

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEGAL PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE CONTEXT OF PROVIDING THE RULE OF LAW IN UKRAINE: THE ROLE OF THE FREE LEGAL AID SYSTEM

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Abstract. *Based on analysis of scientific research and practical materials, this article outlines the role of the free legal aid system in improving the legal foundations of public administration in Ukraine. The history of the formation of the system of free legal aid in Ukraine is considered, and the main problems with and prospects for its development are identified. It is noted that the Ukrainian system of free legal aid plays a significant role in providing legal advice and legal assistance in criminal, administrative, and civil proceedings. Suggestions are made regarding the directions of*

development of the system of free legal aid and increasing its role in ensuring human rights in Ukraine.

Keywords: *Ukraine, public administration, citizens' rights, free legal aid system, inter-sectoral cooperation.*

Reikšminiai žodžiai: *Ukraina, viešasis administravimas, piliečių teisės, nemokama teisinės pagalbos sistema, tarpsektorinis bendradarbiavimas.*

Introduction

The key to modern social relations is the concept of *rule of law*, which is included in the preamble of the European Convention on Human Rights and enshrined in the “Report on the Rule of Law” approved by the Venice Commission (2011). This report encourages states to create a legal system that ensures the effectiveness of judicial protection – in particular, one that allows for the restoration of violated rights and freedoms and prevents the negative individual consequences of possible judicial error. In Ukraine, an important role in ensuring human rights (and the rule of law) is played by the system of free legal aid (SFLA), which was created in view of the practices of many other countries, including Canada and the United Kingdom, and the standards of the Council of Europe (Averyanov 2008). Free legal aid to the population in Ukraine is relative; it does not apply to citizens whose solvency exceeds the level set by the state. This level is the subsistence level, calculated and approved in accordance with the Law of Ukraine “On Subsistence Level” for persons belonging to the major social and demographic groups of the population, and two subsistence minimums for disabled people.

However, despite the fact that the SFLA contributes to the protection of citizens' rights (specifically secondary legal aid), legal education, the formation of the legal culture of society, and even recently the formation of the legal capacity of local communities, the system is currently experiencing a crisis in defining its functions, tasks, and prospects for development given the generally unsatisfactory state of public administration. Following participation in public discussions, the authors perceive the main problems with the functioning of the SFLA as follows: a) poor awareness of citizens regarding access to legal aid; b) insufficiently effective interaction between public authorities, local governments, civil society institutions, and the bar; c) lack of a single customer base; and d) limited provision of legal services free of charge in remote territorial communities, especially rural ones. The need to find ways to solve the outlined problems determines the relevance of the subject of research.

Research methods and analysis of recent publications

This research is based on management methodology in the public sphere. To assess the development of the free legal aid system in Ukraine and to compare it with international systems, primary statistical information obtained by the methods of analysis of

legal documents and research of sites of special organizations was used. On the basis of the systematization of normative-legal documents, the periodization of formation of the system of free legal aid (SFLA) was created (Table 1). The method of decomposition – division of the whole into a multilevel hierarchy of interconnected elements (Modulio skaidymo metodas, 2018) – allowed for the identification of the organizational and functional structure of free legal aid (Table 2). The content of forms of access to SFLA was revealed using the method of content analysis (Tyrimų metodai, 2021), which allowed for the presence of a high level of needs of the population of Ukraine regarding legal protection and legal aid to be established, and the formation of a wider range of legal services compared to other countries to be determined. The obtained results testify to the positive impact of state measures in the field of protection of citizens, and the growth of the latter's requirements for legal education. Prospects for research in this area involve the development of democratization and the use of social engineering methods in management – in particular, concerning the construction of governing bodies of local communities and the activation of the local population through the development of legal education.

A brief overview of recent publications

Analysis of recent research and publications shows that the issue of human rights in Ukraine is actively considered by representatives of the legal, philosophical, political, and public administration sciences (Averyanov 2008; Golovaty 2016; Kolodiy 2001). The authors argue that it is necessary to take into account the European practice of ensuring human rights, the scale of which has increased in Ukraine (Bogma 2013) in particular due to Russian military aggression.

V. Averyanov (2008) bitterly notes that the executive branch in Ukraine still retains a state-centric ideology, considering the interests of the individual to be secondary. Ukrainian scholars and practitioners pay considerable attention to the adaptation of the legal system of Ukraine to the law of the European Union (Grytsyak 2004; Lakhizha 2014; Prokopenko 2009). In the context of our study, attention was first paid to scientific works which covered the issue of providing free legal aid to the population (Bogma, 2013; Zablacki, 2013; Lakhyzha 2018; Cherchaty 2018). It should be noted that the research of Ukrainian scientists in this subject area relates to the scientific research of the scholars of other post-socialist countries (Nikartas and Limantė 2012; Rangelova, 2012).

The theoretical justification of the role of SFLA in ensuring human rights and the comprehensive assessment of its practical activities and impact on improving the efficiency of public administration do not satisfy scientific interest. However, the conceptual rethinking and practical implementation of scientific provisions on the organizational and functional basis of SFLA in this process on the challenges facing Ukrainian society are crucial.

The purpose of this article is to determine the place and objectives of the system of providing SFLA in the process of the transformation of the public administration of Ukraine, and to develop proposals for consolidating the efforts of SFLA to better ensure human rights in Ukraine.

Grounds for free legal aid

The introduction of the institution of private property in post-socialist countries and the formation of market relations in socio-economic life has contributed to the spread of views on the increased efficiency of the production of goods and services, which takes place on a paid basis. The role of the state in this system was reduced to one of supervision and the establishment of certain restrictions. The rapid stratification of society into owners and non-owners in Ukraine, accompanied by violations of citizens' constitutional rights, coincided with exacerbations of social problems in Central Europe (in particular, violations of migrants' rights, including those from the former Soviet republics) and led to a broad consensus regarding the obligation of the state to provide equal access to citizens in protecting their rights.

In the early 2000s in Lithuania, for example, some authors began to consider the possibility of creating a welfare state (Aidukaitė, Bogdanova, and Guogis 2012). The International Bar Association (IBA) determined in 1991 that access to justice, which is a universal human right, could be provided through a system of free legal aid. This period signals the beginning of the creation of an international legal framework for the establishment of national systems of free legal aid. The IBA's finding that the interests of justice require the prevention of harm to a person due to a lack of the funds necessary to obtain legal advice/counsel to prepare a case for hearing were taken into account by the UN General Assembly in 2012 in Resolution No. 67/187 on the Principles and Guidelines on Access to Free Legal Aid in the Criminal Justice System (UN Office on Drugs and Crime 2013). The Resolution recognized that free legal aid was "an essential element of a fair, humane, and effective criminal justice system based on the rule of law". In its Report on Human Rights (March 2011), the Venice Commission noted the consensus on the core elements of this concept: 1) legality – including a transparent, accountable, and democratic procedure for the implementation of legal requirements; 2) legal certainty; 3) prohibition of arbitrariness; 4) access to justice in independent and impartial courts; 5) respect for human rights; and 6) non-discrimination and equality before the law (Venice Commission 2011). For a long time, within the framework of the concepts of liberalism and neoliberalism, *free* was perceived as a phenomenon that contradicted market principles (Hayek 1992; Friedman 2016; Mises 2020). However, the absolutization of the neoliberal concept contributed to the polarization of the economic development of countries, deepening factors such as inequality in income and wealth and the deterioration of the environmental situation. This led to increased discussion on the concept of market insolvency by such scientists as J. Galbraith, J. Mill, and J. Stiglitz. For example, in his book *People, Power and Profit*, Nobel laureate J. Stiglitz (2019) notes that: "despite the increase in GDP, markets by themselves do not necessarily help these people, the situation can only be changed by government programs".

Based on this, the legal systems of many countries provide for the use of a system of human rights measures on a gratuitous basis, due to the insufficient financial condition of citizens which makes it difficult for them to pay for legal services and, consequently, contributes to legal inequality. Funding for legal aid to citizens is usually provided from the state budget, but the law also provides for the possibility of using other financial sources.

Models of the free legal aid system

The most common practices of providing SFLA are formed of several models: the pro bono model, where legal aid is provided to the poor free of charge by lawyers, often from large law firms (as in the UK, Germany, France, and Ukraine); the Public Defender's Office model, where lawyers work full time on state-paid cases (as in Bulgaria, Israel, and the USA); the contract model, which provides for the signing of a lawyer or agency agreement on behalf of the state on the provision of legal assistance in specific cases (as in the UK and the Netherlands); the Ex officio model, which provides for the appointment of a lawyer by a special body and payment for their services according to the report (as in Ukraine); and other "regular lawyer", "public (public, state) defender", "mixed", and "state investigative" models (Morova and Zakharova 2018, 417–18).

The Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) within the framework of the New Justice Program, the International Renaissance Foundation, the Ukrainian Legal Aid Foundation and others have played a significant role in the formation of the modern system of free legal aid as an independent institution in Ukraine. The formation of civil society through the support of public organizations is receiving attention around the world. The fact is that civil society is seen as an integral part of the rule of law, and therefore the issues of its development are important not only for Ukraine but also for the entire post-Soviet space. The results of research by such authors as N. Morov, A. Sakharov, G. Dulin, T. Talanov, V. Semenov, L. Kuznetsov, and I. Getskin [23] confirm this conclusion, and can be used as an argument in favor of the formation of SBPD. It is conceptually important to pay attention to the research of Colombian scientists on the protection of children's rights (Barreto et al. 2018), which supports the views of the scientific community that a child is born with a set of social rights – regardless of age, sex, origin, or ethnicity. Today, the SFLA in Ukraine includes a Legal Aid Coordination Center, 23 regional and 100 local free secondary legal aid centers, more than 400 legal aid offices, and 2 information centers. This system: provides early access to legal aid; promotes the implementation of the new Criminal Procedural code; prevents torture and other cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatments or punishments; provides representation of citizens; forms and disseminates best practices; introduces new professional standards; supports the new generation of lawyers; stimulates competition; and increases the effectiveness of national preventive mechanisms through the rapid exchange of information.

Stages of development of the system of free legal aid in Ukraine

The number of local centers and offices in the region depends, first of all, on the population of the region. Thus, in the Poltava region there is a Regional Center for the provision of free secondary legal aid, four local centers (two in Poltava, one in Kremenchug, and one in Lubny), and 23 legal aid offices, which are separate structural subdivisions of local centers and are located in all areas of the region except those where local centers operate. The regional Center of Free Secondary Legal Aid Provision in the Poltava region seeks to take into

account the algorithm of development of the legal aid system in Ukraine, not only focusing on existing legal acts and reports from the heads of state, the administration of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, and the Coordination Center for Legal Aid, but also analyzing the prospects for reform in Ukraine and the requirements of European integration, and studying international experience of free legal aid. In a relatively short time, the Ukrainian Free Legal Aid System has developed from providing legal assistance in criminal proceedings by lawyers who cooperate with the system on the terms of the contract, to providing assistance in criminal, administrative, and civil processes from attorneys and lawyers, as well as actively promoting the growth of the legal capacity of territorial communities and conducting widespread legal education work (Table 1).

Table 1. Stages of Development of the Free Legal Aid System (FLAS) in Ukraine

No. of stage	Beginning of stage	Contents of the Main Events
1.	Beginning of 2000	Prospecting the best options for free legal aid provision
2.	2006	The concept the formation of the free legal aid system in Ukraine.
3.	2006	Pilot projects on the establishment of pilot centers for the provision of free legal aid (Kharkiv, Khmelnytsky, Bila Tserkva – Ukraine)
4.	2011	Adoption of the Law of Ukraine “On Free Legal Aid”
5.	2012	Establishment of a new institution. Preparation for protection in the criminal process
6.	2013	Opening of Regional centers for the provision of free secondary legal aid. Provision of free secondary legal aid in criminal proceedings
7.	2015	Opening of Local centers for the provision of free secondary legal aid. Provision of free secondary legal aid in administrative and civil proceedings
8.	2016	Opening of the Legal Aid Office. Optimizing citizens’ access to free legal aid. Integration of free primary and secondary legal aid. Ensuring the quality of free legal aid provision in civil and administrative cases
9.	2017	Activation of work on improving the legal capacity of territorial communities.
10.	2018	Searching for ways to optimize system performance

Source: author’s development

Thus, today’s SFLA in Ukraine is a powerful tool used to protect human rights, but attempts are being made to optimize its activities – both in terms of financial problems and the desire of part of the legal community to monopolize the organization of legal aid. Currently, the SFLA system is sufficiently branched to cover the entire population of the country (Table 2), but its effectiveness is limited due to the weak legal education of the population.

In this regard, legal education can become the main advantage of the Ukrainian SFLA, which would not only provided primary and secondary legal aid, but would also serve as the coordinating center for legal education in the regions. The importance of the SFLA’s function of providing legal education in Ukraine is higher compared to in other European countries, due to the lower level of political culture and the lack of political traditions and skills of democracy in Ukraine. This includes the use of ‘dirty’ methods in politics, non-compliance with basic moral norms, lack of freedom of thought, and widespread corruption.

Table 2. The Components of the Free Legal Aid System in Ukraine on January 1, 2019

Institution	Number	Functions
Coordination Center for Free Legal Aid Provision	1	Coordination of the activities of the Free Legal Aid System.
Interregional resource and communication centers (IRCC).	5	Methodical and educational support of system activity.
Law clubs “PRAVOKATOR” at the IRCC.	5	Legal education activities.
Regional centers	23	Coordination of the activities of the Free Legal Aid System at the regional level. Provision of Free Secondary Legal Aid in criminal proceedings.
Local centers	96	Coordination of the activities of the Free Legal Aid System at the inter-district level. Provision of Free Secondary Legal Aid in civil and administrative proceedings.
Legal Aid Office	433	Active legal education at the level of territorial communities. The point of access to electronic services of the Ministry of Justice. Providing legal advice. Acceptance of applications for the provision of free secondary legal aid. Representation of clients in court.
Virtual and Remote Legal Aid Services	More than 500	Legal education activities. Provision of primary legal aid and acceptance of documents for the provision of secondary legal aid.
PARTNERS	Bodies of state executive power, bodies of local self-government, public institutions, institutions, and organizations.	

Source: author’s development

The European integration of Ukraine determines its transition to an open society in which, in accordance with the understanding of the properties and dynamics of its development, an adequate model of public administration should be formed, the subject of which is not only the state, but also local governments, public organizations, and self-organizing bodies of the population. Ukraine has undertaken the obligation to adapt its legislation to the law of the European Union, both in the preamble and in Art. 2 of the Agreement – on the establishment of which, legal ownership is determined to be one of the basic values. The approval in August 2015 of the National Strategy in the Field of Human Rights (hereinafter referred to as the Strategy) was precisely due to the need to improve the activities of the state to approve and create an effective mechanism for the protection of human rights and freedoms in Ukraine. This strategy is aimed at uniting society around the understanding of the value of human rights and freedoms, which are protected on the basis of the principle of equality and without discrimination (The Concept of Reforming Local Self-Governance and Territorial Organization of Power in Ukraine, 2014).

The implementation of the Strategy is ensured by the joint actions of state bodies, civil society institutions, and the Ombudsman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine for Human Rights, with the support of the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other international organizations at all stages of the development of an action plan for the implementation of its provisions, monitoring, and control.

The SFLA's cooperation with territorial communities

In order to successfully solve the problem of ensuring human rights, we defend the idea of the expediency of establishing cooperation between all subjects of the protection of citizens' rights. It is important in this context to ensure the continuity of working relations between the SPBD and the executive authorities, government agencies, and local governments, whose activities are important in the context of human rights. At present, partnership relations are only being created and institutionalized in the form of Memoranda of Cooperation (Table 3).

Table 3. The results of the interaction of the SFLA of the Poltava region with other subjects of the public sphere

Name of the center	Memoranda with authorities and government agencies	Memoranda with NGOs	Memoranda with educational institutions	Total
Regional center	5	5	4	14
I Poltava local center	15	4	3	22
II Poltava local center	9	4	2	15
Kremenchug local center	2	8	1	11
Lubny local center	22	2	–	24
Total	53	23	10	86

Source: compiled by the authors based on empirical research.

Strengthening the legal capacity of communities in the context of decentralization

An important condition for the establishment of the rule of law in post-communist countries is the growing role of other subjects of public administration – that is, the decentralization of power – for the implementation of which, according to scientists, social consensus should involve four components: the political will of the state leaders; knowledge of experts; population support; and skilled personnel. The problems that need to be solved in Ukraine are defined in the Concept of the Reform of Local Self-Government and Territorial Organization of Government in Ukraine. These issues include: the deterioration of the quality and availability of public services due to the inability of the overwhelming majority of local self-government bodies to exercise their own and delegated powers because of a lack of resources; underdeveloped forms of direct democracy; the reduced level of professionalism of local government officials, which leads to the low efficiency of management decisions; the corporatization of local self-government bodies and the closeness and lack of transparency of their activities; and the high level of corruption, which leads to a decrease in the efficiency of the resources used, the reduced attractiveness of the territories to investors, and the growth of social tension (Barreto et al. 2018). Among these issues, one can distinguish solutions which are facilitated by the work of the FLAS.

In the context of decentralization of power, it is particularly important to develop the legal capacity of territorial communities. In the opinion of the authors, this includes the search for internal resources, the activation of external prerequisites, and the creation of their effective implementation.

Under the term *legal capacity of territorial communities*, the legal capacity to realize and protect the interests of citizens who are residents – including legal assistance – is included. The legal capacity of territorial communities should also include the legal capacity of their citizens and self-government bodies. From the aforementioned, it is expedient to develop the legal capacity of territorial communities – that is, to create conditions beneficial to the growth of their legal capacity and the satisfaction of citizens' interests. The growth of legislative activity, the reformation of all spheres of public life, the aggravation of social conflicts, and the change in the procedures for implementing legal relations of citizens cause an increase in the number of their requests for legal assistance. Taking into account the aforementioned tendencies, the bodies of local self-government should carry out: organizational work on the provision of primary free legal aid; educational activity among the population concerning the rights and ways of their realization; the coordination of educational and legal events with the work of regional and local centers for the provision of free secondary legal aid; and the planning of free primary legal aid provision with the distribution of powers between employees of executive committees of local councils (Fig. 1).

It should be noted that in other countries there are also tendencies to increase the role of public authorities in ensuring human rights: “Campaigns to educate people about legal issues are a practical and powerful way to increase public understanding” Lakhizha (2017). Of course, the main focus is on state support for and measures to improve the

quality of legal education in general, but it is recognized that local governments and civil society institutions are also involved in legal aid and legal protection.

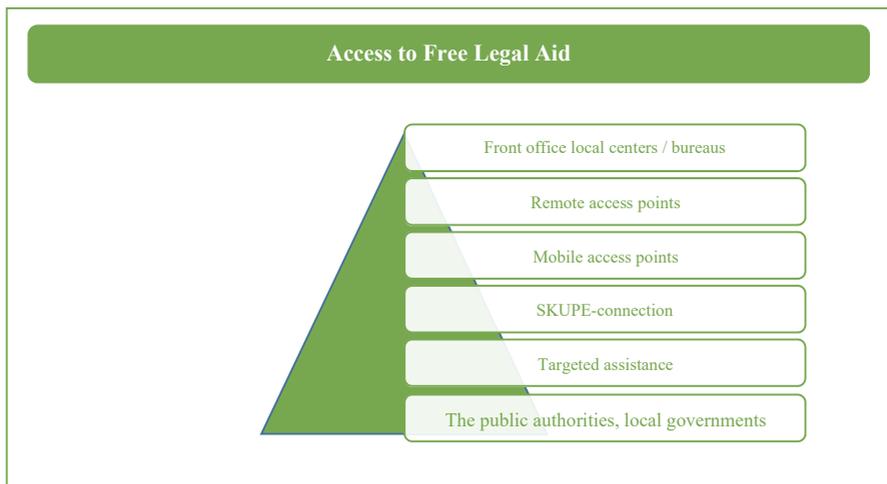


Figure. 1. Forms of Access to Free Legal Aid in Ukraine

Source: developed based on the CC information

The task of access to Free Legal Aid in the context of creating united territorial communities

It is important to note that the conceptual documents of the system of free legal aid in Ukraine and the speeches of the heads of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and the Coordination Centre for Legal Aid Provision determined the change of the priorities of the system from providing legal assistance to the development of the legal capacity of territorial communities. According to the Law of Ukraine "On Free Legal Aid" (2011), primary legal aid is to inform citizens about their rights and freedoms, and the conditions of their exercise; secondary legal aid is seen as a state guarantee of equal access for all citizens to their right to justice. This is the mission of the Legal Aid Office, which began their work in August 2016. New challenges for the FLAS are in actively creating the United Territorial Communities (UTCs) with the allocation of the districts' elders. Currently, local self-government bodies (LSGB) are faced with a number of problems that should be solved in the near future in the process of providing organizational support for the provision of free primary legal aid. Among the main issues, it is useful to note: the increase of expenses of local budgets in the case of the creation of municipal facilities for the provision of legal services; the lack of qualified lawyers in rural areas and weak motivational mechanisms for their involvement to work in bodies of executive power

or municipal facilities; weak relations between local self-government bodies and offices and centers for the provision of free legal aid; the lack of a stable practice for the population to appeal for legal assistance, which does not promote the spread of legal literacy; and the lack of legal training for local council executive committees, in particular elders, which negatively affects the quality of legal assistance. Increasing the legal awareness of the workers of councils' executive boards can be ensured through the introduction of cooperation with the legal aid office or centers for legal aid provision for the reception of citizens who need secondary legal aid. Such mutual activities will help to reduce the time spent by clients and improve the quality of the services that they receive. In this context, it is also important to hold mutual communicative events: seminars, meetings with students and other categories of citizens, roundtables, conferences, etc. The need to strengthen such interaction is also conditioned by the fact that the bodies of local self-government cannot refuse to provide legal services to citizens because the office or local center of free legal aid provision operates on the territory of the relevant council. The Order of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine on 15.06.2012 No. 891/5 "On Approval of the Procedure and Criteria for the Involvement... to Primary Legal Aid provision allows local self-government bodies to engage legal persons of private law in the provision of free primary legal aid which may be useful in case of an increasing number of appeals from citizens on certain legal issues – for example, the settlement of land or property disputes. The implementation of the abovementioned procedures, which to some extent is already taking place, will allow local self-government bodies to significantly increase their role in providing free primary legal aid to the population. The solution of these issues can be realized in various ways, but one is to deepen the cooperation of LSGB with offices and legal aid centers. At present, regional and local legal aid centers are more proactive in establishing appropriate cooperation, as evidenced by a list of communicative activities on the sites of these centers. This means that local self-government bodies should become more active in attracting specialists from the centers and offices to carry out explanatory work on the rights of citizens in relation to family violence, inheritance, the financial obligations of family members, bullying, access to social services, etc. The legal education of youth is noticeable, but remains insufficient. Therefore, the cooperation of local governments and regional and local centers for the provision of free legal aid in this area will be useful to communities. In light of increasing the effectiveness of cooperation between FLAS and LSGB, the important task is to develop an institution that can serve as an independent provider, the implementation of which will involve: systematic work to involve local governments, public organizations, and volunteer movements in order to provide free primary legal aid to citizens; education and development of a network of partners and independent providers of free legal aid; and the formation of a flexible system of providing free legal aid, which promptly responds to the legal needs of society. In the opinion of the authors, the primary tasks facing the free legal aid system in the region are: use of legal instruments to ensure equal access to justice and legal aid for citizens (implemented by free legal aid centers); increased attention on the quality of free legal aid provided (implemented by free legal aid centers); organization of work with UTC with the prospect of creating offices for access to free legal aid, studying the needs of territorial

communities, and ensuring the development of the legal capacities of territorial communities (implemented by free legal aid centers together with partners); accumulation of additional funds for legal education programs for educational work and the provision of legal aid (implemented by executive authorities and local self-government bodies with the active participation of local centers); and the institutionalization of the system of legal education, the development of the system of management of legal knowledge, and the strengthening of work with lawyers of executive authorities and local self-government bodies (including seminars and methodological work, implemented by free legal aid centers together with partners).

Conclusions

1. The study of the issues of improving the legal principles of public administration in the context of ensuring the rule of law in Ukraine shows the growing role of the free legal aid system in this process. Activation of the role of the SFLA is necessary both in terms of expanding the provision of primary and secondary legal aid to citizens, and in connection with the need to deepen law-education activities and coordinate the efforts of its subjects.
2. Particular challenges emerge due to the need to develop the legal capacity of territorial communities, which should promote the modernization of public administration – in particular, local self-government. The development of the legal capacity of territorial communities is directly related to changing the mentality of the population, and therefore requires targeted legal education, as well as the training of experts and skilled personnel.
3. The experience of the Poltava region shows that the SFLA institution plays a significant role in the development of the legal capacity of territorial communities. Work with partners (public organizations, local governments, executive authorities, and scientific and educational institutions) is considered to be an essential component of, and an additional resource for, the achievement of the tasks set.
4. The state of SFLA in Ukraine approves the conclusions of Ukrainian and international scholars on the need to ensure the complexity of reforms and the consolidation of the efforts of state bodies', self-government bodies, and the public, and testifies as to the significant potential of the free legal aid system. From the point of view of the development of legal power in Ukraine, it is expedient to carry out a number of tasks in the SFLA system that primarily relate to the use of legal instruments for ensuring the equal access of citizens to justice and legal assistance, as well as ensuring the development of the UTC's legal capacity and the legal education of citizens.

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Viešojo valdymo teisinių pagrindų tobulinimas žmogaus teisių užtikrinimo Ukrainoje kontekste: nemokamos teisinės pagalbos sistemos vaidmuo

Anotacija

Straipsnyje, remiantis tyrimų medžiagos ir praktikos analize, aptariamas nemokamos teisinės pagalbos (NTP) sistemos vaidmuo gerinant Ukrainos viešojo administravimo teisinę sistemą. Nagrinėjama nemokamos teisinės pagalbos sistemos formavimosi istorija Ukrainoje, atskleistos pagrindinės problemos ir jų plėtros perspektyvos. Nurodoma, kad Ukrainos nemokamos teisinės pagalbos sistema yra itin reikšminga teikiant teises konsultacijas ir teisinę pagalbą baudžiamosiose, administracinėse ir civilinėse bylose. Pateikiami pasiūlymai dėl NTP sistemos plėtros krypčių ir jos vaidmens didinimo užtikrinant žmogaus teises Ukrainoje.

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