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## **MECHANISMS OF DECENTRALIZATION OF SOCIAL SERVICES IN UKRAINE**

**Problem setting** The domestic system of social services and providing social services to people who are in crisis and in need of assistance, in many ways does not meet present international norms and standards in the field of social protection and does not satisfy the needs of Ukrainian society. In general, the existing system of social services remained quite cumbersome and ineffective. It is characterized by excessive centralization and monopolization of state social services, based on non-transparent and inefficient social benefits and cash benefits provided by a wide network of bureaucratic state and municipal institutions of social protection and social services.

**Recent research and publications analysis** In domestic scientific and expert community the issues of reforming the system of social services develop V. Hoshovska, K. Dubych, E. Libanova, L.Sidielnik, V.Skurativskyi, O.Chernysh and others. Among the foreign experts who work with Ukrainian scientists and practitioners within the TACIS project "Strengthening Regional Social Services in Ukraine", which realizes British Council with financial support of the European Union, it is necessary to mention the leading expert R.Toftisovu-Materon as well as K. Niumen, M. Treisi, I. Fults. In terms of state decentralization and local government modernization the reform of social services is of particular relevance and need additional research on the world experience, analysis of the current state of shortcomings and problems of reforming the national system of social services, and discussion of development prospects.

**Paper objective** The purpose of the article is to suggest mechanisms for decentralization of social services in Ukraine based on international experience.

**Paper main body** The analysis of the essence of decentralization of social services in European countries allowed summarizing main problems of the national system of social services.

**Conclusions and prospects for further research** The international experience and problems that have accumulated in the national system of government, confirm the need to give more powers to local governments in setting priorities of local social development and directing local infrastructure of social services for citizens, planning and management of budget resources for social protection and social security. Thus, decentralization of governance and increase of the role of local government in identifying the needs, planning, financing and organization of social services will create a modern system of social services for individuals who are in crisis and require assistance.