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THE PROTECTION OF STATE SECRETS AND INFORMATION TRANSPARENCY: IMPACTS ON SOCIO-POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Защита государственных тайн и информационная прозрачность: влияние на общественно-политическое и экономическое развитие

In today's globalized world, states often need to balance the transparency of information with the protection of national security. This creates a complex dilemma: how to safeguard state secrets without hindering international cooperation and information exchange. The purpose of this study is to examine the legal frameworks that ensure the security of state information and to understand why concealing critical state information from the public is not considered a violation.

The protection of state secrets involves a set of legal measures aimed at preserving the confidentiality and integrity of classified information. State secrets include data related to defense, economics, science, technology, and national security. Their key attributes are confidentiality, integrity, and restricted access. Such information is not subject to dissemination and is protected by various legal and technical methods, such as encryption, which limit unauthorized access.

For example, in Belarus, legal documents such as the Law «On Informatization» and the Law «On State Secrets» regulate the classification and protection of sensitive information. The Law «On Informatization» safeguards personal data and prevents unauthorized access to private information. The Law «On State Secrets» governs the classification and declassification of information in the interests of national security. Additionally, individuals with access to classified information are bound by strict legal obligations. These rules are confidential to prevent potential breaches of state security.

At the same time, access to open sources of information, such as the internet, newspapers, and scientific publications, has become a key tool for intelligence services worldwide. This method, known as Open Source Intelligence (OSINT), enables the gathering of publicly available information to monitor global events.

A striking example of the importance of information protection is the case of Oksana Sevastidi, a resident of Sochi, who in 2008 was convicted of treason for sending an SMS about military equipment movements. Her message inadvertently provided intelligence to Georgian authorities during the Russia-Georgia conflict. Although later pardoned, her case highlights how seemingly trivial actions can have severe consequences in the context of state secrets.

In conclusion, while many state secrets have been declassified and are now publicly accessible, they continue to play an essential role in modern society. The legal frameworks that protect such information remain crucial in balancing national security with the rights and freedoms of citizens.

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AGRICULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL TOURISM AS A VEHICLE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

Агроэкотуризм как инструмент регионального развития в Республике Беларусь

A region is a part of the country that differs from others by a set of natural and (or) historically formed, relatively stable economic, geographical and other features. The Republic of Belarus is divided into administrative-territorial units and territorial units. An administrative-territorial unit is a part of the territory within the boundaries of which the local Council of Deputies and executive and administrative body are established and operate. The purpose of our research is to discuss the prospects of further regional development in the Republic of Belarus through the development of agricultural and ecological tourism.

The main objectives of regional development are to ensure sustainable development of the territories and improve the living conditions of the people by facilitating the efficient operation of the economy, innovative development and competitiveness. Regional policy implies equalisation of living standards of the population and smoothing the most acute social and economic disproportions between separate regions of the country. The enhancement of urban and rural infrastructure (energy, construction, transport, communications, trade, public catering and consumer services) and social sphere (education, health care, culture, physical culture and sports, social security, tourism) is an urgent task. One of the most promising areas of economic growth and regional development is agricultural and ecological tourism.

As of the year 2024, there are over 1,300 agricultural and ecological farmsteads in Belarus. Our country has taken measures to create favourable environment for the development of agricultural and ecological tourism, improve the living conditions of