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77. Environmental audit in Ukraine: relevance, challenges and areas of improvement

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Introduction: Environmental problems of Ukraine as a whole do not differ from the world known problems: climate change, in particular the weakening of the ozone layer; the pollution of the atmosphere with the formation of acid rain and toxic substances; water pollution (seas, rivers) with heavy metals and chemical compounds; depletion and pollution of surface water and soil; reduction of forest area; reduction of the ability of the natural

environment to self-purification and self-healing; the formation of new pathogens of plants, animals and humans. Ecological state of our Planet is deteriorating rapidly. Environmental overload significantly lowers quality of life of the population in Ukraine. It is estimated that the contribution of the ecological factor in the deterioration of the health of the population is estimated to be 10-30%, including oncological diseases - about 50% [1, C. 24-25]. Industrial enterprises and transport in Ukraine with the annual emissions of about 6 million tons of pollutants, which is 150 kg for each citizen of the country.

Resources and methods: Active trends of environmental priorities integration that arise under the pressure of international obligations and socio-economic consequences of ecological disasters (including the Chernobyl catastrophe) can be recently traced in the reforming process of Ukraine's economy. Now environmentally dangerous economy of Ukraine is taking its first steps towards environmentally balanced development. This process is difficult and time consuming because it is associated with technogenic transformation of economic thinking into social-ecological one. At the current stage the great importance is given to the formation of environmental policy and environmental management system at the level of a company, a corporation, an industry, a region, etc. It is impossible without the formation of organizational and economic basis and the procedure of environmental audit in accordance with leading international and Ukrainian standards.

Results: Thus, we distinguish two basic directions of strategy realization and they are the following:

- firstly, it is the introduction of new mechanisms and instruments that could provide a preventive system of actions and measures for reduction of environmental risk;
- secondly, it is harmonization of normative-methodical base of management of the environmental safety in Ukraine with European standards.

So the most important direction of the state environmental policy is the institutional transformation with the aim of forming a new legal and economic framework for the regulation of relationships between relevant governmental bodies and natural resource users, introduction of environmental requirements to the procedure of assessment of the socio-economic efficiency of management decisions.

In our opinion, the composition of these transformations should contain the following:

- improvement of the environmental legislation, the system of environmental limitations and regulations regimes of nature management with the purpose of their adaptation to the conditions of liberalization and further rational denationalization of property;
- gradual transition to international standards of technological processes and manufactured products, which creates the necessary conditions for the entry of Ukraine into the world economy and the international system of environmental safety;
- economic incentives through the state tax, credit and pricing policies of resource and energy conservation, implementation of environmental machinery and technologies;
- ensure the implementation of environmental management systems and assessment of impact on different hierarchical levels of management.

We emphasize that the result of these transformations should be the basis for stabilization and further improvement of ecological situation in Ukraine.

Conclusions: Therefore, we can state that today there is an urgent need for the development of ecological management and audit in Ukraine, which is determined by such factors:

- deterioration of environmental situation in the state that is associated with the obvious inefficiency of traditional forms of state ecological control and monitoring;
- the existence of a considerable potential of unused opportunities for solution of environmental problems, many of which do not involve significant financial and material expenditures;

- practical achievements in the field of ecological audit and ecological management in developed Western countries;

- interrelation of the development of environmental management and sustainable development;

- possibility of obtaining substantial economic benefits, including additional profit for enterprises, which in practice are developing projects in the field of ecological management.

Hence, the ecological situation in Ukraine can be stabilized and improved mainly by changing the orientation of socio-economic development of the state, formation of the modern value and moral priorities, review the structure of needs, objectives, priorities and ways of the human activity. All this calls for a complex of radical political, legislative, socio-economic, technological and systemic control measures, including an environmental audit.

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