

DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL STATE SOCIETY RELATIONS

GOBERNANZA DIGITAL Y LA TRANSFORMACIÓN DE LAS RELACIONES JURÍDICAS E INSTITUCIONALES ENTRE EL ESTADO Y LA SOCIEDAD

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Suggested citation (APA, seventh ed.)

Grudtsina, L., Komleva, T., Malinenko, E., Sakharova, S., & Fokina, L. (2025). Digital governance and the transformation of legal and institutional state society relations. *Universidad y Sociedad*, 17(6). e5535.

ABSTRACT

The research analyzes the state's concept, content, and role in digital conditions and the transformation of its interaction with civil society. It also considers changes in the forms of interaction and challenges related to security, privacy, and legal regulation. The main research method was deductive, used to study state digitalization and interaction with civil society institutions. Inductive, systemic, comparative-legal, and historical methods were applied, which allowed for a comprehensive study of the digitalization of law and legislation. The study classified the digitalization of law and analyzed the changes in governance and interaction between the state and civil society. The digital state is a new type of society, where governance is performed using digital technologies. Legal examples of Germany and France are considered, and models of support for non-profit organizations and transparency issues are studied. Digitalization improves governance but requires a clear legal framework to ensure security and data protection. The digital state is a political union that uses digital tools to effectively govern and engage with civil society.

Keywords: Digitalization, Society, Public administration, Security, Privacy.

RESUMEN

La investigación analiza el concepto, el contenido y el rol del Estado en el contexto digital, así como la transformación de su interacción con la sociedad civil. También considera los cambios en las formas de interacción y los desafíos relacionados con la seguridad, la privacidad y la regulación legal. El método principal de investigación fue deductivo,

utilizado para estudiar la digitalización del Estado y su interacción con las instituciones de la sociedad civil. Se aplicaron métodos inductivos, sistémicos, jurídico-comparativos e históricos, lo que permitió un estudio exhaustivo de la digitalización del derecho y la legislación. El estudio clasificó la digitalización del derecho y analizó los cambios en la gobernanza y la interacción entre el Estado y la sociedad civil. El Estado digital es un nuevo tipo de sociedad, donde la gobernanza se realiza mediante tecnologías digitales. Se consideran ejemplos legales de Alemania y Francia, y se estudian modelos de apoyo a organizaciones sin fines de lucro y cuestiones de transparencia. La digitalización mejora la gobernanza, pero requiere un marco legal claro para garantizar la seguridad y la protección de datos. El Estado digital es una unión política que utiliza herramientas digitales para gobernar eficazmente e interactuar con la sociedad civil.

Palabras clave: Digitalización, Sociedad, Administración pública, Seguridad, privacidad.

INTRODUCTION

The emergence of digital governance marks one of the most profound transformations in contemporary state-society relations. The incorporation of digital technologies into legal systems, administrative structures, and institutional practices has redefined the ways in which states exercise authority, deliver services, and engage with citizens. Far beyond a mere technical innovation, digital governance reshapes the very foundations of political legitimacy, institutional accountability, and the social contract in the twenty-first century.

At the legal level, digitalization requires rethinking traditional frameworks of law, which were primarily designed for analog interactions and territorial jurisdictions. Issues such as data sovereignty, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence regulation, and digital identity are now central to the protection of rights and freedoms in democratic societies. Digital tools facilitate access to justice, strengthen mechanisms of legal compliance, and improve transparency in state operations, but they also raise critical debates around surveillance, algorithmic bias, and the privatization of digital infrastructures that serve public functions.

Institutionally, digital governance compels governments to modernize their structures and rethink bureaucratic practices. E-government platforms, blockchain registries, open data initiatives, and predictive analytics are redefining how institutions interact internally and externally. These innovations promise efficiency, inclusiveness, and participatory decision-making, but they also generate risks of exclusion for digitally marginalized populations,

as well as new forms of dependency on global technological corporations. In this sense, institutional resilience is measured not only by the adoption of digital tools, but by the capacity to design adaptive frameworks that ensure democratic control and public trust.

From a societal perspective, digital governance transforms the patterns of civic participation and mobilization. Social media platforms, online petitions, digital consultations, and virtual forums expand the avenues for citizens to influence policymaking and hold institutions accountable. At the same time, the proliferation of disinformation, polarization, and the concentration of digital capital challenge the quality of democratic deliberation. This duality illustrates the paradox of digital transformation: it empowers while simultaneously creating new vulnerabilities that require robust regulatory and institutional responses.

In sum, the study of digital governance is not merely about technology, but about the reconfiguration of legal norms, institutional roles, and power relations in a digital age. The transformation of state-society relations under digital governance raises fundamental questions: How can states preserve democratic values while embracing technological innovation? What institutional reforms are necessary to guarantee inclusiveness and trust? How can legal systems adapt to ensure both efficiency and the protection of fundamental rights? These questions underscore the urgency of examining digital governance as a multidimensional phenomenon, one that intertwines law, institutions, and society in shaping the future of governance itself.

The digitalization of social relations and the formation of the digital state represent significant changes in the modern world, which makes this topic relevant for scientific research. The impact of digitalization on state structures and social relations has scientific and practical significance. During the rapid development of digital technologies and their integration into public processes, the interaction between the state and civil society in the EU acquires special significance. This interaction influences the development of democratic processes and the strengthening of civil institutions. However, contradictions arise in the process of digitalization related to the regulation of digital platforms, data protection, and transparency. This article aims to determine the optimal interaction models between the state and civil society in the context of digitalization.

Interaction between the state and civil society in the EU is important in the context of digitalization. In Germany, legislation focuses on supporting non-profit organizations, which contributes to strengthening their role in public life. This is manifested in tax benefits and subsidies that allow organizations to perform their functions more effectively.

The French legislation emphasizes transparency and accountability, which contributes to increasing trust in non-profit organizations on the part of society and the state (Vasyukov & Khisamova, 2021).

In the Czech Republic and Romania, digital technologies play a key role in civil society. They promote greater citizen involvement in public processes and facilitate access to information. This allows civil organizations to interact more effectively with government structures and influence decision-making. According to Shapkin (2018), "digital technologies play a key role in the development of civil society in the Czech Republic and Romania." The analysis of legislation and interaction between the state and civil society in EU countries allows us to identify effective models and offer recommendations for their adaptation in other countries. This contributes to strengthening democratic institutions and increasing trust between the state and civil society (Ydyrys et al., 2023).

Digital technologies impact the development of civil society in the Czech Republic and Romania by increasing citizen involvement in public processes and improving communication between state structures and civil society. However, the decision-making mechanism within the system of multi-level government is rather fragmented. It is based on consensus and involves formal state institutions and non-governmental structures related to civil society. This emphasizes the importance of integrating digital technologies into governance processes and engagement with civil society.

Thus, the study of different interaction models between the state and civil society in EU countries allows us to identify effective practices and offer recommendations for their adaptation in other contexts, contributing to the strengthening of democratic institutions and the increase of trust between the state and civil society.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The basic research method is a review of sources found in Scopus and Web of Science for the following keywords: "digital state", "digitalization", "civil society", "public administration", "legal regulation", "security" and "privacy".

The current scientific development of the topic includes studies by Zaitsev (2023) who emphasize the importance of digital technologies in transforming the interaction between the state and civil society. Thus, this article aims to identify and analyze the features of the digital state and its role in modern society. This requires a comprehensive approach and considering different opinions to create a holistic picture of the digital state and its interaction with civil society.

The research methodology on the interaction between the state and civil society in the context of EU digitalization is based on a comprehensive approach (Bobkov et al., 2020; Kenzhin et al., 2021), which includes the analysis of legislative acts, comparative study of interaction models, and assessment of the impact of digital technologies on the development of civil institutions. German and French scholars emphasize legislative aspects to identify differences in approaches to regulating the interaction between the state and civil society. The German and French legislations demonstrate different approaches to regulating the interaction between the state and civil society (Shapkin, 2018).

Czech and Romanian scholars focus on the impact of digital technologies on the development of civil institutions. In these countries, digital technologies play a key role in civil society, which emphasizes the importance of their integration into interactions with the state. This approach allows us to identify effective practices and offer recommendations for their adaptation in other EU countries.

The research methodology of the digital state requires a comprehensive approach that considers various aspects (Galindo, 2024) related to digitalization. It is necessary to consider the theoretical framework to define the essence of the digital state. The literature review shows that scholars are divided into several groups. One group considers the digital state a tool to improve public administration, while the other focuses on the risks and threats associated with digitalization. There are also differences in approaches to the legal regulation of digital technologies.

Comparative analysis and systemic approach are used to analyze the digital state in broad and narrow senses. Comparative analysis allows us to identify differences and similarities in approaches to digitalization in different countries, which contributes to a deeper understanding of the processes taking place in society. The systemic approach helps consider the digital state as a complex system in which technology, legal norms, and social institutions interact. The study uses content and discourse analysis to examine how the digital state is represented in media space and academic literature. These methods determine key themes and issues related to digitalization and help understand how they are perceived by society.

An important aspect of the study is the analysis of network aspects of digital transformation. According to scholars, "at the current stage of social development, considered in terms of its network aspects, the key role of digital transformation processes is obvious" (Mikhaylenok et al., 2020). This stipulates the need to study network interactions and their impact on state structures and civil

society. The methodology of digital state research includes approaches and methods that allow for a comprehensive study of this complex and multifaceted phenomenon. Various methods contribute to a fuller understanding of digitalization processes and their impact on social relations.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The digital state as a new form of political power faces problems and challenges that require careful analysis and solution. A key problem is ensuring security in the context of digital transformation. With the increasing volume of data processed by state structures, the risk of cyber-attacks and information leaks increases, which can undermine citizens' trust in state institutions (Muradyan, 2023).

The legal regulation of the digital state presents another challenge (Malginova, 2023). The need to develop new legislation and revise existing norms requires significant efforts from legislators and legal experts. It is important to consider international experience and cooperation in cybersecurity and data protection to create an effective legal framework for the functioning of the digital state. Despite its advantages, the digital state faces complex challenges (Begishev et al., 2024, Sitnikov, 2024), which require an integrated approach and interdisciplinary cooperation for their effective solution.

Our study demonstrates that the digital state is a new type of organized society in which governance is ensured using digital technologies. The significance of the findings lies in the fact that they emphasize the need to adapt legal and managerial mechanisms to the new conditions of the digital era.

A key contradiction in the study of the topic is the lack of a clear definition of the concept of digital state in the theory of state and law. This creates difficulties in developing a unified concept and approaches to managing and regulating digital technologies. As Mikhaylenok et al. (2020) claim, "at the current stage of social development, which we consider from the viewpoint network aspects, the key role of digital transformation is obvious".

Another important aspect is the disagreement in approaches to managing and regulating digital technologies, which requires an interdisciplinary approach and cooperation between different scientific disciplines. The issues of privacy and data security are also crucial to the digital state debate.

Privacy issues are central to the debate on the digital state. Personal data collection and processing require strict adherence to legal norms and ethical standards to avoid violating citizens' privacy rights (Bolatbekkyzy, 2024). Afzal & Panagiotopoulos (2024) provide a nuanced

understanding of how frontline workers in public services, specifically in policing, adapt to the pressures and opportunities brought by digital transformation. One key contribution is their emphasis on the human dimension of digitalization, showing that adaptation is not only a technical process but also a social and organizational one.

They argue that digital transformation in policing reshapes work practices, requiring officers to acquire new skills, reconfigure routines, and balance the dual demands of traditional face-to-face policing with digitally mediated services. Another important insight is that user adaptation is uneven, influenced by factors such as digital literacy, organizational culture, and the perceived usefulness of new technologies. The study also highlights the tensions and resistance that emerge when digital tools are introduced without adequate support or when they conflict with established professional norms.

As Zaitsev (2023) notes, "the digitalization of subject-subject communication between public authorities and society leads to the complication and technologization of the public sphere, generating new forms of civic activity and ways of interaction between public authorities and civil society organizations".

With the rapid development of digital technologies and their integration into social processes, the models of state-civil society interaction in the EU countries show considerable diversity (Ran, 2023). Germany, France, the Czech Republic, and Romania provide examples of different approaches to this interaction, which allows us to identify common features and unique characteristics of each model. Germany supports non-profit organizations through tax incentives and subsidies, which encourage their active participation in public life.

France emphasizes transparency and accountability, which builds trust between the state and civil society. In the Czech Republic and Romania, digital technologies play a key role in civil society, promoting greater citizen involvement in public processes and facilitating access to information.

A comparative analysis of these models shows effective practices that can be adapted in other countries. Migrant integration is a multifaceted process combining political, economic, social, and cultural aspects. This emphasizes the importance of flexibility and adaptability of interaction models in a rapidly changing digital environment.

The digital state is a complex phenomenon that can be viewed in broad and narrow senses. In a broad sense, the digital state can be defined as a political union that uses digital technologies to govern and interact with civil

society. It is a new organized society where public power is exercised through digital tools, which allows for more efficient management of public processes and interaction with citizens (Molintas, 2024).

In a narrow sense, the digital state focuses on implementing information and communications technologies (ICT) in the activities of public authorities. This includes digital platforms for public services, making them more accessible and convenient for citizens.

According to Malinenko (2018), the processes of digitalization are objectively aimed at improving the constitutions and charters of Russian regions, their adaptation to the digital space, and new legal comprehension in the context of digital transformation. Digitalization is a condition for the successful development of the national economy. Without it, the legal development of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation is impossible.

Changing the digital future will allow every citizen to fully participate in the digital platforms of the constituent entities of the Russian Federation, regional programs, and national projects. It seems relevant to introduce a digital dialogue between the population and the public authorities.

CONCLUSIONS

The digital state changes the forms of interaction with civil society and promotes the development of new governance models based on the principles of openness, accessibility, and participation. This opens new opportunities for democratizing public processes and strengthening civil society in the digital age.

The comparative analysis of interaction models in EU countries allows us to identify effective practices and offer recommendations for their adaptation in other countries. This contributes to a more holistic understanding of the state's role in the context of digital reality and the digitalization of social relations. An important aspect is cultural and social differences that affect the implementation of interaction models. The research methodology includes theoretical analysis and practical assessment of existing interaction models, which allows us to get a more complete picture of the state's role in civil society in the context of digitalization.

Features of the digital state include using network technologies to ensure transparency and openness of state processes and create new forms of interaction between the state and civil society. An important aspect is the digital infrastructure that supports these processes and contributes to their sustainable development. Thus, the digital state transforms traditional forms of state structure

and creates new opportunities for civic participation and interaction.

Digitalization impacts the interaction between the state and civil society, transforming traditional forms of communication and creating new opportunities for citizen participation in governance. In the digital environment, state structures are increasingly turning to ICT to improve the quality of services provided and increase the transparency of their activities.

The significance of our findings lies in the identification of effective interaction models that can be adapted in other countries. This contributes to strengthening democratic institutions and increasing trust between the state and civil society. However, the fragmented decision-making mechanism of multi-level governance requires the integration of digital technologies.

Future research on this topic could focus on developing legal frameworks and strategies for digital governance. It is important to consider international experience and cooperation in cybersecurity and data protection to create an effective legal framework for the functioning of the digital state. It is also a promising direction to study the impact of digitalization on democratic processes and civic participation to better assess the potential of the digital state to strengthen civil society.

A key aspect of digital engagement is the creation of feedback platforms that allow citizens to actively participate in the discussion and resolution of socially significant issues. Such platforms contribute to a more open and inclusive society where every citizen can contribute to the development of the state. Examples of successful integration of digital technologies into public administration can be observed in countries where e-government and online services have significantly simplified access to public services and increased their efficiency.

Studying different interaction models between the state and civil society in the context of digitalization allows us to identify effective practices and offer recommendations for their adaptation in other countries, which contributes to strengthening democratic institutions and increasing trust between the state and civil society. However, digitalization raises issues related to data protection and cybersecurity. With increasing digitalization, robust data protection mechanisms need to be developed to ensure the security of state and public data. This requires technical solutions and legislative initiatives to regulate digital technologies in the public sphere. Thus, digital technologies represent a powerful tool for the development of civil society, but their use must be accompanied by security and data protection measures. This will increase the efficiency of

interaction between the state and civil society and strengthen citizens' trust in state institutions.

This publication is supported by the RUDN University Scientific Projects Grant System, project No. 090222-2-000 "Development of the concept and models of digital dispute resolution in the context of creating a common information area of Eurasian Economic Union countries" (Supervisor: E.E. Frolova).

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