7, p. 12].

Therefore, the reintegration of war veterans under special period conditions is a complex, multidimensional process that covers the social, economic, psychological, and legal adaptation of those who participated in hostilities to civilian life. It takes into account their military experience, health status, and the level of social support, and involves providing veterans with proper social guarantees, professional retraining, access to employment, rehabilitation programs to overcome combat stress, the creation of favorable conditions for integration into communities, as well as the development of state support mechanisms that promote their active participation in public life.

The main areas of reintegration of war veterans can be distinguished as follows:

- social reintegration – returning the individual to active participation in society, including restoring social ties, professional activity, and access to education and healthcare;
- psychological reintegration – aimed at overcoming psychological trauma, adapting to civilian life, stabilizing emotional state, and forming resilient behavioral strategies;
- economic reintegration – involving the return of individuals to the labor market, assistance in employment, retraining, and creating conditions for entrepreneurial activity;
- legal reintegration – covering the restoration of legal status, documentation, access to social guarantees, and legal protection;
- cultural reintegration – involving a return to traditional ways of life, preservation or restoration of national and cultural identity.



## 5. Conclusions.

The study has demonstrated that the reintegration of war veterans in Ukraine under special period conditions is a multidimensional and long-term process that requires the coordinated application of administrative and legal mechanisms. Reintegration encompasses not only the provision of social guarantees but also psychological rehabilitation, economic adaptation, legal protection, and the restoration of cultural and social ties. The analysis confirms that the effectiveness of this process directly depends on the ability of public administration to combine regulatory frameworks, institutional capacity, and innovative instruments of governance.

It has been established that existing Ukrainian legislation provides a foundation for veteran support, but remains fragmented and insufficiently harmonized with the real needs of veterans and international standards. This necessitates the development of an integrated legal framework, the strengthening of interagency coordination, and the creation of a unified digital platform to ensure accessibility and transparency of services. Particular emphasis should be placed on aligning national policies with best international practices, especially in the fields of professional retraining, employment programs, psychological recovery, and community integration.

The conclusions highlight that reintegration should be understood not merely as the restoration of veterans to their pre-war status, but as their adaptation to new social realities and opportunities for meaningful participation in public life. Administrative and legal mechanisms, therefore, must be reoriented towards flexibility, inclusivity, and sustainability, ensuring that veterans are empowered to become active contributors to national recovery and post-conflict development. Successful implementation of such mechanisms will strengthen social cohesion, increase trust in public institutions, and promote the long-term resilience and stability of Ukrainian society.

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