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SOCIETY, TRAPPED VALUES AND FUTURE OF HUMANITY IN EUROPE: THE LESSONS FOR UKRAINE

The article is devoted to the formation of European values in Ukraine in the conditions of social transformations. The author defines that values are the system-forming core of activity and inner spiritual life of a person, and the system of values is the link that unites society and the individual, involving them in the system of social relations. It has been found that the main European values, which are distinguished by the profile organizations and on which the European community is based, are the following: respect for human dignity; fundamental rights, including the rights of communities and families; freedom (expression of will, freedom of speech, freedom of the media); democracy; equality of all members of society, including minorities; rule of law; pluralism; non-discrimination; tolerance; justice; solidarity; responsibility; equal gender rights. By signing the Association Agreement with the European Union, Ukraine has committed itself to develop relations with the European Union on common values. European values as fundamental ones are reflected in the Constitution of Ukraine.

It has been determined that in the European Union values perform various functions (political, aimed at ensuring democracy, development of the rule of law, anti-discrimination, civil rights and human freedoms; consolidating – the formation of the European community and common social and humanitarian space; society, preservation and dissemination of European values, legal – justice, guaranteed by an ombudsman, protection of human and civil rights, economic – the formation of a socially-oriented market economy, ensuring balanced economic growth, full employment, prosperity, well-being, guaranteed property, overcoming poverty; social – achieving social harmony, social security and social assistance, health care, support for the family, protection of vulnerable groups, cultural – preservation of traditions, freedom of religion, language policy support, development of education, culture; information and communication – providing access to documentation, interaction with citizens.

Key words: values, universal values, European values, European Union, value orientations, democracy, reforms, social transformations.

Статтю присвячено питанням формування європейських цінностей в Україні в умовах суспільних трансформацій. Визначено, що цінності є системотвірним ядром діяльності та внутрішнього духовного життя людини, а система цінностей – це та ланка, яка об'єднує суспільство та особистість, залучаючи їх до системи суспільних відносин. Встановлено, що до основних європейських цінностей, які виокремлюються профільними організаціями та на яких ґрунтується європейська спільнота, належать: повага до людської гідності; фундаментальні права, зокрема права спільнот і родин; свобода (волевиявлення, слова, ЗМІ); демократія; рівність усіх членів суспільства, зокрема меншин; верховенство закону; плюралізм; відсутність дискримінації; толерантність; справедливість; солідарність; відповідальність; рівні гендерні права. Підписавши Угоду про асоціацію з Європейським Союзом, Україна зобов'язалася розвивати відносини з Європейським Союзом на спільних цінностях; європейські цінності як фундаментальні знайшли відображення у Конституції України. Встановлено, що у Європейському Союзі цінності виконують різноманітні функції (політичну, консолідуючу, інтегративну, правову, економічну, соціальну, культурну, інформаційно-комунікативну).

Ключові слова: цінності, загальнолюдські цінності, європейські цінності, Європейський Союз, ціннісні орієнтації, демократія, реформи, суспільні трансформації.

Introduction. European values are an important factor in the democratization and humanization of all spheres of society. Their special role is manifested in those societies that seek democratic change. Our state, Ukraine, also belongs to such societies.

Today in Ukraine there is a unified opinion on the need to implement democratic reforms in all areas. The Ukrainian nation is strengthened by its democratic progress through the realization of freedom of speech, support for civil society, protection of the rights of national minorities, and the development of education.

In Ukraine, as in most European countries, a policy of national dialogue, tolerance and protection of the heritage of different cultures is being developed. Therefore, the focus on European values is extremely important for the further development of the Ukrainian state as one of the European countries.

Review of Literature. The category “value” is the subject of theoretical research in many humanities – philosophy, sociology, psychology, pedagogy, social pedagogy, ethics, aesthetics, economics, political science, and others. The basis of any socio-pedagogical system is certain values that are landmarks, spiritual vectors of its functioning [2, p. 11]. Values are the basis for a person’s choice of goals, means and conditions of activity, which answer the question: why is this or that activity carried out for? Values include the means and criteria by which a person characterizes the phenomena in the public consciousness and culture [5].

Values are the system-forming core of human activity and inner spiritual life. Each of the key values expresses the essential (what makes a person a person), attitude to the world around, and the value system gives an idea of the relationship “man-world”. The system of values carries out social regulation of the highest level. The system of values is the link that unites the society and the individual, involving them in the system of social relations [4, p. 3].

Foreign scholars A. Binet, D. Dewey, D. Cullen, A. Lai, A. Neill, D. Tomlinson, V. Frankl devoted their works to the study of the theoretical foundations of the formation of value orientations, just like the domestic scholars did: M. Guzyk and I. Zyazyun, V. Karakovsky, I. Kostyuk, J. Omelchenko, T. Spirina, O. Sukhomlynska, S. Kharchenko, L. Khoruzha, V. Shatalov, and others.

The problems of European values have been studied by such Ukrainian scientists as N. Amelchenko, I. Bekh, M. Boryshevsky, R. Voitovych, V. Goshovska, V. Knyazev, L. Kotsur, M. Mykhalenko, L. Pashko, V. Pylypchuk, I. Smeshko, I. Surai, and others.

Selection of previously unsolved parts of the overall problem. History has shown that the European values have the nation’s most powerful unifying potential. And the leading of these values is democracy.

The European Union is a community of values. Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union states that it is based on the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law; these principles are shared by all Member States [1].

The strength of Europe is the inviolable values that make it the most important center of world civilization, and the unity of these values is the foundation on which the European Union stands.

The main problem facing the world in the XXI century – is the search for a model of harmonious relationships of different civilizations by mutual “grinding” of their inherent value systems, which should not exclude, but complement and enrich each other.

Having come a long way and paid a huge price in the form of human suffering, Europe has learned to free itself from historical antagonisms and resolve conflicts peacefully, to live in conditions of great cultural diversity. The multivariate nature of European development and the multiplicity of value systems are advantages, as they create the habit of coexistence of different denominations, nations, and traditions. These are the lessons that are very important to learn in Ukraine at the moment.

The goals of the article. The goal of the article is to analyze the problem of European values in order to develop them in Ukraine in the period of social transformations.

Results. European values are standards in certain areas of society and the state, such as the formation of public authorities and governance (democracy standards), the interaction of branches of government, the activities of parties and the existence of a multiparty system in general, the attitude of the government and citizens to the law, the interaction between the state and the citizen (the aspect of human rights and freedoms), economic management (education and science), establishing a dialogue between the government and society, and others.

The main European values, which are singled out by profile organizations and on which the European community is based, are the following ones: respect for human dignity; fundamental rights, including the rights of communities and families; freedom (expression of will, freedom of speech, freedom of the media); democracy; equality of all members of society, including minorities; rule of law; pluralism; non-discrimination; tolerance; justice; solidarity; responsibility; equal gender rights [3].

The European future gives Ukraine not only new rights, opportunities, but also another measure of responsibility for maintaining security and stability both in its countries and in the region as a whole. Accordingly, Ukraine has the task to fulfill its international obligations, which is possible only in the context of European values: the rule of law, an independent, strong, professional judiciary, the development of education and science, and other [9].

The value of every society, including the European Union, is the security of the country, which is directly related to the possibility of life in this society. Another such vital value is the economy, which provides primarily satisfaction the material needs of people in the form of goods and services. An important value of the state as a country is culture, medicine, health care, and life, which are those forms of direct existence in which the daily life of the individual and family takes place.

Science is one of the most important values of the state. Education and training are closely connected with science. This means that they must be constantly in the spotlight of any state.

Civil peace is an important value of society and a task of the state. After all, the existence and successful functioning of the country directly depends on maintaining and supporting its law and order. Order within society means its cohesion, integration as opposed to conflict and degradation. In the name of peace and harmony, the state is called upon by law to protect the rights and freedoms of citizens, regulate relations between social strata, parties, movements, prevent, eliminate socially dangerous conflicts, counteract attempts to seize state power by force and illegality etc. [5].

Social and moral values underlie European civilization and at the same time are universal, not indifferent to other nations. Foremost, it is the position of the individual in society. Since ancient times, European civilization is based on a certain social contract between rulers and ruled.

The next is rationality and justice. At all times, seats in the Supreme Court could be reserved for a reason only – but anyone who spoke on its behalf at any time is always subjected to careful critical appraisal. Criticism and dissatisfaction (rather than self-confidence and freedom from doubt) proved to be the most constant component of rationality as a European value. To be rational means to always doubt whether the mind’s orders are properly understood or correctly applied, and what should be corrected urgently. Just as rationality manifests itself in full force when it questions the unchanging order of things, justice in full voice makes itself felt when society is accused of dishonesty, inequality, favoritism, corruption, or prejudice. It is this value that underlies all solidarity and thus makes society possible. Justice is pushing humanity to unite in peace and friendship.

Democracy is next on the list of the most important and defining European values. As a value, democracy can give rise to many ways of governing and organizing common affairs, which

sometimes differ radically. Democracy means that citizens always have a certain task. Democracy exists through the active and persistent participation of citizens. As soon as this participation freezes, democracy disappears. Thus, there is no democracy or an autonomous society without autonomous citizens – citizens who have the personal will and individual responsibility for what they do. This freedom is another value. Democracy is based on the freedom of citizens, and citizens form their confidence that they are free in a democracy. These two elements form each other and are formed in this process.

Speaking of the separation of powers, it is important to note that it is based on a social contract between rulers and ruled. Yes, it undoubtedly has a deeper socio-philosophical meaning and practical significance in society. It should be emphasized that power in society is not limited to political authority represented by the state. Along with political power in any society, there is also economic, spiritual, and moral power, as well as other forms. It is the presence of a wide range of power in its various forms that makes it possible to distinguish between the state and civil society. The more polycentric the distribution of power in society, the more democratic it is, the greater the independence of citizens from the state. And in this respect, European civilization since ancient times has embodied a similar polycentrism, the dispersion of power in society, including both the relative independence of various forms of government and its limitations at different levels, taking into account certain autonomy of local government.

Finally, the freedom of the individual as a universal value, as well as other human rights largely have their source in this division of political and spiritual power in society, so that the individual not only found a moral ideal that promotes its independence and desire for happiness but also became in many respects independent, sovereign in matters of choice between good and evil.

Responsibility is one of the most important European values, which means awareness of the essence and significance of activities, their consequences for society and social development, actions of a person in terms of the interests of society or a particular group. The main thesis of this definition is the “awareness” of personal actions. If a person realizes the wrongness of his/her action but does nothing to correct it, then it should not be expected from others. Ukraine and the West have different attitudes to this concept: the majority of the West population has this awareness, and only some enthusiasts have it in Ukraine. Awareness alone is not enough, the key factor is the ability to admit one’s wrong actions and take responsibility for it, even at the cost of own interests. Thus, respect and value understanding of the word “responsibility” as an applied mechanism for regulating social relations is nurtured.

A duty is a set of moral obligations of a person to others. But responsibilities in public relations presuppose a set of bilateral moral obligations and their fulfillment. For example, in the West, there are real responsibilities of the state to the person and the person to the state. In Ukraine, however, many believe that only the state has responsibilities, and a person does not [8].

Socio-political activity of the population is another component of European values, which contributes to the quality development of the state [11].

For Ukraine, the issue of values remains extremely relevant, although European values have long been a recognized object in public administration. As a member of the Council of Europe, Ukraine has statutory obligations to ensure democracy, protect human rights, and ensure the rule of law. By signing the Association Agreement with the European Union, Ukraine has committed itself to develop relations with the European Union on common values; European values as fundamental are reflected in the Constitution of Ukraine.

In the conditions of insufficient effectiveness of public policy in the context of global problems of today, confrontation of cultures, excessive stratification of society, citizens, based on their own social experience, independently produce a scale of values and worldviews, which sometimes contribute to destructive social development.

Under such conditions, the task of public policy should be to influence the formation of a system of worldview and value orientations of society and each individual through the involvement of all social institutions, based on the need to rethink values, analyze European experience, overcome paternalistic sociocultural genotype and, finally, form their vision of the future and social active model of the behavior of every citizen of Ukraine [10].

The grounds for choosing basic social institutions that influence the formation of consciousness and value orientations of society are fundamental human needs and common goals that are effectively and systematically met by these institutions, including the need for security, protection of life and well-being, social harmony, justice, quality of life, socialization and self-realization, spirituality and culture, etc.

Above all, it is a complex of social institutions, in particular, the institution of politics, security, economy, education, culture, family, information, religion, and others that increase the efficiency of the regulatory function of the state.

European values such as support for peace and democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law, sustainable development, social harmony, and protection, which unite the basic needs of society, must be actualized in public policy, which will create all preconditions for Europeanization of public administration and increase the effectiveness of policy in the field of socio-humanitarian security.

In the European Union, values perform a variety of functions, including:

- political, aimed at ensuring democracy, development of the rule of law, anti-discrimination, ensuring civil rights and human freedoms;
- consolidating – the formation of the European community and a common socio-humanitarian space;
- integrative – consolidation of European society, preservation, and dissemination of European values;
- legal – ensuring justice, guaranteeing the assistance of the ombudsman, protection of human and civil rights;
- economic – the formation of a socially-oriented market economy, ensuring balanced economic growth, full employment, welfare, well-being, guaranteeing property, overcoming poverty;
- social – achieving social harmony, social security and social assistance, health care, support for the family, protection of vulnerable groups;
- cultural – preservation of traditions, freedom of religion, support of language policy, development of education, culture;
- information and communication – providing access to documentation, interaction with citizens etc. [7].

Particular attention should be paid to public administration in the field of education and culture. At the present stage of development of the “knowledge society”, education is becoming a priority. That is why education, which is directly related to the scientifically acceptable scientific paradigm, should play a leading role in constructing the worldview of the citizens of Ukraine.

The concept of the European Community is based on the following fundamental principles of creating a single educational space: a multicultural Europe, a mobile Europe, a Europe of vocational training for all, a Europe of modern skills, a Europe open to the world. The ideas of the “common European home”, “European consciousness”, “European cultural and historical community” and others are being developed in the world scientific space [4].

The formation of the European model of the Ukrainian state should reflect changes in the ideology of Ukrainian society as the main implementer of European aspirations of citizens and the controller of the implementation of European standards in all spheres of society. Today we must remember that spreading in the minds of Europeans the desire to create a united Europe voluntarily was facilitated by the democratic initiatives of social movements during 1924–1950 years [6].

To strengthen Ukrainian statehood, it is necessary to work out adequate social, educational, ideological, cultural, informational, and other functions of state policy in the field of socio-humanitarian security, which would significantly expand the understanding, perception and implementation of European values in modern processes of socio-humanitarian development.

Conclusion and discussions. The development of the European Union convincingly proves that the processes of international, in particular European, integration are determined by the compatibility of the value space and orientations of the states that have expressed their intentions for integration. It is extremely important to take into account that the values shared by society are the main factor in deepening integration processes and cooperation between states in the field of socio-humanitarian security and development.

The formation of a new worldview and value system of Ukrainian citizens is associated with the appeal to basic European values, as well as structural changes in society, the destruction, and loss of paternalistic moral and value orientations in the population. Overcoming the ambiguity in the views of Ukrainian society on European values, which, dynamically transforming, critically comprehends social reality through the prism of threats to socio-humanitarian security, should become the task of a systematic and consistent public policy.

In the conditions of social transformations connected with the processes of European integration, further scientific investigations should be directed to the normative and legal aspects of the introduction of European values in the territorial communities of Ukraine.

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