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CONTROLLING THE ACTIVITY OF PEOPLE'S DEPUTIES: SURVEY RESULTS

Events of the Euromaidan and the Anti-Terrorist Operation in the east of our country indicate that the young people of Ukraine are ready to take radical steps to protect our state, but when it comes to the evolutionary development of democratic processes, are they really ready to advance democratic institutions in Ukraine in a consistent and methodical way as it is required in the long run? Simple observation brings us to the negative answer.

In our opinion, the low level of students' participation in political life is caused by poor awareness of the ways a citizen can control the government. In order to test this hypothesis, we conducted a survey, the description and results of which are presented in this article. The purpose of the study is to identify the causes of low political activity of youth, which will allow to develop ways to increase it.

In order to identify the correlation between the level of knowledge, positive attitude and readiness for participation in political processes, we formulated five questions that determine the corresponding variables:

1. What are the duties of the deputy of a local / district council?
2. Would you like to be a deputy?
3. If not, why?
4. Are you a member of any political party, NGO or a similar organization?
5. Do you plan to run for a political office?

The survey was conducted with 55 students of Zhytomyr National Agroecological University.

The survey was carried out by students majoring in Political Science at Zhytomyr Ivan Franko State University. The results are presented below. The answers to the first question indicate a low level of students' awareness of the scope of responsibilities of deputies of local and district councils. The respondents were supposed to tick off the options they considered to be valid, three false options were designed as control questions. The table demonstrates the results:

Option	Respondents, %
Maintain communication with the voters	53%
Inform voters of the activity of the council on implementing its plans and programs	67%
Participate in mass events	67%
Study public opinion	71%
Represent the interests of citizens in court	25%
Inform the council of the voters' needs and demands	67%
Have office hours allotted to communicating with the voters	33%
Build playgrounds	51%
Process requests filed by members of the territorial community	60%
Provide financial assistance to voters	20%

The results demonstrate that students expect their deputies to study the public opinion, inform the council of the needs of the community, participate in mass events, inform voters of the activity of the council in implementing plans and

programs. However, these obvious answers were ticked off by no more than 67% of the respondents.

The second and the third questions of the survey were aimed at discovering the attitude of students in the political life that takes two forms: running for a deputy office or controlling the government as an active community member. The distribution of answers to the question “Would you like to be a people’s deputy?” is the following: among 48 valid answers, 37 were negative and 11 were positive.

Table 3 shows the results of the respondents' answers to the question specifying the reasons for unwillingness to run for a people’s deputy’s office. It turned out that the majority of respondents (21) do not want to run for an office because they believe that they will not be able to make a difference due to various external factors, namely they will be held back.

Option	Number of respondents	%
I do not believe that I can change something	8	20,51
I do not believe that I will be given something to change	21	53,85
No money or time	5	12,82
I have no interest in what is happening	8	20,51

Questions 4 and 5 were aimed at determining the level of readiness to control the authorities. 95% of respondents are not members of any political party, non-profit organization or a trade union. 86% of respondents do not plan to run for a political office in the future.

Thus, the results of the questionnaire indicate a low level of students' awareness of the ways of controlling the activities of deputies, generally negative attitude regarding their ability to control the authorities, and a low level of readiness for any action to control the activity of people’s deputies. The hypothesis of correlation between the level of awareness, positive attitude and willingness to control the authorities requires further survey of students highly involved in various forms of political activity. Should the abovementioned correlation be high,

we can draw the conclusion that it is possible to increase the citizens' engagement by introducing the respective educational programs and trainings at the state level.