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**REGIONAL BENCHMARKING AS A TOOL OF MUNICIPAL  
AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION**

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***Research Methodology.*** *The general scientific methods have been used in the work: the method of generalization (for the allocation of common features and principles of benchmarking of regional development under different scientific approaches), the system method (with the aim of building a system of interrelated indicators that is appropriate to use during the benchmarking of the region’s development), the synthesis method (in order to combine various socio-economic indicators into an integrated indicator of socio-economic development of territories).*

***Results.*** *The features of benchmarking in assessing the level of competitiveness of the region have been considered, the principles of organization of benchmarking of regional development on the basis of informational opportunities of official statistics have been analyzed. The practical conclusions and recommendations that may be useful for local government bodies that develop regional development strategies have been presented.*

***Novelty.*** *The advantages of using benchmarking tools in order to promote the sus­tainable development of Ukrainian regions and cities and increase the capacity of local authorities to effectively plan social and economic development of territories have been substantiated. The existing approaches to building a system of benchmarking indicators of the region’s development have been systematized.*

***Practical Significance.*** *Practical conclusions and recommendations for introducing a benchmarking system for regional development can be useful for local governments that develop regional development strategies as implemented during the development of Dnipropetrovsk region development strategy.*