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THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL SPHERE IN UKRAINE IN THE CONDITIONS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS

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Summary. The specificity of the social sphere in Ukraine in the context of European integration processes is considered in the article. The comparative characteristic of some socio-economic indicators of Ukraine and EU member countries is shown

in the issue. The basic models of welfare states, their differences and peculiarities of financing are researched. Authors characterized the main features of the national model of social policy and determined the main directions of its further development.

Key words: *social sphere, European integration, models of the welfare state, social funding.*

The main purpose of the paper is the investigation of the functioning and development of the social sphere in the conditions of European integration. The paper noted that the process of reforming in Ukraine has a social orientation according to the EU standards. It will create the best conditions for livelihoods and achieve the social justice in the country. It is necessary to mention that a social sphere is a reflection of the state social policy, where social protection and social rights are implemented.

Ukraine's course towards European integration envisages an obtaining of modern characteristics of the quality of living standards. Today Ukrainian economic indicators are far behind countries which are members of the European Union. To our mind, the key factors which are characterized the social policy and their impacts on the human capital are GDP per capita and Human Development Index.

So, today considerable attention should be given to the problem of the quality of life improving. In this context urgent question is a progressive and effective national model of social policy development, which is shown through the social sphere, and is aimed at improving of the well-being indicators of civil society and the country's position in the international arena. Various welfare states have various models of social policy which are characterized by different benefits, funding and organization.

Today Ukraine is characterized by a combination of liberal and conservative models of social policy, since none of them has unique signs in the social life of the country. Taking into account Ukraine's course towards European integration, it is advisable to adapt some experience of European countries for the effective development of the social sphere in our country.

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