PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN PREVENTING AND COMBATING CORRUPTION IN UKRAINE IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESSES

Problem setting Corruption has become one of the main political, economic and social problems in Ukraine which carries a threat to many elements of social and political order. High levels of corruption in Ukrainian society and absence of adequate punishment for corrupt practices do not only hinder democratic transformations but also undermine trust of the European community in Ukraine that is an important obstacle on the way to Ukraine’s European integration.

Recent research and publications analysis Corruption issues are usually studied by scholars through the prism of public administration system and legal and institutional mechanisms for anti-corruption policy in Ukraine. In particular, S. Dubenko, S. Kokhan, N. Nyzhnyk, V. Oluiko, O. Prokhorenko and S. Seriohin studied the phenomenon of corruption in the system of executive authorities; A. Tinkov, I. Chubenko, Yu. Rubinskii, M. Melnyk, M. Kernytska, and N. Rozlutskyi – the foreign experience in combating corruption, but the place and role of civil society in preventing and combating corruption in Ukraine was not paid attention to.

Paper objective The objective of the article is to analyze state mechanisms for involving civil society and nongovernmental organizations in the fight against corruption in Ukraine in the context of European integration processes.

Paper main body The legal and institutional framework for preventing and combating corruption, and the role of society in the fight against corruption offences in Ukraine are characterized. In particular, a number of anti-corruption laws of Ukraine determine the organizational and legal framework for preventing corruption in Ukraine, the content and order of using preventive anti-corruption measures, and the rules for eliminating consequences of corruption offences. They
also guarantee the civil society’s right to participate in the fight against corruption, namely to exercise public control over activities of public authorities, to report facts of corruption offences through the institution of corruption exposure and to carry out enlightened anti-corruption measures.

Nongovernmental organizations should be actively involved in the process of anti-corruption policy formation and implementation through the mechanism of interaction with public authorities. It should be based on principles of public activity, partnership, openness, responsibility and political independence. The efficient forms of anti-corruption process should be the following: joint monitoring and analysis of public opinion on causes of corruption emergence and ways to combat it; implementing analytical research and information projects within the framework of anti-corruption policy; ensuring information openness about corruption in society.

**Conclusions of the research** The effective implementation of anti-corruption policy in Ukraine should be based on public participation and multiple use of preventive, enlightened and controlling procedures, interaction of nongovernmental organizations with public authorities. Basic principles of democratic governance should form the basis for anti-corruption policy of Ukraine. Creation of available and safe information channels for corruption exposure, reforming judicial and law enforcement bodies and ensuring strong protection for corruption exposers should encourage public participation in preventing and combating corruption in Ukraine. Adjusting the effective system of interaction between nongovernmental organizations and public authorities will strengthen the public role in the fight against corruption.