An extended abstract of the article
THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT
IN THE SYSTEM OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES IN UKRAINE

**Introduction.** Democracy requires public authority to be formally ruled by people on the one hand and their practical participation in the process on the other hand, as far as democratization of civil life means not just the opportunity to vote for new authority representatives. It presupposes direct participation of people in governing process. Although the problem of active use of citizens’ right for participation in decision making on the local level as well as interaction with public authority remains urgent.

**Recent research and publications analysis.** The problem of organization of public authority bodies functioning was a research subject for the following
Objective. The current research is aimed to identify the role and functions of local government in the system of public authority under decentralization of power in Ukraine.

Results. The role and functions of local government in the system of public authority of Ukraine is discussed in the article. The problems concerning ineffective division of competence spheres between local state councils and local government bodies are analyzed. The peculiarities which characterize the local government are defined (people are the source of power while the power is spread over an administrative and territorial unit. Governmental bodies act in the name of territorial community where the resource base is a budget and municipal property, etc. The functions of local governmental bodies are characterized according to their object and the aim (budget and financial, material and technical, informational, planning and programming of certain territories development, law-creating, social and cultural, functions of ecological control, political functions) and according to the subjects of local government (functions of local councils, functions of executive bodies, functions of village, small town heads and city mayors, functions of bodies concerning the population self-management).

The principles of local governmental bodies functioning are studied according to the Law of Ukraine “On the local government in Ukraine”, namely the sovereignty of people in organization and functioning of local government institutions, publicity, collegiality, combination of local and state interests, electivity; legal, organizational, material and financial independence within the powers predetermined by the current legislation; accountability of local governmental and authorized bodies to territorial communities; state support and guarantees of local government, legal protection of local government’s right in court. The urgency to differentiate the functions and the powers of the state councils at local level as well as local government bodies is stated.
**Conclusions.** The factors which cause negative impact on the reforming of local government system are as following: lack of financing for execution of broader powers of local government bodies; lack of trained staff and proper organization for tasks execution which are in competence of local government bodies; poor level of development of the public activity and participation on the local level, absence of responsiveness concerning providing organizational and legal mechanisms for autonomy and rights protection of the local government. Thus, changing the basic organizational model of public authority there is a necessity of strict differentiation of functions and competences, as well as determination of conflicts solving mechanisms on the legislative level.

The mentioned spheres are supposed to be the subject-matter of the further research.