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FEATURES OF LEGAL REGULATION OF SOCIAL INSURANCE IN THE EUROPEAN UNION

The process of creating an effective social security system in Ukraine depends on many factors. One of them is the use of experience of foreign countries in which this system operates continuously and has positive results. The social security system, which is formed in the European Union, is of considerable interest. In July 1994 the European Union and Ukraine signed Partnership and Cooperation Agreement, which is the legal basis for relations between Ukraine and the EU. According to Art. 51, Ukraine shall endeavour to ensure that its legislation will be gradually made compatible with that of the Community.

The legal basis for EU social security are the European Social Charter signed on October 18, 1961, the European Social Charter (revised) signed on May 3, 1996, the European Code of Social Security of April 16, 1964, the Community Charter of Fundamental Social Rights of Workers of December 9, 1989.

In order to fully research the legal principles of social security in the EU it is necessary to clarify the characteristics of legal social security schemes in some European countries. In 2005 at a meeting of the Economic and Financial Committee (Ecofin) in Manchester Belgian scien-

tist and economist Andre Sapir presented to the European Commission typology of welfare regimes – models of social policy different by levels of state intervention in social and economic sectors of society and the degree of social protection of citizens, provision of social freedom to choose for different groups and influence of social processes on economic development. The researcher identified the following models of social policies of the member states: Continental (Austria, Germany, Benelux), Anglosaxon (UK, Ireland), Nordic (Denmark, Sweden, Finland) and Mediterranean (Greece, Spain, Italy, Portugal).

Social security in Continental model was the earliest to develop and acquired unique classical forms. The common feature inherent to Continental model is a strict link between the level of social protection and period of professional activities. Within one model of social policy some countries have differences in legal support system. Continental system of social insurance based on German model is forming in Ukraine. Of course, it is impossible to transfer the social security system of developed countries into the legal framework of our country. However, good practices should be used to build up our own system.