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LEGAL POLICY IN THE FIELD OF TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION OF POWER AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION IN THE CONTEXT OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION

Collective monograph

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FOREWORD

Ukraine is navigating a complex path of state-legal modernization and systemic reforms, with a singular goal: to construct a human-centric legal statehood. The capacity of state authorities and local self-governing bodies to effectively and functionally resolve extant problems of socio-economic development, address tasks of societal progress, stimulate sustainable territorial development, and ensure the realization of rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests of citizens is a condition for achieving this goal. Consequently, the pressing task of the present day remains the political-legal consolidation of nation-building and scholarly research efforts in the formation of an effective organization of power at the local level, based on European standards of public administration and taking into account existing national and globalization challenges.

In recent years, the state has taken decisive and serious steps in this direction. Conceptual foundations for administrative reform and local self-governance reform have been outlined, their objectives, tasks, directions, and priorities identified. A budgetary and financial decentralization reform has been implemented, and the modernization of public administration in specific sectors has commenced. For the first time, the country has closely approached the renewal of the constitutional-legal foundations of the territorial organization of power and the system of local selfgovernance. Regrettably, the realization of constitutional reform, long awaited by Ukrainian society, is once again being impeded due to a variety of factors. Unquestionably, although the constitutional-legal direction is the most critical in the realization of the decentralization strategy, it is not the only one. At present, the reform of the territorial organization of power has significant potential, which is being realized without changes to the Basic Law, through legislative support for transformations. Alongside this, public-legal practice reveals significant needs for scientificmethodological support in the implementation of the reforms in the territorial organization of power and public administration. A discrete task of contemporary legal policy in this sphere becomes the implementation of European standards and the Europeanization of the entire mechanism of public authority governance.

This monograph is devoted to theoretical and practical issues concerning the formation and implementation of legal policy in the field of territorial organization of power and public administration, and to the pressing problems of implementing European standards. The monograph encompasses the most significant contributions of the authorial collective over the course of conducting the foundational research "Legal Policy in the Sphere of Territorial Organization of Power and Public Administration in Ukraine in the Context of European Integration." It aims to acquaint a broad readership with these contributions. For practitioners, the monograph may also prove valuable from the perspective of considering the suggestions developed by the authorial collective for the direction of legislative improvements.