

EXPERIENCE OF INTERNATIONAL LEGAL COOPERATION IN CREATING CONDITIONS FOR THE FORMATION OF THE INFORMATION SPACE OF KNOWLEDGE

Marina V. Alekseeva¹, Elena V. Astapova², Anna I. Vakula³, Inna A. Podroikina⁴

Abstract: The importance of ensuring Russia's national interests in forming an information space is based on the contemporary peculiarities of forming the information society. This study is devoted to the analysis of international legal acts regulating integration processes in the former Soviet Union in the course of forming a single information space in the transition from an information society to knowledge one.

Authors provide an analysis of conditions in which the conceptual basis of forming the single information space the framework of international legal cooperation in the former Soviet Union in the field of information and informatization is grounded. The study includes an analysis of official data on CIS and EEU members' cooperation as well as studies of Russian authors. Authors highlighted the importance of information communication technologies as instruments of transitioning from an information society to a knowledge society and emphasized the essential role of international legal cooperation experience for forming and providing access to the information space of knowledge in Russia.

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Introduction

The contemporary peculiarities of forming the information society in the Russian Federation emphasized the importance of ensuring Russia's national interests in forming an information space based on knowledge (the information space of knowledge).

The objectives of forming an information space of knowledge are to avail citizens' the right to access information of integrated quality and conditions to meet their needs in attaining continuous development and effective application of knowledge based on available information.

Currently, achieving these goals, in the context of developing the information society, is associated with problems, such as 'digital inequality', 'mosaic configuration' of information on the Internet, and the mastering of this information, not only as a resource of 'raw material' for deriving knowledge, but also as a resource of influence (Manojlo, 2003).

In addition, the international legal mechanisms for upholding the sovereign right of states to regulate an information space, including the national segment of the Internet, have not been established. Most states are forced to adopt the state regulation regarding an information sphere to meet these circumstances in the interim (Strategy, 2017).

Therefore, to understand the political and legal basis for ensuring Russia's national interests in the information society and the forming of an information space of knowledge, it is of interest to consider Russia's international legal cooperation in this matter.

Data and Methodology

Collecting the data by experience of international legal cooperation in creating conditions for information space of knowledge was conducted aiming to obtain preliminary information on the current state of affairs. The study proceeds from analysis of CIS and EEU member states' agreements highlighting the brand new political and economic condition of interstate data exchange.

Numerous sources peculiar to the legal study were involved as follows: official data on the issues of the CIS and EEU members' cooperation in the field of the information society's construction and development for the period up to 2025, the documents of the Council of Heads of Government of the Commonwealth of Independent States, as well as studies of Alekseeva M.V. (2013;2017), Manojlo A.V. (2003), Efremov A.A. (2017). The study and theoretical generalization was also conducted on

¹ Faculty of Law, Don State Technical University, and Rostov Affiliate of Russian Customs Academy, Russia, Alekseeva80@yandex.ru

² Faculty of Law, Don State Technical University, Astapova77@mail.ru

³ Faculty of Law, Don State Technical University, Vakulaann@rambler.ru

⁴ Rostov Affiliate of Russian Customs Academy, Russia, 919820@mail.ru

the basis of analysis of general theory of law, administrative and information law, domestic and international legislation.

The methodological ground of the study included the systematic and functional analysis of international legal provisions regulating the information space formation, the application of comparative-legal, formal-legal, forecasting and modeling methods, the technique of historical analysis of international legal cooperation in the conditions of information space of knowledge formation, as well as generalization of a wide range of legal and practical provisions.

Results and Discussion

The information space of knowledge evolved as a target subject area of information pursuit in the framework of forming an information space in the former Soviet Union. In particular, in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the international legal cooperation was originally conditioned because of the need to coordinate events and conditions for information exchange in the interests of cooperation between the CIS member states at the international level.

The information rapprochement of the CIS member states, on this basis, ensured the adoption of relevant conceptual documents and international agreements in the CIS framework. This reflected the fact that interstate exchange of information in new political and economic conditions had been transformed into a large-scale task of forming a single information space for the CIS member states.

Thus, a concept for forming the information space of the CIS was approved by the Council of the Heads of the CIS Governments on October 18, 1996. The concept represented a system of views on the goals and priorities regarding the cooperation of the CIS member states in interstate information exchange and was the basis of a framework for the cooperation of the CIS member states in the field of information and informatization.

To implement this concept, a perspective plan for preparing documents and activities (the Perspective Plan 1998) was approved by the Council of the Heads of the CIS Governments on November 25, 1998. In the framework for its implementation, the CIS member states concluded a number of agreements that are fundamental in ensuring the creation of conditions for forming an information space of knowledge on their territories. These agreements are as follows:

- Agreement on cooperation in the field of education, dated May 15, 1992 (the Agreement 1992) guaranteeing equal rights to education and its accessibility to all residents of the territories of the CIS member states. This sets out that the member states support the exchange of information and documentation on the issues of education development, the creation of integrated information services, data banks, and printed publications.
- Agreement on cooperation in forming a single (common) educational space of the Commonwealth of Independent States, dated January 17, 1997 (the Agreement 1997). This attaches importance to the interaction of parties among the states' education systems, and the parties' development by means of forming a single educational space. It defines the coordinated measures for its formation within the framework of the CIS.

The concept of forming a single (common) educational space for the Commonwealth of Independent States, on January 17, 1997, was featured in the preamble of the Agreement 1997. This defined the basic principles, areas, conditions, and stages of a (common) educational space formation in the CIS (the Concept 1997).

In accordance with the provisions of the Concept 1997, an agreement on the exchange of information in the sphere of education within the CIS member states was signed (the Agreement 2001) on May 31, 2001 and the Interstate Program for implementing the Concept (the International Program, 2001) was developed on November 29, 2001.

A model law on education (the Model Law 1999) was adopted on April 3, 1999. It considered a single (common) educational space of the CIS as an integral part of the spiritual and cultural space of the CIS. In addition, a model education code was approved on April 3, 1999 (the Code 1999). This code systematically defined its legal basis (Article 9), ways to ensure a single (common) education system for the states (Article 26), and the main objectives of the international cooperation within the single (common) educational space of the CIS (Article 146). It also formed the legal framework for

regulating activities of education in the context of forming and developing a single (common) CIS educational space.

The legal basis for a single (common) educational space for the CIS member states was formed by other legal acts and documents of the CIS that were aimed at mutually supporting and enriching national cultures and education, preserving common cultural and informational space, and forming common intellectual and information space of the CIS.

An agreement for the humanitarian cooperation of the member states of the CIS was adopted on August 26, 2005, along with defining measures for forming a single (common) information space for the CIS. This envisaged measures for studying the creation of a European Higher Education Area (the Bologna Process) and additional opportunities for participating in the process.

The conclusion of this agreement was largely facilitated by an agreement reached at a summit between Russia and the European Union (EU) in St. Petersburg in May 2003. A strategy was agreed upon in May 2005. This was a summit for strengthening member's cooperation in creating a space for science, and education and cultural aspects. The strategy envisaged mechanisms and measures for cooperation with the purpose of forming a common scientific space for Russia and the EU and creating the European Higher Education Area.

Adoption of the basic conditions of the Bologna Process and the increased role of information and communication technologies in education contributed to the conclusion (adoption) of new legal acts and other documents of the CIS in the context of forming a single (common) education space for the CIS.

In particular, to bring the education system of the CIS member states in line with the needs and capabilities of the information society, an agreement on the coordination of work in the informatization of education systems within the CIS member states was signed on November 22, 2007 (the Agreement, 2007).

In essence, the part of this agreement is the concept of distance learning in the CIS member states, dated November 22, 2007, the implementation of which corresponded to the tasks of forming a single (common) educational space of the CIS.

The model law on the use of information and communication technologies in the education system, signed on April 18, 2014 (the Law 2014), was developed to promote and harmonize relevant legislation of the CIS member states around the forming of a common educational space in the CIS.

The agreement on humanitarian cooperation is also a fundamental document for the concept of cooperation of the CIS member states on culture, dated May 19, 2011. Its main goal was the formation of a common cultural space for the CIS member states with the main objective of its implementation being to increase the interest of the CIS member states in organizing and holding joint events relating to culture.

The common goals and priorities of the CIS member states were conditioned by their international legal cooperation in forming other components of the CIS information space, the content of which largely corresponded to the ways in which the information space of knowledge was formed.

Thus, the concept of forming an information and library space on the basis of the border libraries of the CIS member states, dated May 22, 2009, and the action plan for its implementation (the Concept 2009) presents a system of views on the goals and priorities of forming a cultural and information library space for the CIS member states was mutually agreed upon in the context of deepening the interstate cooperation using modern means of communication and information.

According to the Perspective Plan of 1998, to implement the concept of forming a CIS information space, and other multilateral documents referring to interstate cooperation in the information sphere, a concept was adopted on October 10, 2008. It was the concept of the CIS member states cooperation in the sphere of information security and the comprehensive plan of measures for its implementation (the Concept 2008).

Apart from the prospect of long-term cooperation of the CIS member states in the course of constructing the information society, it is also important to emphasize the legal basis of creating conditions for the information space of knowledge. These conditions were initially defined in the Strategy for Cooperation of the CIS Member States in the sphere of informatization, up until 2010 (the

Strategy 2010). They were then defined under the sphere of construction and development of the information society in the Strategy for Cooperation of the CIS Member States up until 2015 (the Strategy 2015), and then until 2025 (the Strategy 2025).

Thus, the Strategy 2010, as the main area of cooperation of the CIS member states, envisaged harmonizing the legislation with the regulatory and technical bases of informatization. This also ensured a united information space in the territory of the CIS member states (including overcoming the 'digital inequality' and eliminating institutional barriers to information dissemination). This meant developing and implementing information and communication technology (ICT) applications, such as 'distance learning', the development of information and communication infrastructure, and the creation of a single information space.

The Strategy 2015, approved on September 28, 2012, entailed the following main tasks of cooperation: improving the quality of education based on the development and use of information and communication technologies; preserving the cultural heritage, strengthening moral and patriotic principles in the public consciousness, and developing a system of cultural and humanitarian education; and forming a common information space for the CIS member states.

The Strategy 2015 envisaged cooperation in modern applications of information and communication technologies, such as 'e- and distance learning' and 'preservation of cultural, historical, and scientific heritage' in the main areas of cooperation related to the tasks indicated.

For example, cooperation in the latter area encompassed interaction in areas, such as, training in digital multimedia and interactive content; the means to search for classified information of various content; digitization of cultural, historical, and scientific heritage; connecting public libraries and institutions of science and culture to the Internet; and creating national Internet portals for culture, history, and science.

All mentioned tasks of cooperation between the CIS member states were solved through coordinated approaches to information exchange between citizens, business, and state and municipal authorities at the national and trans-border levels. It also meant the creation of interstate information and communication systems and the formation of a cross-border space of trust, based on the Internet in the CIS member states.

The Strategy 2025 ascertains that the main driving forces for the information society are the technologies for obtaining and applying new knowledge.

It establishes that the construction and development of an information society for the CIS member states involves the following main tasks: ensuring universal access to information and knowledge; preserving cultural heritage, strengthening moral and patriotic principles in the public consciousness, developing a system of cultural and humanitarian education; and ensuring the interaction of national information systems and information resources aimed at the CIS common information space formation.

The latter strategy (Strategy 2016) has changes in the content of the last task compared with the previous one (Strategy 2012). According to the Strategy 2016, the formation of a common information space is considered the main area of cooperation for the CIS member states in the construction and development of the information society. However, it is noted that the priority was previously given to the development of the information and communication structure in this area of cooperation. Nevertheless, the most important area of cooperation in the formation of a common information space in both cases is the creation and development of information resources, including the ones in the field of science, technology, education, and culture.

In addition, in terms of cooperation in developing and implementing modern applications of information and communication technologies, such areas of cooperation as 'electronic science', 'e-learning', and 'electronic culture' are envisaged.

The Strategy (2016) entails separate areas of the CIS member states that cooperate on building the information society. The main tasks include improving mass communication facilities; ensuring cooperation on the Internet; ensuring information security, including issues of coordinating positions regarding information sovereignty; ensuring a high degree of integration in the global information society; advancing the issues regarding the internationalization of Internet management, including risk

analyses related to the use of Internet resources, protecting children in the online environment, and others.

Regarding the CIS member states' role in building and developing the information society, the main direction of their cooperation in forming the common information space is the cross-border space of trust on the Internet that integrates the CIS member states in economic, political, and humanitarian areas (Efremov, 2017).

A cross-border trust area means ensuring trust and security of data and documents that are exchanged in international electronic interactions. Moreover, although this matter is primarily relevant for processes involving legally significant actions, the experience of creating such a space with its functioning elements, is clearly vital for forming the information space of knowledge.

It is also important to note with regard to the international legal cooperation between Russia and other countries that special significance is given to the activities aimed at securing the cross-border area of trust on information exchange and interaction in the common Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) processes (Alekseeva, 2013).

Although the focus is on ensuring information exchange with the use of ICT and the trans-border trust area in the EAEU, the experience of international legal cooperation in creating conditions to form the information space of knowledge for the Eurasian integration is minimal (Alekseeva, 2017).

In accordance with the documents of the EAEU law, the EAEU member states independently develop, formulate, and implement the national policy to ensure sustainable functioning and security of a single information space. With the purpose of further development of economic integration, the digital agenda, involving digital space and the cross-border area of trust in the EAEU, is mostly being implemented in the areas of economic cooperation, as defined by the treaty of the Eurasian Economic Union, dated May 29, 2014 (the Treaty, 2014).

Conclusion

An analysis of international legal acts that regulated integration in the former Soviet Union indicates the term 'information space of knowledge' was generally not used in these acts.

However, the importance of information communication technologies as instruments of transitioning from an information society to a knowledge society was recognized. These acts reflect the cooperation of states needed in solving the large-scale task of forming a single information space in the former Soviet Union environment. Importance was also given to the transition, which was inextricably connected to developing members of society through the availability of information that corresponded to achieving a high intellectual and cultural level of development.

This single information space formed the basis of a framework for international legal cooperation for the former Soviet Union in information and informatization. To realize the conceptual foundations in forming this single information space, the CIS member states settled on a number of agreements cooperation. These were in the areas of education, extension of knowledge and adult education, humanitarian and cultural cooperation, including the formation of educational, scientific, information and library, spiritual, cultural, and other spaces as components of a single information space in the former Soviet Union.

In context, when the major driving forces for developing the information society are technologies for obtaining new knowledge and its application, the experience of the international legal cooperation is essential for forming and providing access to the information space of knowledge in Russia. The reasons are that the content largely corresponds to the goals, ways, and measures of its formation, as defined in the Strategy for Developing the Information Society in the Russian Federation 2015–2025.

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