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**COMPETENCE OF LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES
OF THE BALTIC COUNTRIES: COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS**

Today in conditions of civil society formation and development of a democratic, rule-of-laws state in Ukraine a special attention is paid to the local self-government as a manifestation of democracy. The need to increase the real capacity of local self-government in the country stipulates the study of world experience, first of all the countries of the European Union, in terms of competence and core powers of local self-government bodies. It is quite natural that in this context practical experience of the post-Soviet countries, in particular the Baltic countries, which have successfully integrated into the European space, is useful.

The purpose of the study is to provide a comparative analysis of local self-government bodies' competence, defined by the national legislation of the Baltic countries.

In the article special attention is paid to the legislative acts on local self-government of the specified countries, which determine what the local self-government bodies are and which particular issue is assigned to their competence.

The study provides a list of local self-government bodies operating in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, and a comparative analysis of the competencies that these bodies are empowered with.

Focus is made on the representative bodies of local self-government of the Baltic countries, since their formation through the election of representatives by the community is a direct manifestation of democracy. The exclusive competence of mentioned bodies is considered in details (competence is divided into planned financial, organizational and administrative, local management and property). Thus it is determined that the planning and financial competence is in solving budget and tax issues, approving plans and strategic programs of self-government development etc. The competence to resolve organizational and administrative issues includes the approval of the statute (regulation) of the self-government, the resolution of issues related to the change of administrative boundaries, borders, territorial division of the self-government, etc. It is mentioned that competence in the area of local government includes the powers regarding personnel

issues, namely: the procedure for the election and the appointment of heads and members of both representative and executive bodies of local self-government, the resolution of issues related to the staff of specialists and the payment of their labour, etc. It is determined that property competence of self-government consists of powers to solve issues related to management of property, including the formation of enterprises (institutions, societies, funds and others), etc.

Taking into account that respective executive bodies of local self-government are assigned to implement decisions of representative authorities and realize other executive and regulatory powers, the particular attention focuses on their competence in the article.

In general, the analysis of the competences of local self-governments in the Baltic region allows defining both the general and specific powers that are inherent to the local governments only in Estonia, Latvia or Lithuania.