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HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE CITIES OF UKRAINE AND MODERN PROBLEMS OF REFORM

One of the important conditions for the integration of Ukraine into the European community at the present stage of development is to respect the rights of local communities to local government and to ensure their real ability to solve local issues. This means that local authorities should be assigned these resources to ensure the full exercise of their powers. Problem-solving activities of the local government are based on legal documents. They are the Constitution of Ukraine, the Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government", "European Charter of Local Self-Government". However, in the context of the role and importance of human rights and freedoms, economic freedoms in particular, in the activities of local communities, it is advisable to turn to historical traditions and experience of organizational forms of the cities, known as Magdeburg Law.

After Ukraine gained its independence, all attempts to introduce new administrative-territorial division and new institutions of government were not too successful. Local government did not receive active development because municipalities, as before, only followed the state guidelines and did not have the sufficient political will or the budget for exercising their authority. Administrative-territorial division of the country was not different from that of the former Soviet. However, for such a short period of time since independence sig-

nificant changes of legal, economic and social systems could hardly be expected.

The changes in the system of local government mostly arise from the interference caused by the lack of a clear definition and distinction of the central and local authorities, as well as working out of a development strategy of local government and local authorities that would become an economic basis for their functioning.

The current state of local government in Ukraine is characterized by a number of problems, particularly in the financial support of local communities. In Europe, local governments are actively investing in infrastructure and local economic development. Prospects of development of local self-government in Ukraine provide for the approximation of legislation to the European standards and actual decentralization of authority, including the public sector, in order to strengthen the financial basis of local self-government.

So, in Ukraine, the problem of administrative-territorial reorganization and local government is still important. The basis of the government reform should be laid with the principles of subsidiarity, the state distribution of public goods and the economic efficiency of the administrative-territorial division of the country, taking into account the cultural and historical traditions, the current geopolitical situation and trends of development of local self-government in Europe.