An extended abstract of the paper on the subject of:
ADMINISTRATION OF STRATEGIC CHANGES
AT THE REGIONAL LEVEL IN UKRAINE

**Problem statement.** The issues of strategic change management in the present context of sustainable development are one of the priorities in a public-administrative scientific and practical discussion. Introduction of strategic change management at the regional level is an important task for the public sphere advance, and an indispensable prerequisite for integration of Ukraine into the international space, following the modern trends of the state regional policy reform. In fact, the ability to change timely and in an appropriate way is turning into a factor that determines the development of the state and its territories in the long view. Since the current changes are forming a difficult and unwonted living environment, to bail out of the difficult situation with credit, the regions have to demonstrate flexibility and capacity for introduction of the best innovation public-administrative practices.

**Recent research and publications analysis.** The issues of strategic change management at the regional level have been studied by many scientists both theoretically and in terms of practical application. They have been in the focus of famous domestic and foreign scholars’ research. However, despite rather a broad scope of works devoted to strategic approach implementation in public administration, the subject of a theoretical and conceptual substantiation of strategic change management at the regional level remains understudied.

**The paper objective** is a theoretical and conceptual substantiation of strategic change management at the regional level in Ukraine.
The paper main body. Strategic change management is a purpose-oriented forming of transformations aimed to overcome or prevent contradictions between the functioning and development of a management object over the long term. The key indicators of strategic changes are their permanent nature and vector directivity, which manifest themselves in a continuous initiation and implementation of transformations.

Under a dynamic environment, the strategic stability of the regions necessitates the task of ensuring sustainable development, strategic changes being its driving force. In this case, the focus of strategic changes is not limited to provision of the sustainable (i.e., stable and innovative) or anti-crisis development processes. Strategic changes, depending on a time criterion of efficiency, can be directed at support for adaptive functioning (short-term aspect), development proper (middle-term aspect), and a timely transformation of the entire life activity (long-term aspect).

A complex strategic change management in the context of sustainable regional development has not become common yet. A modern concept of innovative public administration unfortunately is not pivotal for the domestic practice. The methods and instruments of strategic change management have not been made wide use of in public administration. At present, public officials give insufficient support to strategic changes which makes modernization of public authorities’ activity and transformation of their organizational culture essential for promotion of the basic transformation culture.

The above-mentioned restrictions can be surmounted due to: introduction of a double-management system – strategic-level and decentralization management; application of strategic control and controlling; use of incentives for mastering strategic management through formation of strategic behavior; elaboration of a strategic documentation system at all the public administration levels by implementing planning and organizational and socio-economic actions; specialized training of administrative staff to provide an optimal functioning of public authorities in a strategic mode; staff training and upgrading their qualifications in the sphere of strategic decision-making, materializing of the decisions made, and analysis of their consequences; creation of a flexible management system that is able to change in accordance with the dynamics and uncertainty of the environment, etc.
**Conclusions of the research.** Challenges of today call for revision of certain values and changes in strategic change management at the regional level. Strategic changes exert a considerable impact on all the transformation participants, who are capable of upholding their own interests. It is also necessary to strengthen active approaches to strategic change management that is to develop new strategies of change alongside with improvement of the existing ones. An inseparable component of the process, intended to unify it, should be introduction of innovation information systems. Modern public servants must acquire all the key competences of strategic change management and actively develop them, because this subject comes to the forefront of regional public administration.