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TO OUR READERS



This Journal, Scientific Letters of Academic Society of Michal Baludansky has been conceived by the founders of Academic Society of Michal Baludansky as a printed platform for exchanging knowledge between university scholars and experts from different countries who take a keen interest and activities of the outstanding scientist, educator and statesman Michal Baludansky. The journal is published six times a year. The fifth A issue of year 2017 is devoted to the **Volodymyr Hnatiuk Ternopil National Pedagogical University** and the members of the **International Pedagogical Club "Professional Portfolio"**.

Volodymyr Hnatiuk Ternopil National Pedagogical University is one of the oldest higher education institutions in western Ukraine, which is now established as a recognized education and culture, science and methodology centre of pedagogical education in Halychyna. Its history dates back to 1620 when a brethren school was opened and provided the training of primary school teachers. Volodymyr Hnatiuk Ternopil National Pedagogical University is modern state-owned educational institution which is one of the leading pedagogical institutions of Ukraine and the regional center of pedagogical education in Western Ukraine. According to the ranking of higher educational institutions of Ukraine the university belongs to the top three humanitarian and pedagogical universities, and has been awarded a Laureate Diploma of International Academic Rating of popularity and quality "Gold Fortuna". The university comprises 9 departments, 1 institute and centers of pre-university training and postgraduate educational. 39 subdepartments currently employ 533 teachers, including 1 academician of Academy of Pedagogical Studies of Ukraine, 1 corresponding member of Academy of Pedagogical Studies of Ukraine, 7 academicians of specialized academies, 53 Doctors of Sciences, professors, and 352 Candidates of Sciences, associate professors. There are close to 4500 full-time and part-time students studying at the university, 5 dormitories, 6 gyms, an indoor training area, a stadium, biological station, medical care center, sanatorium-preventorium, computer labs providing access to the Internet, library, reading halls, dining hall and cyber-café are designed to serve the students' needs. The University provides opportunities for professional mastering specialties and specializations, allowing graduates to feel confident in the labour market, creating conditions for mastering innovative teaching and information technologies. In general, today the university concentrate efforts on training highly qualified specialists, young, educated people whom our society needs in times of rapid development of science.

The International Pedagogical Club "Professional Portfolio" is the association of teachers of higher and secondary educational establishments whose aim is to share their professional experience, accumulate and preserve the best teaching methods approved in real life classrooms. The Club was initiated by Olena Dobrotvor, the assistant professor of Pedagogy and Psychology of Professional Education Humanities Institute of National Aviation University and Alexander Skakunov, the author of IT-education project "Zero to Hero" who decided to change the format of traditional training courses completely and create the new informal space for communication and constructive work. To explain more clearly, the feedback from colleagues makes it possible to objectively reflect on teaching practices and prove their own professional achievements, be open to the criticism and recommendations, plan more effective approaches to new classroom situations. Since May 14, 2016 the project has registered 48 participants from different regions of Ukraine as well as Slovakia, Poland, Germany, Bulgaria, Georgia (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/234752410224796/?fref=ts>). Among them are the heads of teaching departments of the universities, the authors of educational projects (including those based on online platforms), scientists and school teachers.

The organizers of the Club launched a series of training workshops and alternative so called anti-conferences named «Self-Teacher». In the given format of pedagogical discussions club members inform colleagues on the ways of improving teaching-learning practices and demonstrate working techniques and ways of evaluating training results. **The following issues have already been discussed:** Critical thinking of the young people, their ideas on training and lectures, Learning a foreign language by "ear-mouth-eyes-hand method", Visualization cognitive activity of students in the classroom, Academic integrity, A workshop on poetry for everybody, Establishing criteria for assessment of student's achievements, Probability theory in the interaction between children and students. In the near future they plan to create a permanent International Open Methodical Center the aim of which will be to organize systematic communication between the teachers of different countries, to issue electronic Portfolio to support current teachers, to expand best practices and support international and democratic education.

Lenka Dubovická, editor

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MANIFEST OF ELECTORAL CULTURE IN THE VOTING FIELD IN KARPATSK-PODILSKY REGION OF UKRAINE

Kuzyshyn Andriy

Annotation:

The theoretical and practical aspects of electoral culture formation are analysed in the article. The role of electoral activity as a form of electoral culture was defined; the influence of the collective memory of people on the electoral process and ideological commitment stability was analysed. Areas of Carpathian-Podilsk region were chosen for the territorial basis of electoral culture formation assessment.

Keywords: Carpathian-Podilsk region, electoral process, electoral culture, election activity, electoral commitment, electoral traditions.

МАНИФЕСТ ОБ ИЗБИРАТЕЛЬНОЙ КУЛЬТУРЕ В ГОЛОСОВАНИИ В КАРПАТСКОМ-ПОДОЛЬСКИЙ ОБЛАСТИ УКРАИНЫ

Кузишын Андрей

Резюме

В статье исследуется поведение избирателей на определенной территории в контексте идеологии избирательной деятельности, условия и факторы, которые влияют на выбор людей. Таким образом формируется традиция выборной активности и коллективной памяти по отношению к определено идеологии. Для исследования были выбраны четыре избирательных каденции в течение периода 2006-2014 годов. Это позволило определить изменения в интересах выборов (голосование), приверженность к определенному типу идеологии, которая была проанализирована в соответствии с показателем голосования для группы политических партий с близкими идеологическими взглядами.

Ключевые слова: Карпато-Подольском регион, избирательный процесс, электоральная культура, избирательная активность, избирательная приверженность, избирательные традиции.

Introduction

Modern voter participation in the electoral processes of national or regional level is based on a certain format of behaviour, which is embodied in the combined concept of "electoral culture". This concept can be considered an indicator of geospatial electoral preferences, which can be measured in space (regions support certain political views and ideas) and time (period of a political party support).

The term "electoral culture" has found its significant reflection in sociological and political studies, but are less represented in the social and geographical area.

One of the first works of national researchers, which was entirely devoted to the electoral culture from the perspective of sociological analysis, scientific research was by O.V. Knyazyeva "Electoral behaviour as a sociocultural phenomenon" [4]. Here the author defines the objective and subjective factors that influence the behaviour of voters, gives a typology of electoral behaviour of others.

Comprehensive study of the electoral culture phenomenon is reflected in the work of Russian political scientist and researcher I.M.Homerova ("Electoral Culture: political analysis"). This paper contains interesting version of nature, construction, operation methods of electoral culture and its place and role in the structure of political culture and electoral process. I.M.Homerov, on the basis of system and architectural design, suggested a working definition of the concept of electoral culture singled psychological, economic, political and spiritual factors that influence the choice of the electorate. Researcher examines electoral culture as a system that simulates another system - political elections.

The thesis "Electoral culture of the population of Ukraine in terms of society transformation" by B. Idrisova is interesting for us as far as it is devoted to this scientific problem in the national sociology [3]. In this paper, the formation of electoral culture of Ukrainian citizens is investigated. The author concludes that the electoral culture of transforming society is a dynamic unity of knowledge, understanding of the nature and content of democratic elections by all participants of the election process, reflecting the real state of learned patterns and behaviour.

Among national experts in the field of social geography the greatest attention to these problems pays M.S. Dnistriansky [2]. In his studies, he assesses the electoral culture by analyzing ethno-territorial structure of Ukrainian

society, historical and geographical features of the territory and geo-political importance of inter-confessional and inter-religious relations in Ukraine.

This issue was considered by us [5] in a slightly different perspective, focusing solely on the outcome of the elections in the territorial section.

Object of the study - electoral culture on the example of the Carpathian-Podilsk region. Subject of the research - electoral culture components at a regional level.

In the preparation process of this publication its purpose was to define the role of electoral activity as a form of electoral culture; analyse how the collective memory of people affects the electoral process and the stability of the ideological commitment (by supporting specific parties or politicians). The importance of these tasks should be evaluated taking into consideration the significance of the electoral process, which is recognized in the civilized world via legitimize state power, is a universal criterion for determining progress in the development of the state and its regions.

Materials and methods

The basis of this publication were statistical calculations, based on data from the Central Election Commission on the results of the parliamentary elections in 2006, 2007, 2012, 2014 [7].

In the preparation process of this publication, components of "electoral culture" concept were considered (factors that affect the electoral culture, electoral activity, electoral commitment, collective memory) for its integrated and comprehensive review. It uses general scientific methods - analytical, statistical, literature, comparative and geographical.

Results and discussion

Nowadays different phrases are used in scientific circulation to describe the phenomenon of "electoral culture" ("culture of political elections", "culture of voters", "electoral culture" and others.). However, if you think deeply of the true nature of these categories, their principal identity becomes more visual, because in the end all participants of the electoral process act as voters.

Electoral culture research or culture of political elections were introduced in the USA. American political scientist P. Lazarsfeld made one of the first detailed studies of factors that affect the electoral choice of citizens. The problem of the

media influence (especially radio and television) on electoral behaviour of Americans was in the centre of his attention. As a result, interesting patterns of the media perception were discovered. P. Lazarsfeld discovered the law of selectivity of the voters' media perception (the average voter pays attention only to information materials that meet his original political views). It was also revealed that people who are members of a social group vote in almost always identical way. In addition, P. Lazarsfeld discovered the law of "opinion leaders" (the massive voter perceives political information much better if it is distributed not just with a specific media, but also a popular personality serves its source - so called. "opinion leaders."

In our opinion, one of the most versatile definitions of electoral culture is the following - a set of knowledge, estimations and norms of electoral behaviour and electoral relationship, electoral process as a whole, the collective memory of people about the electoral process [1, p. 237-238].

Electoral culture has its spatial expressions, which should be taken into account as a range of subjective orientations that define the position of citizens in the electoral process. These include: indicators of public participation in the electoral process, indicators of adherence to certain ideological strength, indicators of consistent ideological line support, indicators of the national and local media impact on the choice of the electorate. Thus is formed a number of internal and external influences factors that determine the electoral culture.

Electoral culture is in a latent condition and is activated only during the election campaign. It can be characterized with time and territorial link, which serve the basis of this kind of culture. Electoral culture factors are historical and geographical traditions, forming election (electoral) culture, existence of social groups united based on welfare, national community, and customary expression indicators.

The election results of the last decade in Ukraine form the opinion that the current electoral culture manifests itself in two ways: the first is connected with the rudiments of the Soviet period, which was formed evident ideological influences and there is a high level of distrust in political institutions and institutions; The second trend is due mediaplyvamy and other forms of modern popularization of information. Analysis geography political commitment over a long period of time allows to say that the electoral culture in the regions Ukraine is still in the formative stage, as there are significant fluctuations in results of electoral adherence to certain ideological trends, indicators of participation in the electoral process.

However, electoral culture depends on social, economic, ethnic and political processes, which have the brightest and complete nature. Territorial orientation of regions with positive influence of neighbours can be taken as the basis for the study (orientation to Poland, Romania, Russia). Next criterion is the formation of social stratification, where the emphasis is put not only on regional financial opportunities, but also on formation of "strong social groups", which managed to adjust successfully to the post-soviet conditions and of "weak communities" that didn't get used to them [6, p. 91].

For electoral culture characteristics analysis such areas were selected as Carpathian-Podilsk region consisting of Zakarpattia, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Chernivtsi, Ternopil, Khmelnytsky and Vinnytsia regions. This research area covers western-central position within the territory of Ukraine and has long historical and geographical connections, which allow identifying it as a single territory.

Assessing voter turnout indicators in the elections as part of the electoral culture, we should emphasize that the population of the area has active social position. However, there is a steady tendency to reduce the number of those who

expressed an opinion during the voting - during the parliamentary elections in 2006 only 70% of voters in the studied region took part, during the elections in 2007 - 67.1%, during the election of 2012 - 66.1%, during the election of 2014 - 59.1% (Pic. 1). However, these figures are significantly higher in comparison with average ones in Ukraine.

In terms of regions, there are also some stable trends. Traditionally, the low turnout is typical for multi-ethnic regions like Transcarpathian and Chernivtsi, where the rate of participation in elections is 7-15% lower than in other regions at this election year. High polling stations attendance is typical for the regions of Galicia (Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Ternopil) - over all election years the turnout was 1-11% higher than in the region generally.

However, there were some specific inter-regional areas. The rates of election process participation differ substantially from those that have characterized the region in general or for a specific regional administrative unit.

In the Transcarpathian region during the electoral sections in 2006 and 2007 the lowest (54-56%) was the turnout in Rakhiv, Tyachiv and Khust areas. They are marked by the dominance of dispersed (scattered) type of rural areas, which do not always coincide with the territorial accessibility of polling stations threshold. During the redistribution of electoral districts (jerimendring technology) in 2012 and in 2014 it became clear that most passive electorate is in Rakhiv and Tyachiv areas (33-37% turnout at the polls).

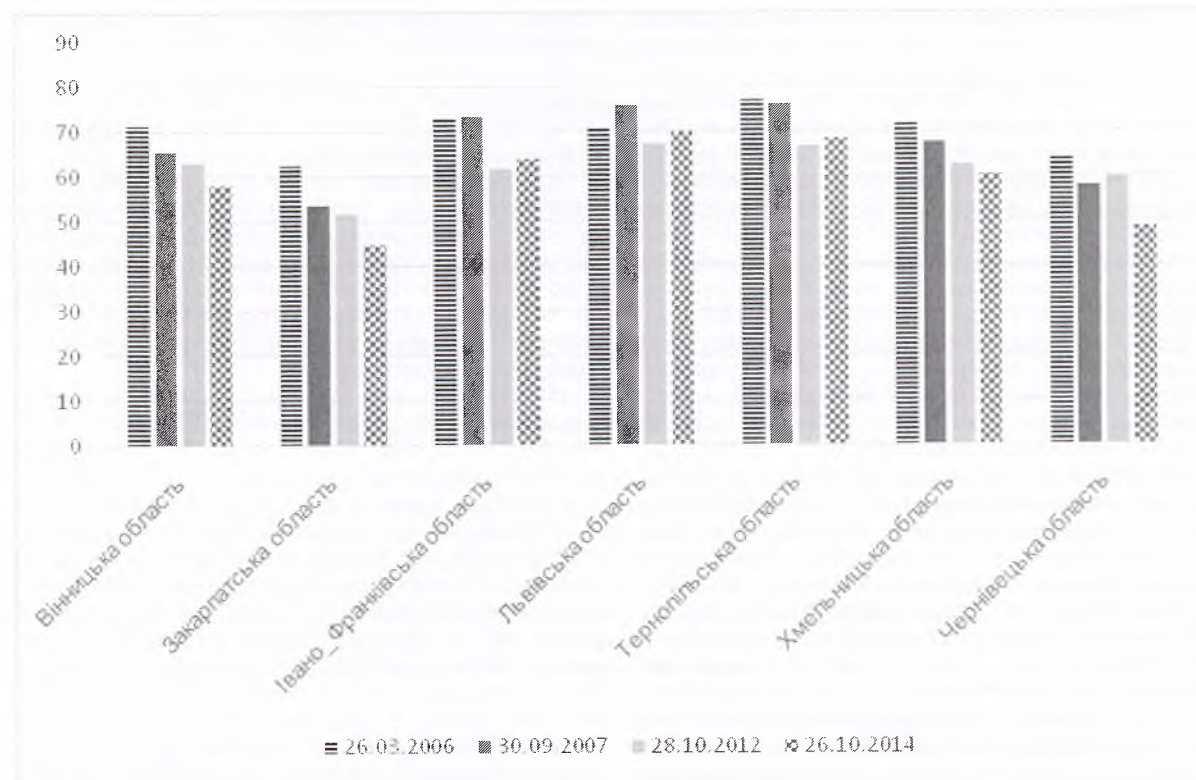
The highest characteristic of polls attendance is in administrative districts within the Lviv and Ivano-Frankivsk regions bordering with each other (Zhydachiv, Rohatyn and Galician). This allows claiming about a significant level of electoral discipline within those areas. In the elections of 2006 and 2007 turnout at the polls here ranged from 85-79% of the total number of voters. Even as a result of new districts repartition the same administrative districts were the leaders in terms of voting (65-74%).

These figures are a sign of clear trends, peculiar to certain areas of the Carpathian-Podilsk region and confirm that these territories possess tradition of participation or absenteeism on the electoral process itself.

Another part of the electoral culture is the collective memory of people in the electoral process, which is reflected in long-term commitment to a particular ideology or beliefs (meaning its support for a certain number of electoral cadences). During 2006-2014 certain laws were defined, related to the identification of certain local communities on leaders and parties who suggest suitable ideology. However, there also were the trends that have emerged in relation to certain ideological or party lines.

During this period in all regional areas, the popularity of far-right views has increased. That is embodied in the support of these parties. If the average rate of election support in 2006 was only slightly more than 1% (only in Lviv and Ternopil regions it has exceeded the rate of 2%), in 2014 the range of this ideology supporters has increased 7-9 times (Ivano-Frankivsk region - 9% Ternopil region - 8%, Lviv - 7%). It is worth noting that the support fluctuations within constituencies located within the same administrative area, are very small. Also, there is a general trend that there is a slightly higher parties support for these political views in all regional centres of the studied area (Ivano-Frankivsk - 10.9%, Ternopil and Khmelnytsky - by 8.2%, Chernivtsi - 6.8%, Vinnytsia - 6.6% Lviv - 6.1% Uzhhorod - 4.4%).

The parliamentary elections of 2006 and 2014 showed total cohesion in public opinion poll in the studied region, as well as Ukraine in general, around the idea of national patriotism without obvious signs of "rightest."



Pic.1 Voter turnout during the elections to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine in the Carpathian-Podolsk region% for [8]

In the westernmost area of the region (and Ukraine) - Transcarpathian, the rate of those who supported right parties for evaluated period has increased from 51% to 70%. In the areas of Galician subregion (Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Ternopil) right parties and right-central orientation had significant support throughout the studied period (in 2006 they were supported by 82 to 86% of the electorate; by 2014 this figure has not changed - from 84 to 88%). There was also relatively high support of that ideology in multi-ethnic Chernivtsi region (almost 71%).

Areas of Carpathian-Podilsk region never showed support to left ideologies. During the period from 2006 to 2014, this trend was clearly monitored. In 2006 these ideologies were supported by an average of 2.6% of votes (maximum - in Vinnytsi region - 5.7%, minimum - in Ternopil region - 0.6%). By 2014, these figures have decreased from 0.35% of voters in the Ternopil and Ivano-Frankivsk regions to 1.8% in the Khmelnytsky region. An interesting point is that the greater support of left parties is common for regional centres in all administrative areas (probably due to the peculiarities of national contingent formation in regional centres in the twentieth century, when Soviet parties functionaries and their families came here).

According to the paraphrased opinion of Y.R. Shwed there are three determinants, which influence electoral culture in Ukraine. These are: 1) national and political – the bigger share of the population are Russians and the closer the border with Russia is - the higher level of "Eurasian political forces" support is. In addition, the closer to Galicia - the more popular right parties are; 2) cultural and modernisation - for cultural centres located in the central elite areas of large cities peculiar "liberal-pluralist" electoral culture is usual (the importance of individual voting choice and popularity of liberal forces, extensive "electoral palette", low electoral activity, a high percentage of those who vote against all). Peripheral territories possess "patriotic traditionalist" electoral culture, national values, absolute advantage in the structure of the electorate limited number of political party supporters, high turnout, a

small percentage of "negativists"; 3) socio-economical - is activated provided that there are significant territorial disparities in economic development levels between the centre and periphery. The favourable economic situation causes popularity of pro governmental centrists at the periphery and unfortunate economic situation - "traditionalist opposition" [6, p. 93].

The current electoral culture can be a prerequisite for expanding rights for self-governed territories. This process has its own characteristics, including: a large accumulation of national-building tasks, economic reform, national unity and overcoming territorial disparities in socio-economic development; continued estrangement of the majority of people in social and political life; controversial process of national party system formation. Electoral culture plays a mediating role in the transmission of social, geographical and political innovations and provides feedback from citizens.

Conclusions

The process of national electoral culture formation still takes place in Ukraine in general, and in the Carpathian-Podilsk region in particular. The reason for this phenomenon is the long-term lack of statehood, problematic definition of a single decision-making centre and common management institutions. The trend towards the gradual levelling of electoral activity due to its increase in eastern studied regions and high consistency of regional character ratings of the electoral process suggest the beginning of the regional needs and interests convergence through the formation of a common problematic field for electoral campaigns. Nowadays, based on our research, a higher formation level of electoral culture demonstrate areas of Galician region (Ivano-Frankivsk, Lviv and Ternopil); in east-Podilsk regions and areas of multi-ethnic character (Transcarpathian, Chernivtsi) electoral culture is an indicator of social cohesion process around a particular range of views and ideas, guided by pro-European and pro-Ukrainian views.

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