Problem statement. The present-day world is going through a complicated period of transformations, which affect all the spheres of social life, being controversial as to their consequences and often accompanied by crisis phenomena.

The transformation processes taking place in the society and the public administration system of Ukraine are strongly influenced by a series of external and internal factors, namely: a long-term military aggression; aggravation of negative trends in the economy; a high corruption rate; poor financial discipline etc. Therefore, the formation of a modern public administration system necessitates rethinking of the current processes and conducting a research of the adequacy of the administrative impact mechanisms, forms and methods to the needs of social development and integration into the global community.

Recent research and publications analysis. An essential contribution to the research of transformations in a state has been made by such foreign scholars as H. Atamanchuk, W. Drechsler, T. Ferhien, G. Gould, L. Holms, Yu. Kozlov, N. Manning, L. Parker, K. Reichard, J. Sachs, G. Wetterberg and other researchers. The aspects of structural and functional changes in the public administration system of Ukraine have been studied by V. Averianov, V. Bakumenko, A. Halchynskyi, V. Hranovskyi, V. Kniaziev, I. Kohut, I. Koliushko, S. Kravchenko, N. Meltiukhova, L. Naboka, P. Nadolishnii, Yu. Surmin, V. Tymoshchuk, V. Yermolaiev, M. Yizha and others. However, their research works pay little attention to investigation of the transformation processes that take place in the very system of public administration.

The paper objective lies in generalization of approaches to the concept of ‘transformation’ and determining the essence of the transformation of the public administration system.

The paper main body. Since the time of Ukraine’s acquiring its sovereignty, new global transformations have been underway in various spheres of social life. By
using the term of ‘transformation’ to describe the processes of changes within a society, we can immediately grasp its meaning.

As far back as the Soviet times, the term was used in various fields of science. Today it is widely used in engineering and design, physics, mathematics, linguistics, genetics and biology; it has also become wide-spread in economics and social sciences – politology, legal studies, public administration etc. Yet, there is no unanimity of scientific opinion about understanding the reasons for, or factors influencing the emergence, formation and development of transformation processes and mechanisms for their regulation. The term of ‘transformation’ is interpreted in rather a wide sense and is applied to all types of essential changes of the basic social structures and systems, including the system of public administration.

The transformation of public administration system is closely connected with this system’s development i.e. a process resulting in a change of quality, a transfer from one quality state to another, a higher one.

Undergoing transformations, the system of public administration changes both itself (changing the interrelations and links; forming new principles, institutions, mechanisms, technologies in keeping with social development needs; creating a new administration model), and its the environment, the two processes taking place simultaneously. In fact when this happens, transformational changes going on within the system become an impetus for the start of “new” transformation processes, and an integral part of its evolution.

Conclusions of the research. Transformation is a basic scientific category, which is expedient to be used in a theoretical approach to analysis of changes occurring in a society, since it is neutral as regards the evaluation of the transformation processes dynamics.

By system transformation we mean a process of qualitative and quantitative changes, involving a change of the system’s form and content in line with historical stages of social development.

The transformation of the public administration system is a process of profound internal changes, which take place within the system under the influence of external and internal factors and are accompanied by changing (renewal) of the
system’s content, form, and principles of organization, for attainment of a higher level of harmonization of its components, improvement of its quality, and its increased impact on the social development.