Problem setting. Conflict of interest is a common phenomenon in public service. In one way or other, all public servants find themselves in a situation involving conflict of interest.

Thus, if the phenomenon can not be eliminated completely, there appears a need for reducing its negative impact to a minimum.

The appropriate effective mechanisms for tackling the situations of conflict of interest in public service are most likely to exist in administrative practices of other countries. Therefore it is worthwhile to study that experience and analyze the prospects for its introduction in Ukraine.

Recent research and publications analysis. The problem of conflict of interest in public service has been the subject of research done by numerous modern scholars. In particular, a large contribution to the study of the phenomenon, including the relevant foreign experience, has been made by such researchers as M.I. Baiuk, P.B. Volianskyi, I.P. Lopushynskyi, V.V. Mishchyshyn, O.V. Tokar-Ostapenko, N.I. Trubynets and others.

The paper objective is to analyze foreign practices of prevention and settlement of conflict of interest in public service, and to evaluate the prospects for their application in Ukraine.

The paper main body. For a long time, even advanced countries applied the approach aimed to merely eliminate the negative effects of the actual conflict of interest. At present, the approaches to managing conflict of interest in public service undergoes transformation: the traditional approach is replaced with a preventative one intended to prevent conflict of interests, which includes instruction, consultations, issuing regulations and training of public service personnel.

To implement the preventative approach, an efficient system of sanctions is used, which comprises a wide range of tools: dismissal, reduction in rank, suspension from office, deprivation of the right to hold positions in the state civil service for a specified period, fines and other levies, imposed as punishment and penalties.

The common European legal practice makes a wide use of the definition of conflict of interest, proposed by the OECD Recommendations, characterizing it as a conflict between the public duty and the private interest of a public official. This
A definition of conflict of interest can be found, in particular, in the laws of the Czech Republic, Latvia, Moldova, Croatia, and the Russian Federation.

Having analyzed and summarized the information about foreign practices of resolving conflict of interest situations, it is possible to determine the basic mechanisms, applied in different countries. The mechanisms are as follows:

- restrictions on non-conjunction of service duties and outside activities;
- declaration of personal income;
- declaration of property;
- declaration of income and property by the official’s family members;
- declaration of presents by persons holding political posts;
- prohibition against accepting presents or other privileges;
- declaration of private interests in relation to contract liabilities;
- declaration on private interests in relation to voting and decision-making;
- public disclosure of declarations of private interests, income and property;
- restrictions on holding certain positions and being engaged in activities forbidden for public officials after their termination of authorities;
- prohibition against conjunction of public duties with posts in non-government organizations or parties;
- refraining from participation in decision-making in case of a public servant’s private interest in the issues involved;
- restrictions on an official’s holding shares in the registered capital of businesses, acting as providers of works, goods or services for his public authority, and those under its control or direct subordination;
- transaction of participatory interests to a trust company for administration; sale of shares of stock capital.

Conclusions of the research and prospects for further surveys. Having conducted the analysis of foreign practices of settling situations that entail conflict of interest in public service, it is possible to draw a conclusion that most of the solutions are fully agreeable with the Ukrainian context. In particular, such mechanisms as restrictions on non-conjunction of service duties with outside activities and party membership, as well as a mandatory public disclosure of declarations of private interests, income and property, especially for high-rank officials, could reduce largely the extent of corruption and develop public servants’ trust in the public service as an institution.

Mindless importation of successful experience of any country, without due regard to Ukrainian institutional context, is not likely to come to fruition. At present, the approach that involves application of individual pin-point tools, carefully selected and implemented, is more advisable and promising from the perspective of formation of a Ukrainian model for managing conflict of interest in public service.