THE ROLE OF SUPREME AUDIT INSTITUTIONS IN MAINTAINING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES

Problem setting. Realignment of mechanisms and concepts of external audit in the field of public resource management updates the necessity for general theoretical justification of the content and the role of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) as an essential attribute of a democratic state and a tool to improve accountability and efficiency of public administration in the context of progressive international best practices.

Recent research and publications analysis. A critical review of scientific publications on research of organizational and functional methodology standards of SAI revealed that the defined scientific problem was studied by such renowned Ukrainian scientists as S. Varnaliy V. Nevidomiy, Pihotskyy V., Symonenko V., Slobodyanyk Yu, J. Stefaniuk, O. Shevchuk and others.

Paper objective. The article aims to justify the role of Supreme Audit Institutions in maintaining transparency and accountability of public administration and to generalize advanced academic and practical experience of SAI functioning in the EU and post-Soviet countries in conditions of establishment of a qualitatively new public audit model of SFC.

Paper main body. Currently SAI institution formed on the basis of INTOSAI, is an important attribute of modern democratic state.

In accordance with the Charter of INTOSAI, Supreme National Audit Authority is a public agency of the state or a supranational organization which is designed, created or organized under the law or other formal actions of the state or a supranational organization to implement in a self-maintained independent way higher functions of public audit by the State or a supranational organization with or without jurisdictional competence.
Among the causes under which Supreme Audit Institutions currently play a leading role in ensuring the transparency and accountability of public administration in the EU, the following can be highlighted:

- high institutional level of SAI as independent supreme bodies of state / public control in a legal state that are free from external interference and are able to make recommendations objectively, as well as disclose and monitor the process of their implementation without impediment;
- increasing role of accountability as a management phenomenon and the importance of adherence to the principles of accountability, which form the foundation of good governance;
- the need to ensure maximum accuracy and publicity at the disposal of public funds;
- enhancement of the legitimacy of the actions of the administration and the role of citizens in public administration;
- feasibility of communication facilitation between different countries in order to exchange knowledge, skills and experience to improve performance based on the latest achievements in the field of public sector audit etc.

The conducted research of SAI functioning in the EU allowed identifying the existence of different control systems with unique traditions in the field of law, finance, social values, culture et al. However SAI in foreign countries perform budget implementation audit, public spending and the use of state property audit, conduct audit of state bodies’ maintenance costs and the implementation of state development programs. However of SAI do not carry out audits of political and economic acts, but assess the validity of such decisions, their impact on public finances, assets, debt and determine the consequences.

**Conclusions of the research.** Thus, consideration of the best international practices regarding organization of SAI operations will allow to significantly increase the effectiveness of the national system of state financial control, creating a more powerful tool for the state and society to provide high quality, objective information
necessary to improve the efficiency, transparency and accountability of public administration.