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POPULISM IN THE CONTEXT OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION: THE EXPERIENCE OF BELARUS

The subject of the article is one of issue populism impact on public administration and local government on the example of Belarus.

The topically of the article is that the problem of populism takes one of the leading places among the topics of modern political studies. This is due to the important role of populism in a society, both in theoretical and practical space. The development of populism in any period of its formation is promoted by a number of reasons, including: strengthening the political and economic crisis, social stratification, exacerbation of urgent problems in education, medicine, culture. On this basis there arises populism of the political power and the regime which purpose was to reconcile conflicting interests of different sectors of society and reach consensus between movements and parties that defended them.

Populism is still the topical phenomenon of social and political life of many countries. Making a significant impact on the policy in countries with relatively little experience of democratic institutions functioning, populism, and along with this, quite visibly manifests itself in the modern political space of "old" democracies. There is a clear link between the increasing populism and the exacerbation of socio-economic problems. An important factor contributing to the emergence and growing influence of populist, is the inability of the political establishment, including a fully democratic, one to respond effectively to new difficulties and challenges.

Populism can assume the inevitable companion of political freedom and democracy. Sometimes it appears as a force that promotes political participation, implementation of reforms in the interests of numerous social groups with low status. Meanwhile, leaning to the contrasting rights of the majority of the interests and rights of certain minorities, populism can be a threat to rule of law and basic

political and civil liberties. Wherever populist leaders got power, it became of an authoritarian character, accompanied by harassment and abuse (but not elimination) concerning the opposition.

It is important to emphasize also that the populism, unlike traditional ideological system, is deeply dependent on the characteristics of different national political cultures of a particular set of circumstances, socio-economic and political life of the country.

In a summary, there should be placed an emphasis on the populist traits inherent to the Belarusian authorities, and it has primarily social nature, and in their promotional constructions are generally distanced from the national (nationalist) ideology and values. From our point of view, the current Belarusian political regime can be defined as authoritarian and populist.