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An extended abstract of the paper on the subject of:
FOREIGN EXPERIENCE OF NATIONAL LEGISLATION ADAPTATION TO EUROPEAN UNION LAWS

Problem statement. For the potential EU member states, adaptation of their legislation precedes all other integration processes, since due to it approximation of the national laws with the legislation of the European Union is accomplished. The experience of the countries that have got the EU membership is convincing, as it is further waves of the European Union enlargement that are based on an array of legal mechanisms, which were introduced by the states in the course of their European integration and harmonization of their national laws with the EU legislation.

Recent research and publications analysis. Certain scientific efforts in the sphere have been made by D. Arakelian, P. Dobrova, I. Kravchuk, M. Parapan, M. Joppe and S. Ahrnsfeld, R. Bengtsson, S. Gensler and other scholars.

The paper objective is analysis of the experience of the foreign countries, which had first passed through the association process and after that got the EU membership, in particular adaptation of their legislation to *acquis communautaire* and issuing recommendations as to possibility to adapt that experience to the Ukrainian conditions.

The paper main body. Ukraine is not the only country of the former socialist bloc that under the influence of foreign policy priorities had to effect large-scale changes in its legislation. The experience of the EU member states proves that a full-fledged process of the European integration and the related adaptation of the national laws were carried out by introduction of a variety of institutional mechanisms. However, the success always depends on cooperation of governments and parliaments.
Croatia became the twenty-eighth of the EU member states, thus, its mechanisms for cooperation and internal state reform can be regarded as successful.

For Croatia, a step forward was holding Zagreb Summit in 2000. A determinant catalyst for a thaw in relations with the European Union was also a change of the Croatian leadership. In October 2001, Croatia signed the Agreement on Stabilization and Association with the EU, which came into effect in 2005. The strategic aim of Croatia’s European integration was recorded in the Resolution of Croatian Diet of 2003.

Having met the Copenhagen criteria, Croatia became a candidate for the EU membership in June 2004. On October 3, 2005 the European Council adopted a decision to begin negotiations on Croatia’s entering the European Union. That is to say, an active European integration process in Croatia started in 2001.

The reform of public administration in Croatia pursued two major objectives: Europeanization and modernization.

Under the globalization conditions, Croatia, being a small country compared to other European states undergoing transformations, evaluated its joining the EU as an optimal way of development and ensuring well-being in accordance with realization of the national interests.

**Conclusions of the research.** A most topical subject is application of Croatia’s positive experience gained in the course of adapting its legislation to the legal accomplishments of the EU. The analysis of country’s achievements, problems, and prospects makes it possible to build an adequate and effective strategy for adaptation of the Ukrainian law and foresee the bottlenecks of the process in Ukraine.

A country that wishes to integrate into the EU should develop its own strategic organizational model of adapting its legal system to the norms of the EU, at the same time taking care of its own interests in accordance with its political, economic, and social situation.