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## **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE SPHERE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY IN THE CONTEXT OF ENSURING THE RESILIENCE OF TERRITORIES IN THE CONDITIONS OF UKRAINE'S EUROPEAN INTEGRATION**

*The features of public administration in the field of environmental security are characterized in the context of ensuring the resilience of territories in the context of Ukraine's European integration. It is proven that public administration in the field of environmental security is an important prerequisite for ensuring the resilience of territories in Ukraine. Problematic aspects and contradictions of public administration in the field of environmental security in modern conditions are highlighted. Directions for the transformation of public administration in the field of environmental security in the context of ensuring the resilience of territories in the context of Ukraine's European integration are determined.*

**Keywords:** *public administration and administration, public administration mechanisms, environmental security, resilience of territories, European integration.*

Problem setting. Public management in the field of environmental safety is a key tool for ensuring the stability and development of territories in conditions of constant environmental change, which contributes to the prevention of environmental disasters, emergency situations, such as flooding, forest fires, landslides, other natural disasters that can seriously affect the livelihoods of the population. It is also important to create conditions for the rational use of natural resources (water, forests, soils), which, especially in conditions of climate change, may become limited. The implementation of environmental standards helps to reduce the negative impact on the climate and improve adaptation to new conditions, which allows ensuring the

long-term viability of territories. The relevance of this issue is also increasing in conditions of climate change and constant challenges facing society.

Recent research and publications analysis. Such scientists as Geretsun G., Hrynychshyn O., Ivanova T., Kalinichenko T., Kyrylenko M., Melnyk I., Moroz V., Shevchenko V. and others have devoted their publications to considering the features of the public management in the field of environmental safety, as well as to determining the role of the state in ensuring the resilience of territories [2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 8; 9; 10].

However, many scientific and practical issues regarding the determination of directions for improving public management in the field of environmental safety, as an important prerequisite for ensuring the resilience of territories in Ukraine, remain insufficiently researched.

Paper objective. The purpose of the article is to identify areas for improving public administration in the field of environmental safety in the context of ensuring the resilience of territories in the context of Ukraine's European integration.

Paper main body. It should be noted that russian military aggression against Ukraine had a significant impact on geopolitical energy security.

Thus, the World The full-scale russian invasion of Ukraine has been ongoing for more than three years, during which the country, its regions and territories have been devastated. The environmental consequences of the russian invasion of Ukraine through numerous hostile terrorist acts require an appropriate response from state authorities and local governments.

According to the State Environmental Inspectorate, during the war in Ukraine, more than 280 thousand km<sup>2</sup> of territory was contaminated with hazardous substances, and more than 59 thousand hectares of forests and other plantations were destroyed by missiles and shells. In general, the approximate calculations of losses established by the State Environmental Inspectorate amount to 2 trillion 065 billion UAH [7].

The above-mentioned situation requires the formation and implementation of an appropriate public management system in the field of environmental security, which is an important prerequisite for ensuring the resilience of territories in Ukraine.

Thus, ecological security is the degree of protection of a territorial complex, ecosystem, and human beings (safety of life) from possible environmental damage [10].

There are more detailed definitions of this concept: "ecological security is the ability of the "environment – society – economy" system to maintain equilibrium and balance on the

basis of dynamic renewal and self-improvement, to resist external and internal threats and challenges, and to ensure acceptable levels of risk to the population's life and the sustainability of socio-economic development, as well as the reproduction of natural and socio-economic potential. That is, ecological security is understood as a qualitative characteristic of a system in which there is no threat of damage to the natural environment and health of the population, the normal development of socio-economic processes, as an acceptable socio-economic level of protection of the vital interests of the individual, society, state, and the world community from threats and negative changes (degradation) of the environment of anthropogenic and natural nature" [4].

Various ministries, departments, institutions and organizations of the state should be involved in the implementation of measures aimed at achieving, supporting and monitoring compliance with environmental safety requirements. The components of the implementation of environmental safety requirements are ensuring chemical, physical (ionizing and electromagnetic radiation, noise), biological, industrial safety and preventing natural disasters. The result from carrying out such measures can be obtained only with their comprehensive application, which in turn requires the implementation of a clearly worked-out mechanism for organizational management of the activities of all subjects of this process.

To implement such a mechanism, a state system of environmental safety should be formed – this is a set of state measures (legal, economic, technical, humanitarian and medical) aimed at maintaining the balance between its ecosystems and anthropogenic and natural loads. The structure of this system should consist of management bodies, forces and means that ensure its functioning [2].

In general, according to scientists, state environmental policy is a set of measures aimed at preserving natural resources, protecting the environment, ensuring sustainable development and reducing environmental risks for the population [5; 6; 8].

At the same time, scientists understand the concept of «resilience of territories» as the ability of territories to adapt to environmental, social and economic changes, in particular natural disasters and climate change, as well as to quickly recover from such impacts [3; 9].

The main components and tools of public governance in the field of environmental security include the following:

- legislative initiatives, which should be aimed at creating legal conditions for

environmental protection, establishing standards for the protection of water, air and land resources;

- environmental standards and norms, that is, establishing pollution norms, protection of natural areas, use of natural resources should be at the level of international standards, and also take into account national characteristics;

- green investments and financing of environmental programs and environmentally friendly technologies;

- educational work and involvement of citizens, because it is extremely important to raise environmental awareness among the population through educational campaigns, training programs and cooperation with local communities [8].

It should be noted that there is a fairly close connection between public governance in the field of environmental security and the process of ensuring the resilience of territories.

This is, firstly, increasing the ability of territories to recover, because the system of ecological reserves, forests, and wetlands can function as a natural barrier against changes such as flooding or erosion.

Secondly, it is ensuring resilience to climate change, because thanks to state measures to adapt to climate change (for example, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, developing alternative energy sources), the resilience of ecosystems and territories is ensured.

Thirdly, it is planning for the development of territories, that is, environmental factors should be integrated into the planning of cities and towns, in particular, taking into account vulnerable zones for protection from floods, wind erosion, and other natural disasters.

Among the challenges and obstacles that reduce the effectiveness of public administration in the field of environmental security in the context of ensuring the resilience of territories, the following can be noted: russian military aggression against Ukraine; political instability and systematic changes in power, which quite often leads to the lack of a unified strategy or to changes in approaches to environmental issues and territorial development issues; low level of environmental awareness among citizens, which significantly limits the effectiveness of the state's environmental policy, because without the active participation of citizens it is difficult to implement any changes; limited funding, and without proper investment and support from the state it is difficult to implement large-scale environmental projects necessary to increase the resilience of territories in Ukraine.

An extremely important direction of modernization of the state environmental policy, as an important tool for ensuring stability and development of territories in conditions of constant environmental changes, are the ongoing European integration processes.

Ukraine's declared European integration aspirations provide for the adaptation of national legislation to EU legislation and are an international obligation stipulated by the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between Ukraine and the European Communities of June 14, 1994, according to which Ukraine undertook to adapt current and future legislation to EU legislation in priority areas, including in the environmental sphere and environmental protection issues [1].

It should be noted that the progress in the implementation of the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the EU by the end of 2023 in the area of «Environment and Civil Protection» is one of the most significant compared to other areas and exceeds the average percentage (77%) of implementation of the said Agreement.

Thus, in order to implement the Association Agreement and approximate national legislation to EU environmental law, the following Laws of Ukraine were adopted in 2023 [11]:

1. "On Amendments to Certain Legislative Acts of Ukraine on the State System of Environmental Monitoring, Information on the State of the Environment (Environmental Information) and Information Support for Environmental Management" (No. 2973-IX of 20.03.2023), which provides for the creation and operation of a central reference laboratory in the field of air quality monitoring in accordance with European standards.

2. "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Improving and Digitalizing the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure" (No. 3227-IX of 13.07.2023), which introduced consultations on the environmental impact assessment report with other executive authorities and local governments in accordance with their powers on environmental issues.

3. "On Ukraine's accession to the Minamata Convention on Mercury" (No. 3116-IX of 29.05.2023) to ensure regulatory and legal regulation of mercury management, trade restrictions and the gradual abandonment of the use of mercury, as well as the cessation of technological processes and the use of certain products containing it.

4. "On ratification of the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety" (No. 3150-IX of 10.06.2023) to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, taking into account risks to human

health, by introducing international rules and procedures in the field of liability and redress related to living modified organisms.

5. «On the ratification of the International Labor Organization Convention No. 170 on Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work» (No. 3248-IX of 13.07.2023), aimed at improving the organizational support for the handling of chemicals, preventing accidents, protecting workers from the harmful effects of chemicals and reducing their negative impact [11].

In order to implement the Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention), Regulation 166/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 January 2006. on the establishment of a European Pollutant Release and Transfer Register and amending Council Directives 91/689/EEC and 96/61/EC, as well as Commission Decision (EU) 2019/1741 of 23 September 2019 establishing the format and frequency of data provision by Member States for the purposes of reporting in accordance with Regulation (EC) 166/2006, during 2023 the following resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine were adopted:

- dated 18.04.2023 No. 352 “On approval of the Procedure for drawing up and publishing the report of the authorized body on releases and transfers of pollutants and waste”;
- dated 02.06.2023 No. 560 “On approval of the Procedure for maintaining the National Pollutant Release and Transfer Register” [11].

These documents establish the format and frequency of data provision, determine the mechanism for maintaining the National Register, its information filling with data on emissions and transfer of pollutants and waste from facilities and diffuse sources located in Ukraine, and ensuring access to the above-mentioned register.

In addition, in 2023, the following resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine were adopted [11]:

- dated 02.05.2023 No. 430 “On Approval of the Procedure for Maintaining the Unified Register of Strategic Environmental Assessment” in order to digitalize the strategic environmental assessment procedure;
- dated 14.11.2023 No. 1203 “On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Emissions”.

In order to implement the Law of Ukraine “On Waste Management”, developed in

accordance with Directive 2008/98/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 19 November 2008 on waste and repealing certain directives, and which initiated the reform in the field of waste management in Ukraine, a number of regulatory legal acts were adopted in order to fulfill the requirements of the law and international obligations [11].

In order to ensure a unified approach to the development of plans to improve atmospheric air quality and short-term action plans, the Order of the Ministry of Environment of 06.04.2023 No. 203 approved Methodological recommendations on the content and procedure for the development of plans to improve atmospheric air quality and short-term action plans.

Within the framework of the European Commission's technical assistance instrument TAIEX «Informing the public about atmospheric air quality in accordance with EU Directives», in November 2023, an exchange of experience took place with experts from the Finnish Meteorological Institute on the development of a methodological basis for creating an approach to determining a single air quality index in Ukraine.

To ensure the technical capacity to implement the requirements of Directive 2008/50/EC of 21 May 2008 on monitoring atmospheric air quality, in 2023 analytical instruments and equipment were purchased to re-equip chemical laboratories and the basic network of atmospheric air pollution observations (15 units) [11].

In general, promising areas for further improvement of the state environmental policy in order to properly ensure the resilience of territories, including in the context of Ukraine's European integration, may include:

- increasing the integration of ecology into development strategies, i.e. environmental principles should become the basis for the development of all sectors and branches of the economy, such as energy, transport, agriculture, etc.;
- international cooperation in solving global environmental problems, as well as international cooperation and Ukraine's participation in international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, which is important for achieving sustainable development of regions and territories;
- technological innovations, namely the introduction of the latest environmental technologies, such as energy-saving and renewable energy sources, which are an important component of environmental policy and territorial development.

Therefore, further formation and implementation of modern state environmental policy



and ensuring the resilience of territories in Ukraine should take place through: combining the efforts of state authorities at all levels, local governments, environmental organizations (including international and European), environmental activists, etc. in solving environmental problems and protecting the environment; stabilizing and improving the state of the environment by integrating state environmental policy into issues of ensuring the resilience of territories; improving the regulatory framework of state environmental policy, regional development and the development of territorial communities; active application of the public-private partnership mechanism and implementation of relevant projects in the field of environmental protection and ensuring the resilience of territories in such areas as protected areas, environmental protection, protection of water resources, air, soil, recreational facilities, etc. in accordance with existing environmental standards.

Conclusions of the research and perspective of further development in this direction. Thus, modern state environmental policy should not only contribute to comprehensive environmental protection, minimize anthropogenic impact on the environment and increase the level of environmental safety, but also cover all sectors and areas of social activity related to the sustainable development of regions and ensuring the resilience of territories. That is, ensuring the resilience of territories in Ukraine is impossible without a comprehensive and well-thought-out state environmental policy. The importance of adaptation to change, sustainable use of natural resources and active prevention of environmental crises are the main factors for preserving the viability of territories. However, to achieve these goals, a significant improvement in the legislative framework, environmental awareness and financing of relevant projects is necessary.

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