

Introduction

The monograph is an outcome of the international research project "E-government in Visegrad Group Countries" aimed at identifying the place of e-administration in public space as well and its role in meeting social needs. The analysis covers the legal status of e-government in Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia. In view of the need to identify the place of e-government in the public domain, it was important not only to analyse the existing legal provisions governing its operation, but also to identify the problems it encounters in the practice of its work. The research assumptions required an analysis of both the adopted legal solutions and the organisation of e-government in each country forming the Visegrad Group. Discussing the solutions for the proper protection of IT aspects of its operation, including ensuring the protection of the ITC systems used by the e-government, including their cybersecurity, was an important direction of research, as reflected in the monograph.

Public administration is established to meet social needs at the local, regional and central levels. To be met effectively, these needs must take into account the preferences of their addressees, and such preferences also include the possibility of contacting the office via the Internet. There is no modern administration that would not use ICT systems for its activities, therefore there is no public administration without public e-services. Electronic services in the information society offer significant opportunities for meeting the needs of such a society, including by public administration. However, for e-government to be able to efficiently provide public services, it must use technological achievements and therefore meet the standards (including technical standards) required for this type of service (Bencsik, Karpiuk, Strizzolo, 2024: 147). In a digital state, public administration must meet the challenges posed by computerisation. Meeting the needs of society effectively means opening up to new technologies, which allows many matters to be handled remotely, thus without the need for eye-to-eye contact with public administration staff. Today, in the era of digital transformation, it is difficult to imagine any activity of the public administration without the use of ICT systems. Cyberspace is a place where not only citizens are active, but also where public entities provide services for the information society, which requires that administration is also digitally available.