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**COMPARISON OF CRIMINAL AND LEGAL PROTECTION OF THE FOUNDATIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN UKRAINE AND EUROPEAN STATES OF BALTIC REGION**

*The author of the paper compares the provisions of legislations on criminal liability of Ukraine and other countries like the Kingdom of Denmark, the Kingdom of Sweden; The Republic of Poland, the Republic of Estonia, the Federal Republic of Germany; the Kingdom of Netherlands for the infringements, which can be considered as infringements on the foundations of civil society.*

*The relevance of the research of the issue of optimal implementation of criminal and legal protection of the foundations of civil society is based on a clear need to establish a balance between the need to increase the impact of the society on public authorities and the need to provide the effective and impartial control of the society. Taking into account the multidimensional nature of this problem it is considered appropriate to conduct the consistent study of certain aspects. Appropriate use of comparative and legal method has to highlight the features of its implementation in the European countries of Baltic region, which, in turn, will allow to determine the best ways of implementing in Ukraine.*

*Forming the base of comparison is realized on the basis of the following principles. First, considering the methodological requirements of referring to the comparison base only typical legal phenomena and those that have sufficient similarity level, it is admitted as correct to include just text provisions of the legislation of the countries with the continental legal system into the comparison base. Secondly, as the European countries of Baltic region are the reference model for reforming Ukraine, then it is considered appropriate to study their criminal, penal, penitentiary codes.*

*The author suggests to realize the research in the form of the reviews of the texts of relevant Criminal Codes aiming to identify in their Special Parts (corresponding sections) the articles, where the infringements (their definition is presented in previous publications) on the foundations of civil society are defined as the basis of criminal liability.*

**Key words:** *comparative method, criminal and legal protection, foundations, civil society.*

