

## Brief information about the project

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| Name of the project | IPH AP26101531 Development of effective mechanisms to suppress the activities of droppers in the digital economy: eliminating legal gaps and countering criminal networks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Relevance           | The project is aimed at developing effective mechanisms for controlling the use of droppers across various sectors of the digital economy. Droppers are used by criminal organizations for illegal cash withdrawal, as well as for committing other crimes such as money laundering or terrorist financing. Various legal gaps and weak control mechanisms contribute to the spread and development of these criminal schemes. The project seeks to eliminate these gaps and counter criminal networks through the development and implementation of new technologies and data analysis methods. This will improve the monitoring and control of the use of droppers, reduce the likelihood of criminal activity, and ensure security across different areas of activity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Purpose             | The objective of the project is to develop effective legal and organizational mechanisms for controlling the use of droppers across various sectors of Kazakhstan's economy in order to eliminate legal gaps and counter criminal networks. The project focuses on creating a comprehensive system of measures, including improving the legislative framework, implementing monitoring technologies, and enhancing interagency cooperation to prevent the use of droppers in fraudulent and other criminal schemes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Objectives          | <p><b>1. Theoretical analysis of the phenomenon of droppers and their role in criminal networks.</b></p> <p>This includes studying the history of the emergence and development of this phenomenon, identifying key mechanisms through which droppers' activities are integrated into criminal schemes, and developing a scientific-theoretical foundation for further research.</p> <p>The study of droppers from the perspective of their role in criminal activity requires an in-depth theoretical analysis. It is necessary to examine the stages of formation and evolution of this phenomenon and identify the mechanisms through which droppers participate in illegal schemes. Such analysis will form a theoretical basis for subsequent research and contribute to a systematic understanding of the problem and its impact on various sectors of the economy.</p> <p><b>2. Analysis of existing legal norms regulating the activities of droppers.</b></p> <p>This involves a detailed analysis of the national legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan related to countering droppers, with particular attention to identifying gaps in current regulatory legal acts and ways to eliminate them.</p> |

At present, Kazakhstan's legal framework lacks clearly defined norms regulating droppers, despite their active involvement in criminal schemes. The analysis will identify shortcomings such as the absence of unified terminology, insufficient regulation of control procedures in the digital economy, and weak mechanisms of interagency interaction. This will help determine what legislative changes are needed to strengthen control and improve the effectiveness of combating illegal activities.

**3. Development of a legal regulation concept to counter droppers.**

This includes formulating conceptual proposals for creating an effective legal mechanism based on the analysis of existing legal approaches in related fields.

Developing such a concept is a key step in combating illegal activities. Drawing on existing legal models, a comprehensive approach can be created that considers the specific nature of droppers' involvement in criminal schemes and addresses modern digital challenges. These proposals will form the basis for new legislative initiatives.

**4. Analysis of law enforcement practice in cases involving droppers.**

This includes studying court decisions and case materials related to droppers in order to identify problems and gaps in current enforcement practices.

Examining judicial practice will allow for analysis of real cases and identification of recurring issues in investigation and adjudication. This will also reveal legal gaps and inconsistencies that hinder effective counteraction. Based on this, recommendations will be developed to improve law enforcement efficiency.

**5. Development of methodological recommendations for law enforcement agencies and judges.**

This includes preparing guidelines for effective detection, investigation, and adjudication of crimes involving droppers.

The project предусматривает expert meetings with law enforcement representatives, lawyers, and cybersecurity specialists. Based on collected data, practical recommendations will be developed to improve investigations, strengthen interagency cooperation, and enhance professional competence.

**6. Development of recommendations for cooperation between government bodies and the private sector.**

This involves analyzing current models of cooperation between public authorities and private entities (including financial institutions and IT companies) to identify weaknesses and opportunities for improvement.

Special attention will be given to issues such as information exchange, coordination, and legal regulation of joint activities. Based on the analysis, proposals will be developed to create a more effective cooperation system

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|                               | <p>and reduce the risks of droppers' involvement in criminal schemes.</p> <p><b>7. Assessment of the effectiveness of international legal mechanisms against droppers.</b></p> <p>This includes a comparative analysis of international legal instruments, their application in different jurisdictions, and successful foreign practices.</p> <p>Since criminal networks often operate transnationally, studying international experience is crucial. The research team will analyze international agreements, foreign legislation, and best practices to identify effective approaches. This will allow adaptation of successful models to Kazakhstan's context and strengthen international cooperation.</p> <p><b>8. Public awareness campaign on the risks of involvement in dropper activities.</b></p> <p>This includes developing informational materials and conducting educational campaigns through social media, educational institutions, and mass media.</p> <p>Raising public awareness is essential, as many individuals involved in such schemes do not fully understand the legal and financial consequences. The campaign will target different groups, especially youth, and present information in an accessible format. Educational outreach will promote responsible behavior in the digital economy and help reduce crime related to droppers.</p>                                                                                 |
| Expected and achieved results | <p>Within the framework of the study, it is planned to develop effective mechanisms to suppress the activities of droppers in the digital economy, which will eliminate existing legal gaps and counter criminal networks engaged in illegal financial operations.</p> <p><b>1. Qualitative characteristics of the results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comprehensive legal review of existing regulatory legal acts governing the fight against financial crimes in the digital economy will be conducted.</li> <li>• Specific recommendations will be developed for introducing amendments to the legislation of Kazakhstan aimed at strengthening criminal and administrative liability for participation in dropper activities.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Quantitative characteristics of the results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new regulatory proposal will be developed covering key aspects of combating droppers (identification, suppression, prevention).</li> <li>• An expert survey will be conducted among representatives of government bodies, the banking sector, and public institutions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Forms of implementation of results:</b></p> <p><b>1. Publications:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The research team plans to publish at least two (2) articles or reviews in peer-reviewed scientific journals indexed in the Social Sciences Citation</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>Index and ranked in the first (Q1) or second (Q2) quartile by impact factor in the Web of Science database and/or having a CiteScore percentile of at least 50 in the Scopus database (one of which will be in the multidisciplinary category of practical application);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least four (4) articles will be prepared and published in domestic and international journals recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan;</li> <li>• Six (6) conference abstracts will be published in international conference proceedings.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Monographs and books:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A collective monograph on legal strategies to combat droppers will be prepared for publication by a Kazakhstani publishing house.</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Scientific and technical documentation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of scientific, technical, or engineering documentation is not предусмотрена within the research project.</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Dissemination of results:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seminars will be organized for representatives of government bodies and institutions to raise awareness of risks associated with droppers.</li> </ul> <p>The project topic will be studied within the framework of law, sociology, informatization, and institutional modernization. As a result, author's certificates for monographs and textbooks, as well as other research outputs, will be obtained.</p> <p>As a result of the project implementation, one Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) will be trained: Zhainak Aidar. The topic of the doctoral dissertation is: "Combating Droppers as an Element of Legal Policy in the Field of Digital Security."</p> <p>The target users of the research results are authorized government bodies, including the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovations and Aerospace Industry, the Investment Committee of the Ministry of National Economy, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the Information Committee of the Ministry of Culture and Information, and others.</p> <p><b>From a scientific and organizational perspective, the expected results include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of existing legal norms and legislation, along with proposals for amendments and additions to address the specific challenges associated with these technologies;</li> <li>• Analysis of effective models of interaction between government bodies, financial institutions, and law enforcement agencies;</li> </ul> |
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|                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of standards for security, privacy, and transparency, as well as consideration of publicly accessible documentation and usage rules;</li> <li>• Assessment of intellectual property rights, liability, and security issues;</li> <li>• Analysis of the impact on law enforcement, regulatory frameworks, and contractual relations;</li> <li>• Evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of such systems, their applicability in various legal contexts, and assessment of potential risks and challenges.</li> </ul> <p>The expected results will fully correspond to the stated objectives of the project and will be aimed at eliminating legal gaps, developing the scientific basis for combating financial crimes, and establishing effective interagency approaches. The implementation of these tasks will strengthen the legal and institutional framework for countering dropper activities, reduce financial losses, and increase trust in the digital economy.</p> |
| Research team members with their identifiers (Scopus Author ID, Researcher ID, ORCID, if available) and links to relevant profiles | <p>1. Karlygash Rakhimzhanovna Useinova – Candidate of Legal Sciences (PhD equivalent). Principal Investigator, Chief Researcher.<br/>Scopus ID: 57215492296<br/>H-index: 1<br/>ORCID: 0000-0002-4093-5658<br/>Web of Science ResearcherID: GOJ-7128-2022</p> <p>2. Aset Abirbekovich Toktybayev – Candidate of Legal Sciences. Chief Researcher.<br/>Scopus ID: 57216619680<br/>ORCID: 0000-0002-2090-6825</p> <p>3. Zhanar Amanzhanovna Kegembayeva – Doctor of Legal Sciences. Leading Researcher.<br/>Scopus ID: 57194205816<br/>H-index: 1<br/>ORCID: 0000-0001-7754-9999<br/>Web of Science ResearcherID: LGZ-6241-2024</p> <p>4. Arailym Makulbekovna Zhaparbek – Master of Legal Sciences. Researcher.<br/>ORCID: 0000-0003-2312-8085</p> <p>5. Marlen Erlanovich Turgumbayev – PhD. Researcher.<br/>H-index: 2<br/>Scopus Author ID: 56028302600<br/>ORCID: 0000-0003-0938-5755</p> <p>6. Tomiris Ilieva – Student of the Faculty of Law, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University.</p>                                             |
| Usage                                                                                                                              | In law enforcement agencies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Priority compared to real-world alternatives                                                                                       | Преимущество нашего проекта в том, что он не ограничивается описанием проблемы дропперов, а предлагает реальные и применимые решения, а именно устраняет существующие правовые пробелы, учитывает современные цифровые схемы                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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|                                         | мошенничества и ориентирован на борьбу не с отдельными участниками, а с целыми преступными сетями. То есть, это практико-ориентированный проект, который можно использовать в реальной работе государственных органов и финансовых организаций.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| List of publications with links to them | <p>1. <b>Useinova K.R., Zhainak A.E., Daniyarov S.D.</b> Modern Approaches to Countering Dropper Activities: Legislative Innovations in the Republic of Kazakhstan // Proceedings of the International Conference  The Collapse of the Russian Empire and the Revival of Kazakh Statehood. //Almaty, 2025. – pp. 79–82. ISBN 978-601-04-7321-8.</p> <p>2. <b>Turgumbayev M.E., Zhainak A.E., Zhaparbek A.M.</b> Theoretical Foundations of the Dropper Phenomenon in Modern Criminology // Proceedings of the International Scientific and Practical Conference dedicated to the 30th Anniversary of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan on the topic: Constitutional Identity: Status and Algorithm for Its Implementation– Semey, 2025. – pp. 187–189. ISBN 978-601-08-5510-6.</p> <p>3. <b>Useinova K.R., Toktybayev A.A., Zhaparbek A.M., Daniyarov S.D.</b> Droppers as a Tool of Cybercrime: History, Functions, and Challenges for Law Enforcement Agencies // <i>Bulletin of Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. Law Series</i>. 2025. Issue No. 3 (in press).</p> <p>4. <b>Kegembayeva Zh.A., Useinova K.R., Saitbekov A.</b> Dropper Activity as a Form of Complicity in Criminal Offenses // <i>Scientific Works of the Almaty Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan named after Makan Yesbulatov</i>. ♡ No. 3(84). ♡ 2025. ♡ pp. 101 ♡ 105. ISSN 2218-2098.<br/> <a href="https://alpolac.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/zhurnal-№384.pdf">https://alpolac.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/zhurnal-№384.pdf</a></p> <p>5. <b>Useinova K.R., Zhaparbek A.M., Daniyarov S.D.</b> Legal Regulation of Dropper Activities: A Comparative Analysis of National and International Legislation // <i>Scientific Works of the Almaty Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan named after Makan Yesbulatov</i>. – No. 3(84). – 2025. – pp. 101–105. ISSN 2218-2098.. ISSN 2218-2098.<br/> <a href="https://alpolac.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/zhurnal-№384.pdf">https://alpolac.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/zhurnal-№384.pdf</a></p> <p>6. <b>Useinova K.R., Kegembayeva Zh.A., Daniyarov S.D., Toktybayev A.A.</b> <i>The Principle of  Law and Order in the System of Ensuring Digital Security: Theoretical and Legal Foundations of Countering Dropper Activities</i> // Textbook. – Almaty, 2025. – 121 p. ISBN 978-601-311-422-4.</p> |
| Patents                                 | -                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |