Chapter 1
Introducing E-Government in Kazakhstan:
The Concept of E-Democracy for the State-Public Interaction

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ABSTRACT

The concepts of e-democracy and e-government in Kazakhstan have been introduced as innovative technologies for the interaction of state power with civil society institutions. Digital technologies are considered in the light of implementing the principles of cooperation, conscientious fulfillment of the state, and population obligations. Promoting such issues increases public services, helps to create new conditions for ensuring transparency and honesty of the state system, strengthens trust between the parties, promotes further societal democratization, and raises the main aspects of national security. Discussing/ sharing experiences, we appeal to scholars in political sciences and state officials, to contribute to the background for justification/implementation of new technologies and ways of cooperation between state authorities and the population. The chapter outlines effective ways of state development to be a competitive subject of international relations able adequately to meet the contemporary challenges, keeping up with the times and puts the interests of the population first.

INTRODUCTION

The current Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan embodying universal democratic values has opened up wide scope for building a modern legal, socially oriented and open state. The basic law of the state ensures the stability of organization and activities of the state apparatus, stability of law enforcement practice fixing the fundamental foundations of Kazakhstani statehood.

Over the past few years significant changes had taken place in the legal regulation of the informational sphere of Kazakhstan. Informational legislation is developing dynamically along with active development of e-government, which is one of the priority areas of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The main goal of creating electronic government in the Republic of Kazakhstan is formation of the mechanism for interaction between the functioning of the government and local authorities, which will be focused on providing services to citizens and organizations through information technology.

The purpose of the given research is to study the features of building a democratic society through the improvement and further development of e-government and the transition to the format of e-democracy.

From a consumer's point of view introduction of e-government technologies is aimed at simplifying access to information for citizens, obtaining public services in an electronic format increasing transparency and control of state power on the part of society reducing the influence of the human factor in the activities of the executive apparatus and attracting wide layers of citizens to governance.

At present, quite a lot has been done to form E-government in Kazakhstan. State programs aimed at eliminating information inequality are being actively introduced. They are aimed at introducing information and communication technologies, raising the educational level, lowering tariffs for Internet users, computerizing governmental agencies and educational institutions as the part of the program to reduce informational inequality in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The 21st century was marked by introduction of innovative digital technologies in all spheres of society. The most promising is the process of using Internet technologies to expand further the capabilities of the existing system of representative democracy and development of the processes of so-called "e-democracy".

E-democracy ("e-democracy", "virtual democracy") is a form of democracy characterized by use of information and communication technologies (ICT) as the main means for collective thinking (crowdsourcing) and administrative processes (informing, making joint decisions while electronic voting, controlling execution of decisions etc.) at all levels that is from the level of local governance to the international one (Ibraeva, 2018).

E-democracy is use of modern digital technologies for organization and implementation of civil initiatives, active use in the election campaign and other mass campaigns.

The concept of e-government should be distinguished from e-democracy ideas. E-government is simplification of citizens' access to state bodies from anywhere in the world. That is no more than a change in the interface in relationships of managers and managed without a radical change of the system. E-democracy means not just ability of citizens to use public services, but to influence actively on governmental decisions.

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