

*Толмачевська Є.,*  
здобувач ступеня вищої освіти бакалавра  
Одеського державного університету  
внутрішніх справ  
*Консультантка з мови: Драпалюк К.*

**ACTIVITIES OF PRE-TRIAL INVESTIGATION AGENCIES  
AND FORENSIC EXPERT INSTITUTIONS:  
INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE**

The activities of pre-trial investigation agencies and forensic expert institutions are key elements of the criminal process, which ensure the investigation of offenses, the establishment of the truth and the administration of justice. In the conditions of globalization and European integration, Ukraine's faced with challenges that necessitate the reform of the legal system, in particular, the adaptation of international experience to increase the effectiveness of pre-trial investigation and forensic expert activity. Studying global approaches to the organization of this activity allows not only to borrow the best practices, but also to improve national procedures taking into account the specifics of the Ukrainian legal system. In international practice, pretrial investigation is recognized as an important stage of criminal proceedings, and many countries, such as Italy, Great Britain, and Germany, have established uniform standards for the investigation of crimes. These standards include requirements for the investigation to be thorough, independent, impartial and subject to public scrutiny [1, p. 99].

At the international level, the pre-trial investigation process must meet high standards that ensure the rights and legitimate interests of the persons participating in the process. As stated in the European documents, the police have a key role in the investigation of crimes, and no other state structure should interfere in their activities. An important condition is the independence of the bodies conducting the investigation, which guarantees the objectivity and impartiality of the process.

The practice of pre-trial investigation bodies in the USA is characterized by a high level of organization and effective coordination between federal and local law enforcement agencies. The country has a two-tier law enforcement system that includes federal agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), as well as state and local police. Federal authorities investigate crimes that have a cross-border nature or threaten national security, while local authorities are responsible for crimes that occur at the state or county level [2, p. 51].

International experience shows that the interaction of pretrial investigation agencies with forensic expert institutions is a critical factor affecting the objectivity and completeness of the investigation. In many countries, such as the USA, Germany, Great Britain, standards for the use of

forensic examinations as a key tool for establishing facts and evidence in criminal proceedings have long been established. At the same time, Ukrainian practice needs improvement, especially in the spheres of integration of expert activity into procedural norms and ensuring proper training of personnel.

The relevance of the study is due to the need to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement in Ukraine, especially in the context of ensuring the objectivity of pre-trial investigations and the observance of human rights. Taking into account international experience, Ukrainian authorities can introduce a number of innovative approaches that will contribute to increasing the efficiency and quality of investigations, as well as strengthening procedural guarantees.

One of the main characteristics of the US system is that investigations often involve joint investigative teams made up of different agencies. This makes it possible to effectively combine the resources and expertise of each body to investigate complex and high-profile cases. For example, when investigating terrorist acts or organized criminal activity, the FBI, state police, customs services, and other federal agencies actively cooperate.

Investigators in the US have significant powers, such as the right to search, detain and interrogate suspects. However, their actions are governed by strict rules, including the US Constitution and the Penal Code, which ensure the rights of suspects and due process of law. In addition, private detective agencies can participate in investigations at the request of clients, and their employees often act as witnesses in court [3, p. 228].

Coordination between federal and local authorities is critical because it allows for efficient allocation of tasks and collection of evidence. Interaction between different departments contributes to the optimization of the investigation process, information exchange and collective resolution of the most complex cases.

In Great Britain, the pre-trial investigation is carried out by the police, in particular by constables, under the general direction of the Home Secretary. The police discover, collect and hand over evidence to lawyers who represent it in court. The role of the courts, which control the collection of evidence and determine its admissibility, is important. However, the responsibility for prosecution rests with an independent body, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). The CPS deals with prosecutions, assists the police with investigations and represents cases in court. Its independence is of fundamental constitutional importance, ensuring impartiality and fairness in decision-making. Interaction between central and local law enforcement agencies is ensured by joint investigators and coordination groups, as well

as information exchange. Such mechanisms contribute to the effective investigation of crimes and maintenance of law and order [4, p. 133].

Thus, the study of the international experience of the organization of pre-trial investigation and forensic expert activity shows that the integration of best practices and standards can significantly improve the process of investigating criminal offenses and contribute to the provision of justice. For Ukraine, the adaptation of international standards of pre-trial investigation is not only of practical importance for increasing the efficiency of law enforcement agencies, but also of strategic importance in the context of harmonization of national legislation with the legal standards of the European Union and international obligations of Ukraine within the framework of European integration. The need to reform the pretrial investigation process is also conditioned by the task of ensuring the impartiality and transparency of law enforcement activities, which is an important element in the process of restoring public trust in state institutions.

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