

SUMMARY

Nesterovych V.F. Decentralization as constitutional principle of realization of public power is on regional and local levels. The article describes decentralization as constitutional principle of realization of public power on regional and local levels. It is pointed out that one of the current trends in constitutional regulation of public power at the regional and local levels in most democratic countries is its implementation on the basis of the principle of decentralization. This constitutional principle broadly envisages the transfer of essential powers by the state from the center to places as close as possible to the adoption of decisions by public authorities by those and for the benefit of those residing in these territories.

The author states that the term «decentralization» is quite actively used in modern constitutions, which is evidence of its direct consolidation in the text of more than 50 constitutions of states of different regions of the world. In each state, the level of decentralization depends on the national, social, economic, cultural characteristics and traditions of the state, region and territorial community. The main meaning of decentralization is that the authorities should be closer to, formed by, and carry out their activities for the benefit and in the interests of the people residing within the relevant territory. Therefore, it is quite logical that along with the term «decentralization», the constitutions of different countries use such categories as «de-concentration of power», «transfer of power», «transfer of resources», «democracy», «delegation», «coordination», «subsidiarity», «inclusivity», «participation», «devolution», «regionalization» and «local autonomy».

It is concluded that decentralization is a constitutional principle whereby the state delegates considerable powers to exercise power at regional and / or local levels to the relevant public authorities. It is pointed out that an important prerequisite for establishing decentralization as a constitutional principle of guaranteeing of realization of public power on regional and local levels is not only its consolidation in the Constitution of the state, but also determining the procedural basis for its implementation. Today, decentralization of power has become primarily a civilization achievement. Therefore, the practical implementation of the principle of decentralization also depends to a large extent on the ability of territorial communities within their territories to take full advantage of all the opportunities and resources provided for under the current constitutional legislation and provided by the state.

Keywords: *decentralization, constitutional principle, public authority, territorial communities, prefects, local self-government.*

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