

ecological safety in Poland, [24]. According to it, the government bodies of Poland, including local self-government bodies, must take measures to prevent and eliminate epidemic diseases and their negative consequences that worsen life, health, and the environment (Article 68). The state authorities of Poland, at all levels, must protect the ecosystem in accordance with the principles of sustainable development (Article 5). The system of principles underlying the implementation of the state environmental protection policy in Poland provides for the implementation of the environmental protection policy by government bodies for current and future generations through the openness of their results in this area. Government bodies are responsible for the state of environmental protection and support public activities aimed at improving the level of ecosystem protection (Article 78).

In Poland, state control over environmental protection is exercised at three levels of public administration: national, branch and local. The governor carries out local management of ecosystem protection and subordinate institutions at the regional level. The Ministry of Environmental Protection advises the governor on the implementation of the main environmental policy principles. Regional inspections, which monitor compliance with environmental legislation, occupy a key place in the system of environmental management at the local level.

In Spain, the issue of environmental control and environmental safety exercised at the local level is regulated by the 1989 Water Code. This codified regulatory legal act distributes administrative competence between the national government and local self-government bodies and the National Water Council, which implements the water resources protection policy. However, in Spain, the division of responsibilities of national and regional (autonomous) administrations for environmental protection depends on whether this administration goes beyond the borders of the latter.

In Ukraine, the activities of local self-government bodies in the field of environmental protection are regulated by the Law of Ukraine, [25], "On Environmental Protection". The legislator establishes the responsibility of local bodies for environmental protection. The appropriate level of environmental safety and environmental protection is ensured by the executive bodies of village, settlement, and city councils by exercising environmental control.

State control is one of the important functions of public administration, which ensures compliance with legislation adopted by public authorities. State control over environmental protection is based on constitutional state principles (Figure 2).

Publicity: the activities of local self-government bodies are carried out through public control and monitoring, regular publication of the results of their activities, and transparency of holding positions. Systemacy: The local self-government bodies constantly carry out state control as determined by the law. Universality: the legal background of state control covers all problems in the field of environmental protection. Impartiality: exercise of environmental control by persons who are not interested in its results. Objectivity: urgent environmental protection problems are solved by qualified personnel engaged in environmental control. Effectiveness: quick response of territorial bodies to violations of environmental safety standards. Therefore, the existing system of principles of environmental control at the local level proves to be an effective mechanism of legal regulation of environmental protection. This is confirmed through coverage of all possible problems and constant control over their overcoming - both from the side of local authorities and from the side of the public. In addition, environmental control involves the participation of persons who are competent and interested in achieving the result, as well as quick response to violations of environmental norms. The state control at the local level in the sphere of ecosystem protection is shown in Figure 3.

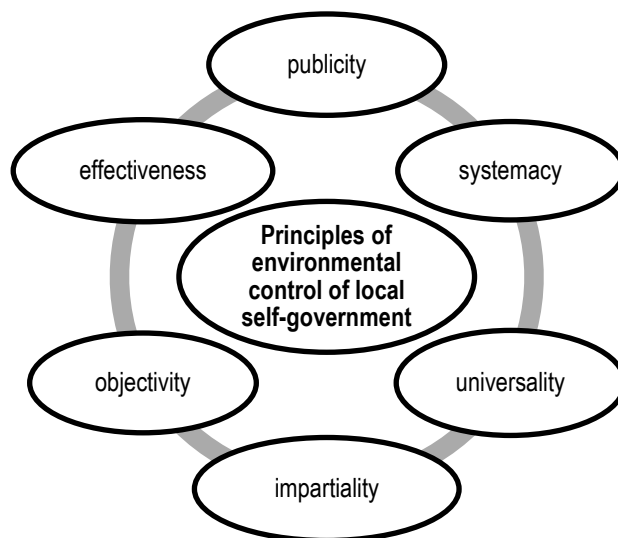


Fig. 2: The system of principles of state control over local self-government in the field of environmental protection

Source: author's own development.

Land and subsoil protection	Protection of forests and other vegetation	Animal protection	Marine environmental protection	Protection of natural territories and objects
Atmospheric air protection	Components of the environment that are the object of state control exercised by local self-government bodies			Compliance with biological and genetic safety measures
Surface and underground water protection	Analysis of the state of the natural environment	Continental shelf protection	Research and use of genetically modified organisms	Water economic zones protection

Fig. 3: Objects of control by local self-government bodies

Source: developed by the author

The existing system of environmental control over all components of the ecosystem at the local level testifies to the effective mechanism of legal regulation of environmental protection.

5 Discussion

The effective environmental control by local self-government bodies depends significantly on the competence determined by public authorities to apply legal means of exercising state control. It also depends on a system of clear protocols for the activities of local bodies and cooperation of local bodies with the public, public organisations, and state authorities.

According to, [1] the effective state control at the local level depends on the targeted activity of local self-government bodies in the field of environmental protection. In, [6], was stated that it also depends on an effective mechanism of

responsibility of local self-government bodies for their inactive and ineffective work in the field of environmental protection. In, [26], saw the dependence on the implemented system of measures to exercise state control of the ecosystem, which are carried out by local self-government bodies. In, [20], was noted that the effectiveness of environmental control at the local level of management depends on balancing the relationship between local self-government bodies and the object of control over environmental protection (water resources, waste disposal, environment, etc.). The scientists' conclusions are fully consistent with the results of the author's research. The advantage of the author's research is the formation of a complex system of principles characterising the effectiveness of state control at the local level, taking into account a wide range of aspects - coverage of problems, speed of response to violations, control, involvement of the public, etc.

The effectiveness of local self-government bodies in the field of environmental protection depends on coordinated cooperation with the public, [14], [15], and effective legal mechanisms in the field of ecosystem protection, [16], [27]. Decentralised management of local bodies has a significant impact on environmental protection, [28], [29]. Control over environmental protection at the local level should depend on the level of implementation of information technologies, [30], [31]. Digitalisation of local self-government bodies has a significant impact on the level of economic security, [32]. These studies support the author's assumptions about the effectiveness of decentralisation in the field of environmental protection but also take into account the current direction of improving management efficiency, such as digitalisation. Although the author's work noted the importance of the use of electronic platforms for citizens, in further research it is advisable to expand this direction of scientific research, strengthening the technological side of research.

An important direction of research, not discussed in detail in the article, is taking into account the need to ensure public order on the part of local authorities. According to, [17] the activities of local self-government bodies should be based on the principles of public order: protect not only the life and safety of people but also their peace.

Was emphasised that it is possible to ensure adequate environmental protection at all levels of public administration by establishing clear protocols governing the cooperation of state bodies, law enforcement agencies, and local self-government bodies, [8], [12], [33]. In the opinion of the author, the public also plays an important role in the protection of the environment, because the issue of preserving and improving ecology directly concerns its interests. Therefore, the public should be singled out as a subject in cooperation for the benefit of the environment.

The conducted analysis allows us to testify that scientists consider it expedient to deepen the scientific search further regarding the improvement of the effectiveness of state eco-control at the local level, which will contribute to the development of the field of environmental protection as a whole, [34]. This consists in determining the optimal mechanisms and criteria of state control, which will maximally contribute to ensuring effective management and preservation of natural resources at the local level. As a result, it can be expected to have a positive impact on the quality of the natural environment, increase the environmental awareness

of society and improve the general state of the environment in the region.

6 Conclusion

The public's general concern for environmental protection emphasizes the need for active and effective activities of territorial authorities to ensure a safe and clean environment. The results of the values survey conducted by the Ukrainian Center for European Policy as part of the World Values Survey project indicate the growing priority of environmental protection issues in society over the years. According to polls, the majority of Europeans identify environmental issues as more important than economic growth.

The development of local self-government in EU countries, initiated by the adoption of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, contributed to the development of democracy and decentralization of power at the local level. This is identified as a key factor that has given local self-government bodies real powers, bringing them closer to citizens. This contributed to meeting the needs of citizens and solving problems related to environmental protection and environmental safety at the local level - in particular, using public electronic systems. State control over local self-government in the field of environmental protection is control exercised by local self-government bodies over compliance with the current legislation on environmental protection and environmental safety. The analysis carried out in the study indicates that each of the considered countries (Poland, Spain, Ukraine) has its own approach to regulating the activities of local self-government bodies in the field of environmental protection, but in all cases, the importance of cooperation of national and local bodies to ensure effective control and protection of ecosystems. The management of local self-government in matters of compliance with the environmental legislation is based on publicity, systemic, effectiveness, objectivity, impartiality, and universality, which allows such management to cover a wide range of problems, to quickly and efficiently solve them with the involvement of competent specialists and the public. The development of local self-government as a result of the rapid introduction of European standards for the decentralization of local authorities entailed the rapid development of democracy. It also had a positive effect on ecosystem protection, assigning the functions of partially solving problems related to compliance with environmental legislation to local bodies.

The prospect of further research is the development of practical recommendations for improving environmental protection by increasing the efficiency of public administration at the local level. The practical value of the study lies in providing state and local government structures with information that will contribute to the development of programs for effective management of natural resources, taking into account the role of local self-government and effective state control in this area. The results of the article can serve as a basis for the development of programs and policy decisions aimed at increasing environmental awareness and supporting national environmental protection initiatives.

Therefore, the prospects for further research involve an empirical study and theoretical-methodological substantiation of effective mechanisms for the implementation of international standards of decentralizing local government and an effective system of local control over compliance with the current environmental legislation.

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