# International experience of state regulation of business in social networks

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Abstract: - State regulation of business in social networks provides for the protection of personal data, intellectual property rights and ensuring the confidentiality of information of legal entities and individuals. The purpose of the academic paper is to analyse the international experience of state regulation of business in social networks and to determine the approach to the model of its implementation. Features of the development of digital technologies make it possible to improve the selection of methods for carrying out the research, which will be

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based on the use of expert evaluation. The research methodology consists in conducting a comprehensive study of the modern environment of social networks and identifying key areas for state intervention and defining the legal framework for conducting business in social networks. In the course of analysing the state regulation of business in social networks, the search method, induction and deduction, and the empirical method were used. With the help of the latter, an analysis of the level of state presence in the activities of the corporate sector and the implementation of characteristic principles was carried out. The results of the academic paper characterize the trends of strengthening the influence of the state on the regulation of business activities in social networks, the need to introduce reporting and the existing system of user data protection. Thus, the academic paper provides a comprehensive analysis of state regulation of business in social networks.

*Key-words:* - state regulation, digital technologies, intellectual property, non-property rights, personal data, information protection, trademark.

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# 1 Introduction

Currently, the features of the development of digital technologies cause the wide integration of business into these processes and the possibility of forming commercial relations in the digital environment. Such a course of events leads to the intervention of the state in the financial, managerial and marketing activities of the business. This is determined by the protection of the state's national interests, which consist in ensuring financial and economic development and the possibility of protecting state secrets and statistical information. Social networks contain significant information about the company's activities in the selected market segment. In addition, enterprises in the digital environment have access to a large audience, which forms the means of data analysis, conducting special marketing studies. In order to ensure the effective development of digital business in social networks, the following models are used: corporate management of personal data, social rating (Chinese model), and pan-European – it involves the use of concentration on the responsibility of social networks for the personal data protection. Features of modern state regulation of business in social networks are various theoretical methodological approaches implementation. European and Chinese experience of business regulation testifies to the high level of development of the protection of intellectual property rights and personal data; however, aspects of doing business and obtaining a legal form for it have significant differences in the legal apparatus of the countries around the world.

This is precisely why, in order to ensure effective development, it is necessary to implement an effective mechanism of state regulation. Digital trademark registration is the most popular means of using intellectual property in social networks. The importance of this direction is determined by the

factors of corporate ethics and business culture. The features of state regulation of business in social networks are characterized by interference in business conduct, delineation of business boundaries and the legal dimension of enterprises regarding the use of personal data, their analysis and transfer, ensuring natural competition.

#### 2 Literature Review

The key problem and threat of the modern environment is insufficient protection of personal data, because digital technologies are only developing and changing approaches to protection. Therefore, ensuring the lawful use of personal data is a priority task for state regulation of business in social networks. The largest part of state regulation is aimed specifically at this task, forasmuch as the business that operates in social networks is aimed at working with a wide audience and using customer data. Large industrial enterprises use social networks as a tool to protect the reputation of their brand through presence and high social activity. According to the viewpoint of the scholar, the importance of using state regulation and means of determining the functioning of the corporate sector is the main task of the state in the digital economy [1]. After all, the majority of businesses in the modern economic environment are transforming their activities to digital ones. Noves adheres to the same position and defines state regulation of business in social networks as an effective mechanism for supporting the corporate sector and stabilizing the economy in conditions of socialeconomic threats [2]. Legal issues have been studied by Taylor [3]; the scientist argues that the mechanism for acquiring intellectual property and private property of an intangible nature in social networks is not sufficiently developed in the European dimension. This approach, according to the standpoint of Han, creates the problem of legitimacy of business processes in social networks and stimulates the state to use modern tools of influence and control [4]. The opinions of relate to state regulation in the field of personal data circulation; the scholar considers it necessary to ensure the international legal mechanism of business activities in social networks under regional legislation [5]. Taking into consideration the modern legal instability in the world and spreading the information warfare, Al-Rawi believes that the importance of using state regulation of doing business should be carried out in all social environments, taking into account the digital one [6].

The author Abidin has investigated that modern tools for using state influence on the design of business activities in social networks should be improved from the point of view of efficiency [7]. They should promote the development of natural competition and protect the right to intellectual property.

The state policy of regulating business activity should be focused on only two key concepts: the first lies in ensuring the protection of personal data of businesses, customers and government representatives; the second one is the stimulation of additional tax revenue and business development within the country. Such a definition of state regulation is of the highest priority for the modern international environment, and it determines the qualitative basis for implementing business activities. Thus, the conducted literature review testifies to the diversity of approaches towards the regulation and the features of their implementation, which led to paying attention to the problems of analysis and definition of aspects of the state regulation.

#### 3 Research Goals

The purpose of the academic paper is to study the processes of state regulation of business in social networks and to determine the key principles of its implementation. The conducted research reveals the modern approaches of the international community regarding the possibility of applying implementing an effective mechanism of business activity for using in social networks. By virtue of using the expert evaluation, it is necessary to investigate the quality of the state's presence in social networks - Facebook, LinkedIn, and The conducted survey Instagram. among construction enterprises makes it possible to determine the quality of the state's influence on business activities. The aspects of implementing the state regulation of business in social networks are the legal mechanism of e-commerce, the transfer of intangible rights and operations with customers' personal data. The research objectives are the analysis of the key legal fundamentals of the state regulation mechanism of business and determination of the state's legal model for implementing the regulatory policies. Moreover, it is expedient and significant to analyse the application of the model of the American DMCA law, the 'TRIPS' Agreement and the WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization), the directive on the protection of personal data Directive 96/9/EC, etc.

#### 4 Materials and Methods

The research methodology of state regulation of business in social networks consists of a theoretical and methodological part and an experimental study.

By applying the exploratory analysis and synthesis methods, the main forms and methods of using state regulation of business in the global space were analysed and grouped. It is proposed to determine a sample of 30 websites of construction enterprises in the German, Chinese and American space. They include the following ones, namely: Hochtief, Ed. Züblin AG, Strabag AG, China State Construction Engineering Corp. Ltd, China Railway Construction Corp, Forty West, CSI Group, Antigo Inc., Shanghai Construction Group Co. Ltd, etc. The advantage of using the expert evaluation over the content analysis lies in the ability to display the qualitative characteristics of the state's presence, which is not possible with the content analysis. For this purpose, the following parameters were chosen: protection of personal data, bureaucracy trademark registration, provision of recommendations on taxation and other means of state influence.

Various approaches to implementing and conducting such an assessment were characterized. The empirical research consists in using the expert evaluation from among a sample of the following countries: Germany, the USA and China. With the help of the comparison methods, a model of the approach of state regulation in each of these countries was determined. From among the fields of the research, the representatives of the construction industry were interviewed and the participation of the state in the regulation of business activity was investigated according to their viewpoint.

On the basis of statistical sampling, the key features of using various models of state influence on business regulation were determined, and a hypothesis was formed regarding their further development. By virtue of using the induction methods, a mechanism for improving further state regulation was developed, and a number of recommendations were provided in order to stimulate the transition of traditional business to the digital one as an effective form of ensuring further economic development. By applying the abstraction method, the basic principles of business activities in social networks were defined, and the strategic interests of the social network and the state were outlined.

The presence of the state in the issue of business regulation in social networks is due to the massive processes of the society digitalization and business processes, which necessitate the determination of the legal basis of economic activity. The obtained approaches make it possible to argue the further strategy of state regulation in social networks and the need to improve the mechanism of intellectual property rights protection, trademark registration, etc. The proposed measures are the final stage of the analysis, and they form logical conclusions regarding the principles of state regulation of business in social networks. Foreign experience testifies to the rapid integration of traditional business into the digital one, leading to the development of the legal field of regulation, influence and principles of activity. Thus, the available research methodology makes it possible to determine in detail the legality of implementation and the necessity for state intervention in business regulation. The modern viewpoint on applying the effective methods of legal influence is the use of a clear mechanism for the circulation of personal data, its transfer and the possibility of using it in order to ensure national interests. Having determined the main forms and methods for the analysis of state regulation of the corporate sector in social networks and business development, it is possible to present the results of the obtained research.

#### **5 Results**

In the conditions of the global coronavirus pandemic and global geopolitical problems, business is forced to switch to a remote work format and create quality fundamentals in a new environment – the digital one. Business activity in the digital environment is characterized by the optimization of all traditional processes and their transfer to the online mode. This format makes it possible to provide the world market

of the corporate sector with opportunities for further functioning and implementation of activities. The features of launch the business in social networks are determined by legal regulation, forasmuch as the high concentration of the business environment and the implementation of legal acts between network users require the state to establish clear state regulation and determine the legal basis of economic, marketing and commercial activity in social networks. In addition, modern world experience shows that each country and even culture has its own approach to regulating business in social networks.

State regulation of business in social networks is characterized by innovative approaches to the determination of the legal nature of the social network as a source of the presence of the corporate sector and the possibility of carrying out commercial, marketing and management activities by means of digital technologies. In this way, social networks directly affect the current state of business development in social networks.

The protection of intellectual property creates a number of legal bases regarding the possibility of its use in one's commercial or public activities. An important measure for the formation of an effective mechanism for the regulation of intellectual property rights in social networks is the possibility of creating and acquiring the transfer or authorization of such rights. The most popular social networks operate on such principles; they closely interact with analytical centres, which make it possible to evaluate the effectiveness of the intellectual property protection policy. According to the existing approach, this provides a technological toolkit for the possibility of creating symbolic features in social networks of private information.

In foreign legislation, private information and confidentiality is characterized as a private source of intellectual property product provision protection against copying and illegal distribution. Such an approach creates qualitative and legal standards regarding the provision of corporate regulation. This is precisely why the protection of intellectual property forms a key direction in implementing the state regulation of business. The application of this approach makes it possible to improve the company's operations, protect one's reputation and marketing brand, and avoid possible public scandals. The photo materials, design, video materials, text content and other types of digital products can be the products of intellectual property. Providing such an approach can form the main mechanisms for creating and developing business in social networks.

Table 1. Comparison of approaches towards the presence of state regulation of business in social networks

	Intellectual property	Protection of non-property	Protection of personal
		rights	data
The USA	Intellectual property in the United States follows the key regulation; after all, the established legal mechanism clearly defines intellectual property as a product of a person or a business institution, which ensures its privacy and the acquisition of ownership rights towards it.	The protection of non-property rights is clearly established and elaborated at the request of the modern business environment; it defines the enterprises' principles of the activities and the forms of transferring such rights with the term of such transfer, taxation, etc.	In the USA, the storage of personal data is controlled; however, the legal mechanism of such control is differentiated in each state, leading to different criminal or administrative penalties.
China	In China, a mechanism for determining and registering intellectual property has been clearly established. In addition, since 2009, the country has clearly established legislation on using the intellectual property in social networks.	Non-property rights are characterized by a strengthened mechanism of regulation and implementation of commercial activities regarding their transfer or circulation.	Significant presence of the state in the legal mechanism of regulation of control, analysis and data transfer. The entire corporate sector must provide all information regarding the use of personal data, in addition to their disclosure in the event of a legal claim of the state.
Germany	It is allowed to register any trademark, but the company cannot use registered trademarks; moreover, the mechanism for determining such trademarks is unclear, which complicates the legality of conducting business activities.	Non-property rights can be protected only with their relevant registration; without this registration, it is considered that such an act does not acquire legality.	Determination of the personal data protection is possible only at the time of signing the contract on cooperation in terms of confidentiality when concluding a contract with the client.

Source: compiled by the author

Let's evaluate the factors of the corporate enterprises' concern towards the presence of the state in social networks and form key indicators of the attitude and restraining factors of business development in social networks. The proposed mechanism will be applied to analyse the possibility of further legal improvement of the corporate regulation system of economic relations and the possibility of using effective approaches regarding the acquisition of intellectual or non-property rights. Based on this approach, the state is able to improve its macroeconomic environment, ensure the development of business in social networks and create effective means of legal entities' activities.

It is expedient to conduct a study on the factors inhibiting the development of business due to the excessive presence of the state. It is proposed to carry out the study based on using a statistical sample among enterprises engaged in the sale of construction equipment. From among the surveyed enterprises, an English questionnaire will be used for the possibility of providing an assessment regarding the presence of the state in each of the proposed levels and a sense of certain pressure and difficulty in the development of the business environment. Such an aspect of the study can create features of the principle of stimulating further business development and determining the vector of subsequent development prospects.

By the way, in order to determine the continental and regional differentiation of the presence of the state in social networks, companies from Germany, China and the USA were taken for the research. Each of these companies may contain various problems of state regulation of business and the subsequent legal mechanism of regulation of its

activity. Following these approaches, an analytical study can be carried out, which makes it possible to display key results regarding the process of inhibiting the presence of a business in social networks. The features of the conducted research will be divided according to the respondents' assessment. According to the expert evaluation, it is proposed to apply a score from 1 - the minimum, and 10 - the maximum value of the presence of the state in social networks, as well as possible existing cases of violation of corporate rights or intellectual property, or vice versa, their protection.

The questionnaire consists of 9 questions:

- 1. Evaluate the quality of the state's influence on the protection of intellectual property.
- 2. Provide an evaluation of the monitoring activity of the state regarding personal data.
- 3. How often is a request for the presentation of personal data carried out?
- 4. Are there any financial constraints, restraints or other factors for the operation of the business?

- 5. Provide an evaluation of the number of official appeals by representatives of state authorities with requests, claims or proposals.
- 6. Has your company signed any legal acts or contracts regarding commercial activity in social networks with representatives of official state bodies?
- 7. Provide an evaluation of the state's influence on restrictions on commercial activity in social networks.
- 8. Give an assessment of the state regulation of intellectual property rights in your country.
- 9. Give an assessment of the state's influence on the effectiveness of taxation.

It is suggested to use the analysis in the following networks: "Facebook", "LinkedIn", and "Instagram". Such an approach will be able to reveal the most effective country's experience in implementing the business regulation policy in social networks. The research results in more detail are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. The results of presence of the state in business regulation

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	Germany	China	The USA		
Intellectual property protection	10	10	10		
Monitoring of personal data use	8	10	8		
Request for provision of personal data	4	10	7		
Establishment of financial regulation	1	8	5		
Appeal on the part of the authorities' representatives	3	10	4		
Signing of legal contracts	3	10	4		
Restrictions on commercial activity	2	9	5		
Protection of intangible rights	7	10	7		
The possibility of taxation and the mechanism of its	2	9	8		
implementation					
The mean value	4,2	9,2	7,3		

Source: compiled by the author

The conducted research shows that we have obtained results on the mean quality indicator of the presence of the state in the corporate sector. It turned out to be the largest in China, which indicates the maximum presence of the country in business activities. China uses big data tools that can analyse social media activity, determine legitimacy, and make adjustments accordingly. In China, the legal protection of intellectual property, corporate non-property rights and the possibility of registered entrepreneurial activity is developed. However, at the same time, China is implementing a strict regulatory policy of business activities in social networks, which creates excessive pressure on the

country's corporate environment and significantly inhibits its development. That is why this indicator is 9,2, which is the highest level of state presence in social networks. In addition, according to the conducted surveys of enterprises, there is an approach regarding the implementation of audits, the need to report to the social rating system and the provision of key information.

Based on this approach, it can be established that in China, state regulation of business in social networks is carried out in the form of total control and monitoring of commercial activities. In addition, business activities in social networks almost do not differ in terms of the legal status of

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intellectual property, the use of personal data from traditional forms of functioning. Therefore, in China, the current legislation is aimed at using the strict means of control and the possibility of business inspections in the digital environment, namely social networks.

The experience of Germany shows that this country has a fairly liberal corporate market and the absence of a real-working mechanism for determining commercial activity and establishing its legal aspect. It is according to this nature that the legal basis for state intervention in the formation of the protection of personal data and private information is formed. However, in Germany there is no well-developed mechanism and determination of the legal status for participants in the business environment. Therefore, for German legislation, only a registered brand will be considered an official representative of a business. This is precisely why the definition of trademarks and the features of acquiring a legal character are unofficial, which determines the public statements of the enterprise, a possible advertising campaign. The corporate sector in Germany is forced to go through the bureaucratic procedure of registering its trademarks, so that the state regulation of commercial activity and the protection of intellectual property rights can act on German enterprises as a real representative of business. Consequently, the minor state presence in this aspect is considered a key problem. The protection of personal data is carried comprehensively, and there are periodic audits of the legality of using clients' personal data of the enterprises under study.

Such features testify to the fact that there is a weak presence of state regulation of business in Germany, which is mainly aimed at protecting personal information and customer data; however, the definition and regulation of business activity is possible only prior to such preliminary registration. The German approach of the presence of the state in social networks stimulates the development of business in social networks, forasmuch as the only obstacle is the bureaucratic registration process. That is why a liberal model of doing business is observed in Germany.

The peculiarities of the US state regulation indicate a strict regulatory form of personal data protection and the possibility of carrying out the relevant reporting. For instance, the social network "Facebook", which contains a variety of corporate enterprises and official business representatives, announced in 2019 about a large data leak from the network and stimulated a public review and a lawsuit in relation to the owner M. Zuckerberg

regarding the personal data protection management policy and the direction of activity. Thus, the features of using the social network for business purposes stimulate the intervention of state authorities, forasmuch as they can pose a threat to national security. Features of the system of business regulation by the state in social networks are a significant segmentation of the legitimacy of legislation by states on a regional basis. For instance, in the State of California, approaches to protecting intellectual property use of a trademark differ from the legal approach in the State of New Jersey. The difference lies in the fact that the possibilities of implementing such an approach create a differentiated model of the functioning of the corporate sector, defining it as a multifactorial one.

This approach to government regulation in the USA stimulates business to strengthen its presence in the corporate sector, but inhibits the quality of corporate activity formation and may pose a threat to the client. However, despite this, in the USA, the mechanism for acquiring rights to intellectual property and the specifics of using private information of corporate enterprises in social networks is clearly defined. Such an approach qualitatively stimulates the development of economic relations and forms the economic security of the market.

Statistical data point to the fact that the importance of further state regulation of business in social networks should be formed according to methodical approaches to its determination and the possibility of further use in corporate activities. The social network is considered as a form of corporate relations and gaining access to the legal sector when conducting economic activities.

Thus, the conducted research indicates the development of corporate relations and the transfer of commercial activities to the Internet, which testifies to global transformational processes for the regulation of relevant legal relations. The main common principle of such countries as Germany, the USA and China is that the use of personal data is prohibited and established by the criminal code regarding the fact of committing such offences. The use of personal data is restricted when transferred to other private individuals in each of the countries under study. Peculiarities of using personal data for one's own commercial purposes are also violations that can be classified under criminal proceedings. Such approaches create high-quality modern conditions for introducing and implementation of entrepreneurial activity in social networks, and they can strengthen the characteristic aspects of its regulation. The importance of constant monitoring lies in the factors as follows:

- The digital space is constantly changing, leading to the emergence of new technologies, online environments and, as a result, digital products and commercial interactions between customers and businesses. Consequently, the presence of the state should stimulate the definition of clear forms of such activity as legal and contribute to the protection of corporate rights.
- The possibility of the risk of using personal data that poses a threat to the country's national interests. Selling and transferring personal data to any other country or using it in an illegal direction. The corporate sector, especially those industries that are of strategic interest to the state, should provide only official information, not disclose state secrets, and promote the protection of information. Such a reason is important for the formation of state policy. In addition, the conducted research testifies to the fact that in states with a totalitarian form of government, the role of the state in social networks is too tangible.
- The formation of a favourable investment environment and the possibility of integrating the traditional economy into the digital one. According forecasts of the development of digital technologies, the rate of growth and transition of business to the online format forms the basis for determining its digital functioning. The Doing Business Centre has assumed that the presence of business in the Internet environment will increase by almost 85% by 2030 among those countries that have access to the Internet and an existing digital infrastructure. This approach necessitates the formation of legal policies even today, the definition of the participants of such a legal environment, outlining their legal relations and the possibility of using in this digital business space.

The described factors indicate that the presence of state regulation of business in social networks will increase, forasmuch as the features of business functioning in the digital environment will become a priority and will be subject to supervision as in a real form of entrepreneurial activity. Therefore, it is possible to form further directions of the research.

#### **6 Discussion**

The conducted research shows the features of the modern development of digital technologies and their wide circulation in the business environment, which stimulates the legal intervention of the state and the formation of the necessary legal instruments in order to determine its further activities and the

possibility of using effective means of regulation. An analysis of international experience was carried out. It has been determined that in the Asia-Pacific region, where China is the central country with the most developed economy and digital environment, a totalitarian form of supervision and state regulation of business activities has been established. Prospects for further research should be studying the manifestation of negative consequences due to excessive state interference in the work of the corporate digital sector. By virtue of applying subsequent investigations, a practical mechanism can be created for implementing the modern principles of changing the established paradigm in the Chinese business environment and building relations with the state. In addition, China, as a centre of digital technological development, is able to offer innovative own approaches to the formation and acquisition of such forms of state regulation.

By the way, proposals on improving the legal mechanism of state regulation of business in social networks on the European continent can become an important direction. On the basis of using the experience of Germany, it has been determined that the European model is liberal, and it contains a number of shortcomings regarding weak control of business circulation and the use of trademarks. According to this approach, it is worth outlining further regulatory legal acts, the structure of which will clearly define the procedure for registration, acquisition of intellectual property rights and the establishment of a clear mechanism for its use. Taking into consideration the results of the analysis conducted, such models and recommendations can be used in the business environment of European countries, which can qualitatively improve the position of the corporate sector and create an additional tax burden for the state. It is on these principles that the German liberal model, which is the most widespread in the European space, operates.

The experience of the USA testifies to the moderate state regulation and wide differentiation on the regional principle (distribution by states), namely: the use of own approaches to the protection of intellectual property, implementation of entrepreneurial activities and the legitimacy of using social networks for business and work with big data. In particular, the fact should be taken into account that modern means of business activity in social networks must be used on the basis of current legal legislation, and they should be presented in accordance with the rights of the corporate policy of the social network itself. For instance, it is necessary to investigate the aspects of the manifestation of international legislation regarding the interpretation of property rights, intellectual property, etc. The most popular networks, such as "Twitter", "LinkedIn", "Facebook" should be considered as a key source of business formation in social networks and the implementation of certain activities.

Along with this, an important direction of further studies should be the effectiveness of the influence of state regulation on the business development and the promotion of its digitalization. Such an approach will be able to qualitatively ensure business activity in social networks and improve its current position in accordance with the economic state. In the conditions of the development of technologies and global geopolitical challenges, the possibility of using and forming an effective means of conducting business in social networks becomes of particular importance. By the way, it is worth investigating the quality of manifesting the state regulation of business on the enterprise's commercial result. This is precisely why the relevant use of the principles of state regulation will be able to qualitatively improve the enterprise's activity and create a real mechanism of state presence in social networks as a stabilizing factor.

### 7 Conclusion

Therefore, the conducted research testifies to the features of developing the state regulation of business in social networks in the international environment. Currently, social networks have become a high-quality tool for the implementation of entrepreneurial activities and the possibility of acquiring competitive advantages in the digital environment. Such phenomena have been caused by the emergence of the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent rapid transformation to remote work. The consequence of this was the popularization of using the form of conducting business activities in social networks.

The main factors of the state's intervention in business regulation in social networks are the application of control and monitoring of operations with personal data, commercial activity, and protection of intellectual property rights and support of intangible private rights. It is these areas that have become key ones in the implementation of business regulation, using social networks as a specific platform for carrying out their activities and allowing them to improve such activities in accordance with its development.

The conducted analytical study characterizes the legal form of state regulation in such countries as

China, the USA and Germany, as key centres of development of their continental region. By virtue of applying the expert evaluation methods regarding state intervention in business activities in social networks, it has been established that the largest share of presence of the state is revealed in China. which accounts for almost 9,2 out of 10 factors of state presence. Such an assessment testifies to the totalitarian control of business activities in social networks and motivates business to search for new communication platforms with customers and restrains development. A positive phenomenon is the provision of national strategic interests, clear regulation of the rights and provisions of entrepreneurs and business. The European model has turned out to be the most flexible and liberal, because on the basis of the conducted research, it has been found that there is a strong state regulation only in the intellectual property sector in Germany. Other segments are weakly regulated, and a clear mechanism for determining the status of a business and forming further relations with its activities must be established.

Based on the research conducted, it will be important to carry out an analysis of the effectiveness of using such legal regulatory decisions and the possibility of improving the mechanism of modern approaches to the implementation of state regulation of business in social networks. The formation of a legal mechanism for the transfer of personal data in international legislation and the improvement of the system of using and analysing such data may be also of particular significance.

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#### **Conflict of Interest**

The authors have no conflicts of interest to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.

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