

Patoka I.V.

Candidate of Economic Sciences,
Senior Research Scholar at Department of Environmental Policy
Economic Problems and Sustainable Development,
Institute of Environmental Economics and Sustainable Development
of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine

FORMATION OF THE MECHANISMS OF THE STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AT THE LEVEL OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT UNDER POWER DECENTRALIZATION IN UKRAINE IN TERMS OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESSES

1. As confirmed by the experience of the states – EU members, during the recent two decades the essential progress in increasing the nature protection efficiency has been achieved due to the improvement of the regulatory and legal mechanism, i.e. via environmental management decentralization. Therefore, according to the laws adopted in the majority of the countries, the European international practice grants the local authorities with broad power in solving environmental issues. The environmental policy implementation in various directions is accompanied by working out local standards, whereas the compliance with the national or transnational hygienic, social and ecological norms is an integral element of the management.

2. The environmental policy of the European Union is based on the fundamental principles as follows:

- complex approach, a basic principle of management;
- transparency and universal criteria of selection and assessment of the environmental policy instruments at all management hierarchy levels;
- transfer of the environmental protection power to the regional and local levels.

3. The valid Ukrainian legislation grants local and regional authorities of the state executive bodies as well as local self-government authorities with very important functions and power in the environmental policy. Such vast power is granted to the local authorities since only they can utmost take into account ecological interests of the relevant territory's population. However, it is necessary to develop new up-to-date mechanisms of the state environmental policy at the local self-government level taking into account the European integration processes.

4. On the whole, for the local authorities, adoption, and implementation of the environmental policy means:

- obligation as to constant environmental improvement and its pollution prevention on the community territory;

- obligation according to the nature protection legislation, regulatory and legal acts and international obligations the local authorities are responsible for;

- integration of the aims of sustainable development into the policy and activities of the local authorities;

- raise of the environmental awareness and culture of the inhabitants;

- consultations with the population and their involvement in the local planning;

- partnership with the community;

- assessment, monitoring and informing community population as to the sustainability progress.

5. An important issue in forming the up-to-date mechanisms of local environmental policy is the budget decentralization optimization. The main trends in improving budget decentralization may be a distinct effect of local self-government on the tax income formation at the given territory, going into the national finance market, as well as a rejection of the compulsory money withdrawal in case of overfulfilling the local budget income. Therefore, such measures will promote the strengthening of the local communities finance independence and thus, maintain more opportunities for local environmental policy implementation.

6. Important is the information support of the local environmental policy, which is regulated by environmental legislation activities of special representative authorities as to receiving, generalization and using information on the ecological situation and health condition of the community population.

7. Furthermore, formation of the up-to-date mechanisms of the state environmental policy at the local self-government level may involve launching of the new energy-effective programmers at the local level aimed at reducing the negative effect on the environment and improving standards of the community population life quality.

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