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## **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AS A LEGAL CATEGORY: ANALYSIS OF APPROACHES**

The features of approaches to the definition of the concept of public administration in the science of administrative law of Ukraine are investigated in the paper. It is substantiated that the reform of the public administration system in Ukraine considers that the effectiveness of the changes being made depends to a large extent on the availability of scientifically substantiated models of desirable transformations that act as signposts through progressive movement. Attention is drawn to the fact that in the science of administrative law of Ukraine there is no generally recognized position on the nature and features of public administration, which does not allow scientists and practitioners reaching consensus in determination of ways to improve it. Particular attention is drawn to the etymology of the concept under study and the various variants of its translation from English into Ukrainian.

On the basis of the study of the essence of different scientific approaches to the essence of public administration, the author concludes that the specified category is quite actively investigated in the science of administrative law, but a unified understanding of its essence has not yet been developed. At present, three main approaches to the essence of public administration are formulated: a) activity, within which public administration is considered as a separate and specific type of activity performed by public administration bodies; b) administrative, within which public administration is a component or one type of public administration; c) procedural, in which the phenomenon under study is considered as a set of algorithmic procedures, the use of which should contribute to the goal. It is concluded that there are no fundamental contradictions between the considered approaches. The need for scientific

explorations is emphasized in order to determine the criteria of the distinction between public administration and public, which are sometimes identified in scientific sources.

**Keywords:** public administration, public management, administrative law, administrative and legal support, public relations, scientific approaches.

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