

Секция «Государственная политика России: проблемы и направления развития»

The role of the government information policy in building social capital

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The interaction between government bodies and the media is one of the ways to achieve the objectives connected with the public sector development and its topical problems solution, including building social capital. At present, the development of social capital is especially significant as many countries are enduring turbulent times in enhancing public confidence and trust. In fact, information policy concerning the consolidation of social networks is a defining characteristic of the modern government policy.

In this report the presenter shares the findings of her research as a graduate student. The presenter poses and answers a number of essential questions: the essence of information policy and its position in the government policy; the purpose of social capital and its impact on the quality of government institutions and the ways of possible elimination of some negative aspects through the government information policy.

Following A. Kochergin and V. Kogan [1] the presenter defines the government information policy as a set of goals that reflect the national interests of Russia in the sphere of IT, including a set of measures aimed at the implementation of the goals. The main directions of the government information policy are the important components of Russian foreign and domestic policy.

The presenter discusses the most important issues of the government information policy: information and telecommunications infrastructure modernization; provision for socially significant information and dissemination of independent mass media; advanced training of professional skills in the current information age; a set of significant administrative and legal frameworks in the information society.

The government policy of the information society can be effective only when it is integrated, systematic and, doubtlessly, open to reconcile the interests of citizens, society and the state. In this respect, the development of information and communication technologies is of utmost importance as it can provide a steady operation of the infrastructure and an interaction between the subjects of the integrated information and telecommunication space.

Information system of public administration provides a legal, economic, political coordination of public institutions and simplifies the provision for affordable public goods and service. Therefore, this policy contributes to the growth of social capital, as well as to good management practices.

The definition of the term "social capital", particularly relevant for the policy context, is understood by the author as the relationships between different parties - individuals, groups and/or organizations - that create a capacity to act for mutual benefit or a common purpose. Partnership as a concept sits alongside the emerging social capital paradigm in stressing that the relationships connecting people and organizations - rather than the unique qualities of different forms of organization and structure - are important determinants of the effectiveness of government policy [4]. Therefore the presenter argues that any assessment of social capital within networks would need to focus on the "quality" of relationships between network members.

Social capital is a valuable indicator of the development, affecting economic growth, social welfare, the effectiveness of social programs. It has an enormous impact both on the quality of public services (education, public health, public safety, public utilities), and the quality of

government institutions. Social capital encourages proper accountability and boosts the quality of public administration [2] .

The implementation of public administration with the help of information systems within a framework of social capital development in Russia requires a profound improvement. The problems of cooperation between the government and the society have a negative effect on building social capital in Russia [3]. Hence, it is essential to establish an efficient system of information support on the federal level in order to solve the problems mentioned above.

The research reveals that at present the government information policy influences the social capital in the public service, as accurately selected methods and techniques of such policy encourage accountability, boost the quality of public administration and, finally, result in successful and winning management practices. Therefore, it is important to assess the role of government information policy in building social capital adequately to meet the challenges of our time.

Источники и литература

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