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**SOCIAL RISKS TO HUMAN DEVELOPMENT:**  
**ESSENCE AND PLACE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

**Problem statement.** Under the conditions of the present rapid structural and functional changes, the level of social danger to the population is growing. Instability and uncertainty of the Ukrainian society, and accelerated social changes cause social tension and strengthening of the social risks impact. The situation calls for rethinking of the state role in minimization of the influence of social risks on human development, which fosters a growing interest in studying social risks as a specific phenomenon in public administration.

**Recent research and publications analysis.** Research work on theoretical and applied aspects of social risks to human development has been conducted by U. Beck, K. Dake, M. Douglas, M. Foucault, A. Giddens, E. Libanova, V. Nadraha, O. Novikov, N. Romaniuk, P. Slovic, A. Wildavsky and other scholars. Variability and dynamics of social risks require a constant updating of the scientific and methodological basis for their public administration.

**The paper objective** is generalization of the theoretical approaches, existing in the national and world science, to the definition of the essential characteristics of social risk to human development and its place in the public administration system.

**The paper main body.** As a rule, by social risks we mean dangers and threats that restrict economic independence, social well-being, causing negative changes (decline) in the social status of individuals.

Danger is a starting point in considering social status problems. Sources of
danger are conditions and factors that conceal or show to different extents their hostile intentions, hazardous properties, and destructive nature. By genesis, they can be natural, technogenic, or social.

The social sources of danger are characterized by the status, inherent in a socio-political structure, a country’s socio-economic state, realized in a totality of conditions, which do not provide the living environment of people that would satisfy their vital requirements.

There are two lines in the modern interpretation of risk as a social phenomenon, and namely: a realistic line underpinned by psychological substantiation, and an irrational line, which includes several trends: a cultural and symbolic approach (M. Douglas); a “risk society” (U. Beck); a behavioral approach to researching social danger (N. Luhmann).

The research results have made it possible to discern the main tendencies of social risk transformation in the modern Ukrainian society and the entire civilization as follows:

- risk globalization;
- risk universalization;
- risk institutionalization;
- risk localization;
- unpredictability of risks;
- regulatedness of risks;
- risk latency.

**Conclusions of the research and prospects for further surveys.** Having started as early as in the last century, research on social risks has been developing rapidly both in the West and in Ukraine. The topicality of the said problem range under current conditions stipulates the development of various approaches to social risk studies, and creation of comprehensive concepts describing the phenomenon at the macro- and micro-level. The starting point is the ideas of what the essence of risk, and the social risk to human development in particular, is; what its content, factors, and specific features are at different stages of social development.
Formulating a definition for the category of ‘social risk’ opens up prospects for further scientific research in the subject matter of a detailed description of this phenomenon by exploration of its possible varieties, systematized for the convenience of research according to one or another classification, searching for effective means to manage it by public institutions.