

## **Ethnopolitical management in Ukraine and selected EU states: a comparative analysis**

The relevance of the study of ethnopolitical management is beyond question, as state ethno-national policy needs active transformation in the face of the current threat to Ukraine's national security. Ethnopolitical management is the key to this transformation.

Ukraine's ethnic-national policy is pursued by all branches of government and implemented in all areas of public relations where ethnic and interethnic interaction takes place. It ensures the coordination and satisfaction of the needs of all social and ethnic groups in society. One of the most important tasks of the ethno-national policy of Ukraine is to take into account the fact that each region has its own specific characteristics due to historical and economic contradictions.

The chosen research approach makes it possible to understand and consider both the dangers and the possibilities of state ethno-national policy.

An effective state ethno-national policy, which takes into account economic, information, socio-political, cultural and educational factors, should ensure a balance of the interests of the state, regions and citizens.

In the proposed research project, the term "ethno-national politics of Ukraine" is used. On the one hand, Ukraine is a state with a Ukrainian nation, which means that everyone who holds a Ukrainian passport is part of this nation. On the other hand, there are more than 100 ethnic groups within the Ukrainian nation, including the Ukrainian ethnic majority, national minorities (Russians, Greeks, Hungarians, and many others) and indigenous peoples (Crimean Tatars and others).

It is therefore essential to use in this case the synthetic term "ethno-national politics". In the 30 years of its independence, Ukraine pursued a balanced ethno-national policy, but the existing ethnic divisions in the multi-ethnic regions of the state were exploited by other countries, Russia, as in the case of the annexation of Crimea and the occupation of the Donbass in 2014. Differences in the ethno-political self-identification

of the population in the regions can be used as a justification for the interference of neighboring states in Ukraine's internal affairs. An example of this is Russia's military aggression against Ukraine, which began on 24 February 2022 with a large-scale invasion. Recent events increase the relevance of the planned study and manifest its innovative content.

The bifurcation points that the Ukrainian nation had to pass through several times during Ukraine's independence are an important indicator of the transformation of Ukraine's ethno-national politics. There is a widespread hypothesis in the scientific community that during each split Ukrainians chose the further path of Ukraine's development, i.e. either the national-civil consolidation of the entire Ukrainian nation or the actual renunciation of statehood and independence.

The first bifurcation took place in 1991. The second bifurcation took place in 2004-2005 during the Orange Revolution, and the Revolution of Dignity in 2013 was the beginning of the third bifurcation.

The fourth bifurcation began with Russia's large-scale military and hybrid invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, which can be considered as a disruptive moment for the world order as a whole.

### **Research methods**

The SWOT analysis method and SWOT matrix can be profitably applied in the field of political science and policy. An improved SWOT analysis matrix developed by the author of the proposed study is proposed. The matrix adapted to the Ukrainian conditions will help to increase the efficiency of the study of ethnopolitics in Ukraine. In the study of ethnopolitics in Ukraine under conditions of growing turbulence, while the application of the synthesis method will increase the effectiveness of the process, conclusions, and the development of practical recommendations.

The study is based on the results of national sociological surveys conducted by the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology and the Institute of Social and Political Psychology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the Razumkov Analytical Center, the International Republican Institute, the Rating Group, as well as on materials from thematic reports of international and public organizations and many other sociological surveys and studies. Within the framework of the proposed project, there will also be interviews with representatives of national minorities and the ethnic majority (both in Ukraine and in individual EU countries).

"Ethnopolitical management" is conceptualized as a component of the state's administrative system, which performs the control and regulatory functions of the state in the sphere of ethnonational relations. In the structure of ethnopolitical management, the following functional levels are distinguished: strategic - the level of ethnopolitical decisions (president, parliament); tactical - development of specific methods, approaches and means of implementation of the decisions taken (relevant organizations within the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the executive branch); operational - implementation of the state ethnopolitics in the regions (regional departments of the State Administration).

The research is conducted on a large and representative database, and the data are analyzed quantitatively to elicit characteristics and trends in the development of the Phenomena and processes to be elicited. Two classes of sources are distinguished: Single sources ("unique" sources of information) and mass sources.

### **Conceptual structure**

The aim of the project is to carry out a theoretical, methodological and practical analysis of the ethnopolitical management of Ukraine in the relevant national and

international context and to compare it with processes in selected member states of the European Union.

**The study can be divided into three sections:**

In the first section, "Theoretical and methodological foundations and state of research", the most important approaches to defining the essence and system characteristics of the concept of "ethnopolitical management" are outlined, the theoretical framework is presented and the most important research methods (Google tools, Excel tools and others) are introduced.

The second part "Formation and transformation of ethnopolitical management in Ukraine 1991 - 2022" examines the functioning of management structures and institutions, as well as the processes related to the system of ethnopolitical management; elicits the consultative and administrative mechanisms of dialogue management; analyzes trends in the work of bilateral intergovernmental commissions on ensuring the rights of national minorities, both in Ukraine and abroad (Ukrainian-Slovak, Ukrainian-Romanian, Ukrainian-Ugric and German-Ukrainian commissions).

The third section, "Ethnopolitical management in the international dimension: analysis and Comparison" examine the application of ethnopolitical management in various countries of the European Union, including Germany, Romania, the Czech Republic and others.

In the conclusions and recommendations, best possible scenarios for the modernization of ethnopolitical management in Ukraine are proposed: The Development and implementation of proposals to improve the existing institutional structures and consultation processes to create an adequate institutional infrastructure in line with international standards and Ukrainian needs.