

Values of humanitarian security concerning institutional and public support

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ABSTRACT

The study of humanitarian security's value orientations is based on the results of a content analysis of the content of national documents and current publications of Ukrainian and European researchers. It was determined that the values of humanitarian security are correlated with the general humanistic values of strategic development – intellectual freedom, justice, tolerance, people-centeredness. In the conditions of war, one of the key values is "security" (informational, national, personal). From the point of view of national security, the importance of the Strategy's implementation for Popularization of the Ukrainian Language until 2030 "A Strong Language – a Successful State" and the Strategy for the Development of Reading for the period until 2032 "Reading as a Life Strategy" was noted. The formation, development and ability to practically apply critical thinking and media literacy were noted as influential factors for ensuring the humanitarian security of the individual as a result of the civic education development. Special attention is paid to the spectrum of existential problems of humanitarian security, which the author highlights in the context of the study "Psychological well-being in Europe after the outbreak of war in Ukraine", carried out by a research group from many European universities. The results of this study were published in the journal *Nature Communications* in early 2024.

KEYWORDS

humanistic values, humanitarian security, information security, media literacy, national security

Introduction

Historical events that today determine the socio-cultural, political and economic life of Ukraine, namely, the Russia-Ukraine war, which has been ongoing since 2014, and in 2022 has taken the form of a full-scale invasion, actualize discussions on issues of humanitarian security, and, in particular, values of humanitarian security in all the variety of influencing factors, forms of manifestation, reservations and prejudices, possibilities of positive and negative manifestations' measurements. As you know, "value" is something that affects the motivation and choice of a person's behavior, organization, field of activity, country as a whole. In the conditions of martial law, one of the key values becomes "security", human security, humanitarian security, in particular, information security. Real provision of equal access to information, knowledge and cultural heritage, actual awareness of citizens in crisis situations, development of critical thinking and media literacy in various segments of the population in the conditions of information war and hostilities on the territory of the state – far from the entire range of issues that require research and response. We aim to discuss the main values of humanitarian security, based on the understanding that humanitarian security is a philosophical, socio-economic and political concept, a concept that can simultaneously be considered from the standpoints of a socio-communicative and etatist approach. In general, it is a set of actions on the part of authorities, state and non-state organizations, which cover many spheres of human life and are aimed at

ensuring the state of security of both an individual and entire groups, peoples, protecting their goals, ideals, values, traditions, lifestyle, culture, etc. At the same time, the social and communicative processes that we will analyze are closely related to the humanitarian sphere of activity.

Therefore, it is worth noting that within the scope of this study, we fully agree with the definition of M. Bayun, in which it is noted that "the humanitarian sphere of the state today is a set of non-productive, socially oriented industries that contribute to the satisfaction of the spiritual level, the provision of state-guaranteed human rights and freedoms through provision of educational, cultural, medical, and informational services to citizens" (*Bayun, 2018: 190*)

Research methods

The research methodology is based on the complex application of general scientific approaches and methods. The historical approach is used to study the dynamics of scientists' views on the meaning of the "information security" concept in relation to the concepts of "media literacy" and "critical thinking". The combination of a socio-communicative approach with a systemic approach contributed to the identification of common humanistic values declared in national documents of the strategic development of Ukraine in 2016-2023. The set of research techniques and methods consists of methods of system analysis, content analysis of scientific publications and websites' resources of institutions and projects, expert observation, synthesis and generalization.



Results and Discussion

First, issues of values, including humanistic values, were considered by the author of the article in a 2021 study (*Voskoboinikova-Guzeva, Tereshchenko, 2021*), where the key objects were the development strategies of leading Ukrainian and foreign university libraries. At that time, the results of the study demonstrated that the basic values of the European university libraries' development are correlated with each other; common priorities are openness, accessibility, partnership, innovation, responsibility, honesty and service. At the time of the research, we did not single out such a value as "humanitarian security" or "information security". However, if we extrapolate the key values of the strategic development of university libraries to the main components of the well-known global intergovernmental program of UNESCO "Information for All" (2000), namely such priorities as information for development, informational literacy, information preservation, information ethics and information availability, it is possible to make a conclusion that, firstly, they are also correlated. Secondly, in terms of responsibility, honesty, development of informational literacy (in the global sense of the issue) and the preservation of information, it is worth assuming that we are talking about efficient components of such a concept as "information security". Therefore, UNESCO's "Information for All" program, aimed at promoting general access to information and knowledge in the interests of the entire global community's development, prompts us to think about the global question: is information security possible for everyone? Thirdly, all positions determined during the research (values of strategic development) were correlated with general humanistic values – intellectual freedom, justice, tolerance, humanocentrism.

Within the scope of this study, we focus on the institutional support of humanitarian security values and suggest using the content analysis method to examine some strategic documents under the conditions of which the humanitarian, in particular, the educational, library, and information spheres of Ukraine are developing. Thus, at this stage of the study, the source base of our research is a set of official documents, which includes the Strategy for the Development of Library Affairs for the period until 2025. "Qualitative changes in libraries to ensure the sustainable development of Ukraine" (2016), Concept of the civic education development in Ukraine (2018), Strategy for popularization of the Ukrainian language until 2030 "A strong language – a successful state" (2019), National Security Strategy of Ukraine "Human security – country's security" (2020), Information Security Strategy (2021), Reading Development Strategy for the period until 2032 "Reading as a life strategy" (2023).

Undoubtedly, humanistic values are the basis of the Library Development Strategy for the period until 2025 "Qualitative changes in libraries to ensure sustainable development of Ukraine". The document defines "library activity priorities in the conditions of qualitative changes aimed at the consolidation of society; observance of European values, integration into the European community; improving the quality of life; equal access to information, knowledge and cultural heritage" (*About approval, 2016*). At the stage of development and discussion of this document, the issue of security, in particular "information security", was not singled out, but the directions provided by the document for preserving and replenishing the funds of Ukrainian libraries, digitizing the most valuable part of the

national document resource – testify to a deep understanding of this issue's importance for the development of the industry.

The following national documents are devoted to the development of humanistic values. From the standpoint of national security, such important national issues as the popularization of the Ukrainian language and the development of reading are considered. Aimed at the formation of a developed and functional language environment and cultural space, the Strategy for the Popularization of the Ukrainian Language until 2030 "A Strong Language – a Successful State" fixes the threat to national security in the conditions of armed aggression and violation of the territorial integrity of Ukraine. The document emphasizes that "language is not just a means of communication, but an important component for the formation of an individual, his self-identification, national consciousness" (*Strategy, 2019*). We also draw attention to the tasks defined in the implementation of the second strategic goal: "forming the perception of the Ukrainian language among the population of Ukraine as an element of national security" and "neutralizing the threats that arise as a result of information and psychological warfare, vilipending the Ukrainian language and culture, distortion of history of Ukraine, etc." (*Strategy, 2019*). The libraries of Ukraine possess a wide range of information and analytical technologies and have experience in resisting information wars, therefore, it can be predicted that the security aspect will also be reflected in future industry development strategies. The losses and destruction suffered by the country's library and information system during the Russia-Ukraine war (*Zdanovska, 2022; Kravchenko et al., 2023*) testify to the need for increased attention to humanitarian and information security. The post-war restoration of document funds and the system of educational and cultural institutions in the de-occupied territories of Ukraine should take place in close cooperation with the development of the national book publishing industry, the book distribution system and, in general, reading as a national idea.

Currently, the Strategy for the development of reading for the period until 2032 "Reading as a life strategy" focuses on issues of national security. As noted in the document, "the implementation of the Strategy is a necessary condition for ensuring the national security of Ukraine, as it fulfills the task of developing Ukrainian culture and the human potential of the nation, which is the basis of preserving Ukrainian statehood and identity, national consolidation, modernization, sustainable development of society and each of its members" (*Strategy, 2023*).

The implementation of the Concept of Civic Education Development in Ukraine (2018, with changed in 2022) is also aimed at sustainable state development, national consolidation, and preservation of national identity. It should be noted that the European community includes civic competences together with social competences among the eight basic competences for lifelong learning.

The Concept states that civic education "should be based on the values of an active life position, personal efficiency, truth, truthfulness and critical thinking, mutual respect, open communication and efficient cooperation, human rights and joint protection of these rights" (*Concept, 2018*). Expanding the possibilities of fast and unlimited access to information, open communication, in particular in social networks, from the standpoint of the socio-communication approach, are the advantages of human life in the 21st century. On the other hand, in the conditions of an

aggressive information war on the part of the aggressor country, each person needs to learn a set of skills that will protect him from the negative effects of misinformation and deliberate manipulation. Thus, the main tasks of civic education include, among others, "the formation and development of critical thinking and media literacy, the ability to apply them practically" (*Concept, 2018*).

Involuntarily, a certain conceptual triad "information war – media literacy – information security" is being built, within which we intend to continue the discussion. A number of modern academic authors provide us with relevant material for content analysis, comparison and synthesis. To deepen the analysis on the content of the "information security" concept, we draw attention to the publications of O. Berezovska-Chmil (2021), V. Golubovska (2013), S. Zakirova (2024), O. Danilyan and O. Dzoban (2022), N. Kunanets and M. Prystai (2022) and others.

Thus, in the publication of Yu. Horban and O. Oliynyk, it is noted that "as Ukraine continues to defend its sovereignty and democratic values from external aggression, the ability of its citizens to critically analyze and respond to media content has become a crucial component of national security and stability" (*Horban, Oliynyk, 2024: 203*). Justifying the concept of Ukrainian media literacy as an information weapon in the conditions of war, the authors of the article propose to implement certain strategies that will contribute to raising the level and further development of media literacy: educational programs; information campaigns; trainings and seminars; fact-checking support; partnerships with the media (*Horban, Oliynyk, 2024: 202*).

O. Danilyan and O. Dzoban in the section "Information security of man and society in modern socio-cultural conditions" of the collective monograph emphasize that "at the current stage of the information society's development, the problem of ensuring the protection of the subject-consumer of information from harmful information influence acquires special importance" (*Brovko et al., 2022: 47*). In general, from the standpoint of a humanitarian approach, researchers consider information security in the context of problems related to the spiritual renewal of society, compliance with the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens in the field of information activities.

Researcher O. Berezovska-Chmil proposes to understand information security as the state of protection of individuals (social groups, associations, society as a whole) from influences capable of influencing emotions, moods, value orientations, changing mental state and socio-psychological characteristics, modify behavior and limit the freedom to form one's own position (*Berezovska-Chmil, 2021*).

In our opinion, "awareness" should be considered an important component of humanitarian security – as a value of humanitarian security, which means the availability of vital information for a person in his native or understandable language. Such value becomes especially important during military operations, natural disasters, and nowadays also during the process of Ukrainian citizens' forced emigration to other countries. To date, there are already many studies and observations on informational support for forced migrants, or "refugees from the war". For their support – informational, social, material – special information resources are created, which are supported and promoted by various structures in different countries of the world – local and state authorities, international organizations, volunteer centers, humanitarian funds, educational institutions, etc. The researcher in this field of information activity

S. Zakirova notes that the general array of special information resources created in different countries of the world to support and help Ukrainian refugees from the war, concerns such main areas as: legalization of the status of refugees (obtaining legal status, regulatory framework, document preparation), socialization and integration in the host country (employment, housing, social insurance, medicine, education) and arranging life in a new place (transport, animals, everyday life) (*Zakirova, 2024: 30*). From her own experience, the author of the article states that the additional value of such vitally necessary "awareness" is added by lively everyday communication with representatives of the host country's organizations, which contributes to the establishment of a sense of humanitarian security for persons in forced emigration. At the same time, it is worth noting the versatile activity of pro-Ukrainian public organizations, which use various forms of interaction with new migrants – meetings, demonstrations, trainings, lectures, courses, exhibitions, consultations, performing functions humanitarian, informational and cultural support, carrying out supporting activities, which ultimately create a sense of humanitarian security in forced migrants, guarantee their inclusion in the social, cultural, economic and political life of another country. The activities of such organizations help to solve a whole range of existential problems – psychological, social, ethical, value, which also belong to the spectrum of "humanitarian and information security".

Thus, researcher V. Golubovska, in addition to existential problems, singles out such information security problems as "the problem of "digital inequality", which concerns the disproportionality in the use of the Internet and information and communication technologies in general; the risk of losing national identity, which is provoked by the contradiction between the globalization of the world and the identity of a specific community in the conditions of the development of a new society based on network structures and technologies; the problem of information wars, attacks, operations, which is intensified in the conditions of using information as a weapon in wars and a tool of political struggle" (*Golubovska, 2013: 10*).

The views of foreign researchers are also important in the context of the problem under discussion. Since, if we continue the topic of humanitarian security values during military operations, it is worth noting that the feeling of security is transformed not only in citizens whose countries are directly involved in a military conflict, but also in those citizens who are outside the conflict zone, but also feel certain social, economic and psychological consequences of such a conflict. Analyzing the next two publications, I will focus on the "feeling of well-being" that was investigated by our European colleagues. This is a large-scale study of an international war's psychological consequences (*Zdanovska, 2022*), the results of which demonstrated a collective decrease in the sense of well-being. The study was based on 45,000 individual surveys of 1,300 people in 17 European countries with the participation of more than 50 researchers, and its results were published in the journal *Nature Communications* (*Scharbert et al., 2024*).

We found the first information about the results of such a large-scale study on the website of the Free University of Brussels (Kingdom of Belgium), where the author of the article was a visiting researcher in 2022-2023. On February 27, 2024, in the research section, information was published under the somewhat provocative title "Ukraine-Russia: morale in the conditions of the conflict", which attracted our attention (*Ukraine-Russie, 2024*). The report noted that

the Russia-Ukraine conflict has serious social and economic consequences, but the psychological consequences for the population of Europe are no less important. A team of scientists led by researchers from the University of Münster (one of Germany's largest universities) studied the psychological effects of an international war, demonstrating a collective decline in the sense of well-being. This unique study was performed in various European countries during two months after the start of the war on February 24, 2022. Belgian researcher Jasper Van Assche from the Center for Social and Cultural Psychology (CESCUP) at the Faculty of Psychology, Educational Sciences and Speech Therapy collected the data in Belgium and provided critical comments. Overall, the results of the study show that collective mental stress was higher than after the Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011 and after its containment in 2020. The sense of well-being among Europeans was significantly lower than among people in other countries of the world. Individual personality traits play a crucial role in recovery from shock.

The survey did not reveal a connection between the level of anxiety and active solidarity (donations, demonstrations, etc.). Deterioration in the mean level of mental health was observed on days when the war was particularly present on social networks. As stated in the message, "residents of Ukraine and Russia probably experienced a much higher level of stress, but there are no data for these countries."

Directly in the pages of the article with the results of the study, in the subsection "Consequences of the war", we have the opportunity to familiarize ourselves with the justifications and conclusions of the study. In particular, a team of European scientists investigated the issue "whether everyday well-being correlates with the everyday life of war." The authors explain that one potential way in which the outbreak of the war could have affected the well-being of European citizens is the extent to which people were exposed to the war and thus began to think about humanitarian catastrophes or dangerous consequences for themselves. To investigate this possibility, the researchers analyzed the daily number of tweets containing the keyword "Ukraine" around the world and used this as a sample-independent measure of the daily salience of the war on social media. A separate illustration in the text of the article depicts the mean daily well-being score in our sample and the number of tweets related to Ukraine per day worldwide. Both indicators showed related events in weeks that corresponded to the development of the war. For example, a decline in well-being on the day of the Russian invasion coincided with an increase in tweets related to Ukraine, which slowly subsided in the following weeks.

Perhaps the materials of this article deserve a more thorough analysis, we hope that Ukrainian scientists will pay attention to it and we will see a comparative analysis of the indices of the "everyday well-being" influence and "everyday life of war" influence taking into account the invaluable reactions and experiences of Ukrainian respondents. In conclusion, we would like to note that the above study covered many factors of humanitarian security, highlighting the value of "everyday well-being", which directly correlates with the level of mental health in Europeans.

Conclusion

While researching the value of humanitarian security, we were aware of the fact that in the conditions of a full-scale war, such an issue can only be considered taking into

account changes in the priorities of the life activities in certain groups of the population, in particular citizens of Ukraine who are in the occupied territories, citizens who are in forced exile emigration, citizens of other countries that are not directly in the zone of military conflict, but also experience the entire spectrum of social, economic and psychological impact of war.

The main conclusion is obvious and is that during the period of martial law, the key value of society becomes "security", life security, human security, humanitarian security, in particular, information security. In our opinion, the values of humanitarian security, among others, include the informational component, which refers to the problem of ensuring equal access to information, knowledge and cultural heritage to all citizens, regardless of their location and property wealth; problems of increasing the level of actual awareness of citizens regarding vital resources and dangers; problems of developing the ability of citizens to critically analyze information and master media literacy.

Such values as safe living conditions, intellectual freedom, justice, tolerance, an active life position, truthfulness and critical thinking, mutual respect, a sense of social, physical and mental well-being are key in the context of humanitarian security.

The value of "well-being" as a feeling of safety, security and stability of everyday life, in the context of other values of humanitarian security, turned out to be a priority, which was proven by the results of a large-scale European study "Psychological well-being in Europe after the outbreak of war in Ukraine" (2024, Nature Communications). After all, the sense of security decreases not only among citizens whose countries are directly involved in the military conflict, but also among those citizens of the world who are outside the conflict zone, but also feel the social, political, economic and psychological consequences of the war.

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Цінності гуманітарної безпеки у вимірах інституціональної та громадської підтримки

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Дослідження ціннісних орієнтирів гуманітарної безпеки базується на результатах контент-аналізу змісту загальнодержавних документів та актуальних публікацій українських та європейських дослідників. Визначено, що цінності гуманітарної безпеки корелюються із загальними гуманістичними цінностями стратегічного розвитку - інтелектуальною свободою, справедливістю, толерантністю, людиноцентризмом. В умовах війни однією з ключових цінностей стає «безпека» (інформаційна, національна, особиста). З позицій національної безпеки зазначена важливість реалізації Стратегії популяризації української мови до 2030 року «Сильна мова – успішна держава» та Стратегії розвитку читання на період до 2032 року «Читання як життєва стратегія». Впливовими факторами для забезпечення гуманітарної безпеки особистості як результату розвитку громадянської освіти відзначено формування, розвиток та вміння практично застосовувати критичне мислення та медіаграмотність. Особлива увага приділена спектру екзистенційних проблем гуманітарної безпеки, які авторка висвітлює в контексті дослідження «Psychological well-being in Europe after the outbreak of war in Ukraine», виконаного дослідницькою групою з багатьох європейських університетів. Результати цього дослідження оприлюднені в журналі *Nature Communications* на початку 2024 року.

Ключові слова: гуманістичні цінності, гуманітарна безпека, інформаційна безпека, медіаграмотність, національна безпека.

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