

**Oleh V. Zolotonosha. Main definitions of decentralization definition.** The article explores the scientific approaches to defining decentralization. It is analyzed what decentralization is, what is its purpose. The main possibilities are identified. It is emphasized that the benefits of decentralization are the implementation of differentiated policies, effective mobilization at the local level, namely: increasing interest, building partnerships and social cohesion, gaining experience and creating technical groups at the local level; greater flexibility in decision-making and management; possibility of direct physical control at the local level in addition to documentary control.

The necessity and efficiency of decentralization are substantiated, through the implementation of reforms aimed at increasing the efficiency of activities of both central and local authorities, as well as creating favorable conditions for economic development.

It has been determined that decentralization must necessarily support the functioning of democracy, the proper technical capacity of local self-government and the development of civil society and public organizations.

**Keywords:** *decentralization, local self-government, public authorities, central authorities, civil society, territorial communities.*