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Petro OPANASHCHUK, PhD (Hist.), Assoc. Prof.

ORCID ID: 0000-0001-7164-4143

e-mail: [OpanaschukPetro@gmail.com](mailto:OpanaschukPetro@gmail.com)

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine

## PRINCIPLES, STANDARDS AND VALUES OF THE EU HUMANITARIAN POLICY

**Background.** For Ukraine, as a country that aspires to become part of the European Union, it is important to realize that integration into the EU is not limited to bringing domestic practices of institutional and legal mechanisms regulating various spheres of social relations in line with European standards. Equally important is the rapprochement with Europe in the cultural and spiritual plane, in the values, principles and standards that form the basis of the basic principles of state policy. In view of this, the issues of ensuring human security, creating conditions for the expansion of human rights and freedoms, respect for national and religious characteristics, tolerance of cultural diversity, etc. are attracting increasing attention at the present stage. These are the characteristics that are most fully reflected in the state's humanitarian policy and should be the basis for Ukraine's European integration. This is the reason for the relevance of the topic chosen for this study. After all, the understanding of the basic values, principles and standards of the EU humanitarian policy largely determines how effective further processes of Ukraine's European integration will be.

**Methods.** In the course of the research, the method of theoretical analysis of scientific sources and the method of comparison were used to determine the level of coverage of this topic in domestic and foreign historiography, which allowed to research existing scientific approaches to solving the problem. The methods of generalization, formalization, analysis, and synthesis were used to reveal the value orientations of humanitarian policy in the EU countries. The study also involved a number of other general scientific and special methods of cognition, including abstraction, specification, induction and systematization. This made it possible to substantiate the essential characteristics of the principles and standards on which the EU humanitarian policy is based. In order to formulate the general conclusions of the research, the method of logical generalization of the results was used.

**Results.** The article examines the principles of supranationality and subsidiarity as the fundamental foundations on which the EU functioning is based. At the same time, it was established that certain aspects of humanitarian policy relating to such issues as the development of culture, education, training, youth and sports were structured in the EU in such a way as to ensure maximum freedom of national governments to choose the ways of their development and thus avoid harmonization effect. In practice, this means that EU acts, which are binding on all member states, do not have to harmonize their legislation in terms of the development of these areas.

The central category in the issue of European self-identification is the establishment of common European values, which determine a distinctive European identity. The most fundamental values for the EU include respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities.

The article argues that adherence to these principles, as well as paying due attention to the protection of common European values, is an important integrating factor that ensures the unity of European countries not only on the basis of economic cooperation, but also in the humanitarian sphere.

**Conclusions.** The article establishes that the experience of the EU's functioning and enlargement is based on the spread of democratic principles and the rule of law. The principle of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and their guarantee acts as a unifying factor, a kind of value marker that indicates belonging to the European community. However, it should be borne in mind that each EU member state also has its own distinctive national identity, determined by its own unique historical experience. The formation of the humanitarian space of each individual country takes into account the experience of its own political history, economic and socio-cultural development trends. Respect for national identity, lack of harmonization in some cultural issues are also among the principles that influence the formation of a common European humanitarian space.

**Keywords:** humanitarian space, humanitarian development, humanitarian policy, language environment, national identity, European values, EU humanitarian policy standards, EU humanitarian policy principles.

### Background

Over many decades of mutual integration, the EU member states have developed and normalized a significant set of common principles and areas of cooperation that affect various spheres of public life. Their observance is an important prerequisite for ensuring stability, social cohesion, and development throughout Europe. For Ukraine, as a country that aspires to become part of the European Union, it is important to realize that integration into the EU is not limited to bringing domestic practices of institutional and legal mechanisms regulating various spheres of social relations into line with European standards. Equally important is the rapprochement with Europe in the cultural and spiritual plane, in the values, principles and standards that form the basis of the basic principles of state policy. In view of this, the issues of ensuring human security, creating conditions for the expansion of human rights and freedoms, respect for national and religious characteristics, tolerance of cultural diversity, etc. are attracting increasing attention at the

present stage. These are the characteristics that are most fully reflected in the state's humanitarian policy and should be the basis for Ukraine's European integration. This is the reason for the relevance of the topic chosen for this study. After all, the understanding of the basic values, principles and standards of the EU humanitarian policy largely determines how effective further processes of Ukraine's European integration will be.

**The purpose of the article** is to clarify the value characteristics, as well as the principles and standards on which the EU humanitarian policy is based. To this end, the were analyzed the domestic and foreign historiography, which highlights various aspects of the implementation of humanitarian policy by European countries. Particular attention is paid to the key principles and standards of humanitarian policy enshrined in the EU primary law and other European legal acts.

**Sources.** In the course of writing this article, the works of scholars who focus on the analysis of the principles of the EU's functioning and the core values on which the

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European community is based were used. In particular, T. Tereshchenko analyzes the EU's policy, regulatory and methodological documents, which are the basis for the value aspects of the European community (Tereshchenko, 2016). It was emphasized that the most important, central values for European society that need to be protected and strengthened are human dignity and responsibility, as well as solidarity. The materials of the analytical research by L. Berzini, who analyzed the peculiarities of the adaptation of Ukrainian legislation and public administration in the field of culture to EU standards, were also used (Berzini, 2023). At the same time, the researcher draws attention to the reflection in Ukrainian legislation of the goals, principles and standards on which international humanitarian cooperation within the EU is built. Important sources for the article were also the studies conducted by A. Kovach, M. Vikhlyayev, Y. Pylypenko, I. Melnyk, V. Kipen and other scholars whose works are devoted to the study of various aspects of the formation of goals, principles and standards for the implementation of European humanitarian policy, as well as the correlation between European and national identities as a manifestation of value characteristics represented in the European space. The specifics of the European humanitarian policy were also clarified by the study of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, the Treaty on European Union, the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, the Lisbon Treaty and other examples of European law on which the EU's functioning is based.

#### Methods

In the course of the research, the method of theoretical analysis of scientific sources and the method of comparison were used to determine the level of coverage of this topic in domestic and foreign historiography, which allowed the author to study existing scientific approaches to solving the problem. The methods of generalization, formalization, analysis, and synthesis were used to reveal the value orientations of humanitarian policy in the EU countries. The research also involved a number of other general scientific and special methods of cognition, including abstraction, specification, induction and systematization. This made it possible to substantiate the essential characteristics of the principles and standards on which the EU humanitarian policy is based. In order to formulate the general conclusions of the study, the method of logical generalization of the results was used.

#### Results

The core values and principles on which European integration is based are reflected in the EU's humanitarian policy. It contains both elements that are fundamental to the cooperation of all EU member states and a specific component that mainly affects the field of humanitarian development.

In particular, the principle of supranationality is one of the fundamental principles of the EU's functioning. It determines the EU's policy not only in the humanitarian sphere, but also in other areas of cooperation between European countries. The essence of the principle of supranationality is the transfer by member states of the right to resolve certain issues related to their current functioning in favor of the EU institutions authorized to do so (Tereshchenko, 2016, p. 55). Accordingly, decisions taken at the EU level are binding on all member states. In fact, the EU member states voluntarily give up their sovereign right to make decisions on certain aspects of public policy and transfer this right to pan-European institutions. However, this is compensated by the right to

represent the interests and requirements of their own country, as well as to influence decision-making through national representatives in European authorities.

The application of the principle of supranationality encourages European governments to seek mutually beneficial compromises on the most pressing and controversial issues of mutual coexistence, including the humanitarian sphere. However, certain aspects of humanitarian policy, such as the development of culture, education, training, youth and sports, are structured in the EU in such a way as to ensure maximum freedom of national governments to choose their development paths and avoid harmonization effects. In practice, this means that EU acts, which are binding on all member states, do not have to harmonize their legislation in terms of the development of these areas. Thus, the EU's competence in this area is limited to taking supporting, coordinating or complementary measures (Tomášek, & Šmejkal, 2024, p. 610). The principle of supranationality is used here mainly to guarantee equal conditions for the development of culture, education, training, youth and sports in all EU member states.

The desire to ensure that national governments at the EU level are free to choose how to develop their own humanitarian space, while avoiding harmonization effects as much as possible, correlates with another basic principle of the EU's functioning, namely the principle of subsidiarity. Its essence lies in the transfer to pan-European institutions of only those powers in the field of policy implementation, including humanitarian policy, which are necessary to coordinate and complement the activities of member states in matters related to this area. At the same time, each particular country has the right to make its own decisions on issues that affect the development of its culture, the development of the national education system, youth and sports, etc. (Vikhlyayev, & Pylypenko, 2023, p. 202).

Adherence to these principles is an important integrating factor that ensures the unity of European countries not only on the basis of economic cooperation, but also in the humanitarian sphere.

An important feature of the EU's humanitarian policy is the need to ensure interaction between government institutions of different levels responsible for various spheres of public life. This determines its intersectoral nature. The implementation of humanitarian policy, therefore, usually requires the involvement of agencies responsible for the development and functioning of the education sector, economy, social security, finance, environmental protection and other bodies. For example, without interagency cooperation, it is impossible to ensure access to quality cultural services for different categories of the population with certain specific needs (for the elderly, people with disabilities, children living in remote regions, etc.) (Berzini, 2023, p. 32).

The cross-sectoral nature of humanitarian policy implies, in particular, compliance with certain standards in the process of its implementation. The key standards to which EU countries are obliged to adhere are set out in the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and other multilateral international agreements adopted at the EU level. Compliance with them is monitored by the European Court of Human Rights and other international supervisory bodies, whose decisions are binding on all EU member states (European standards and tools for their implementation, 2019).

One of these standards is the need to develop transparent and open decision-making mechanisms. In particular, EU policies related to humanitarian development

are developed by establishing cooperation with non-governmental organizations and experts representing the interests of civil society.

An important standard of EU policy, not only in the humanitarian sphere, but in any other field, is to ensure sustainable development and implement environmentally friendly initiatives. For example, in many projects, there is a close interaction between the topics of culture and climate, environmental preservation, and the introduction of nature-based solutions into urbanized space (Berzini, 2023, p. 33).

Adherence to the above principles and standards of humanitarian policy implementation is intended to ensure the achievement of a number of humanitarian development goals that are still relevant to EU countries. In particular, one of these goals of the common European humanitarian policy, which aims to further unite the population of all EU member states, is the formation of a common European identity. The implementation of this project is inextricably linked to the traditions of spiritual development of Europe, the historical and cultural commonality of European peoples, the crystallization of their own values and moral and ethical norms, on the basis of which pan-European communication is built (Kipen, 2021, p. 44).

The central category in the issue of European self-identification is the formation of common European values, which determine a kind of European identity and can be considered a category of a higher order than the principles described above (Values, objectives and principles of the European Union, 2020).

The list of such values is contained in the Treaty of Lisbon (Treaty of Lisbon ..., 2007) and other fundamental EU documents, such as the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (Consolidated versions of the Treaty on European Union ..., 2010). In particular, Article 2 of the Lisbon Treaty lists respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities, as the most fundamental values of the EU. At the same time, the mention in this article of the rights of persons belonging to minorities is a kind of novelty compared to the previously adopted EU founding acts.

Among the EU goals and values enshrined in the provisions of the Lisbon Treaty, the following are of particular importance for the development of the humanitarian sphere: ensuring space and freedom for citizens, supporting sustainable development in Europe, promoting EU values, protecting human rights, etc. On the other hand, the Lisbon Treaty also proclaims other rights, freedoms and principles that are traditional for international law. In particular, it refers to the European "model of society" based on such values as "pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality of women and men" (Treaty of Lisbon ..., 2007).

European values are mentioned in the preambles of many documents that define the basic principles of the European Union. For example, the Preamble to the Charter of Fundamental Rights states that the EU is based on such common and indivisible values as human dignity, freedom, equality and solidarity (Charter of Fundamental Rights ..., 2007). The Preamble of the Single European Act (1987) emphasizes the determination of European countries to work together to promote democracy based on "the right to freedom, equality and social justice" (Single European Act, 1986).

The Preamble of the Maastricht Treaty also reaffirms the EU member states' commitment to "the principles of

freedom, democracy, respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law". It also proclaims "the desire to deepen solidarity among the European peoples on the basis of respect for their history, culture and traditions" (Treaty on European Union, 1992). It should be noted that the guarantee of human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Maastricht Treaty is the fundamental principle on which the entire EU humanitarian policy is based.

In practice, adherence to the above values is embodied in such characteristics of European society as pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between men and women (Chopin, 2018). Among these characteristics, the principle of equality is one of the fundamental principles on which the EU's humanitarian policy is based. In particular, the provisions of Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2021), which are included in Title III "Equality", prohibit any discrimination, including "on grounds of sex, race, color, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation" (Charter of Fundamental Rights ..., 2007). At the same time, Article 19 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU encourages the legislative implementation of this principle, as it is a general principle of EU law. It is emphasized that the idea of strengthening the relationship between the EU and the citizens of the Member States is based on it (Tomášek, & Šmejkal, 2024, p. 73).

It should also be noted that one of the horizontal values on which the activities of all EU institutions are based is the prevention of any form of discrimination. Thus, according to Article 10 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, one of the objectives of the Union is to combat any discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, etc. (Consolidated versions of the Treaty on European Union ..., 2010). As part of the EU's functioning, a number of international treaties have been initiated that address the issue of preventing any manifestations of discrimination, including in the implementation of humanitarian policy. This principle is also crucial in matters of cooperation with countries seeking EU membership (Tomášek, & Šmejkal, 2024, p. 73).

Thus, the European Union is a kind of "zone of rights" that refers to certain values and principles on the basis of which the European civilization space has been and continues to be expanded. The values and principles proclaimed in the above documents serve as the basis for all other social norms that are generally accepted in the European space. They are unifying for the of the nations of Europe and form the basis of their common political identity, acting as a kind of foundation on which the European Union is built (Chopin, 2018). Sanctions may be imposed against the violating country for non-compliance.

Every country that is a member of the European community assumes the obligation to respect and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to freedom of opinion and expression. This applies to the socio-political sphere, as well as to the field of culture and other aspects of humanitarian policy (Berzini, 2023, p. 4). In view of this, adherence to these principles is one of the main requirements for countries seeking to become EU members. In particular, according to Article 49 of the Treaty on European Union, "any European State which respects the values set forth in Article 2 of this document and is bound to uphold them may apply to become a Member of the Union" (Consolidated versions of the Treaty on European Union ..., 2010).



That is why the list of key values for the European community is included in the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement. The main ones are respect for democratic principles of public life; the rule of law; commitment to good governance; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities; tolerance of diversity; and respect for human dignity. The mention of common values is contained in the first objective of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement (Article 1, paragraph 2 of the Agreement) (Association Agreement ..., 2014).

### Discussion and conclusions

Thus, the experience of the EU's functioning and enlargement is based on the spread of democratic principles and the rule of law, as well as on Western democratic constitutional practices that facilitate the conditions of membership set forth in the EU's founding treaties. The principle of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms and their guarantee is the basis for the development of democracy, the rule of law, peace, stability and sustainable development of European countries.

These principles and values, on which EU policy is based, act as a unifying factor, a kind of value marker that indicates belonging to the European community. However, it is important to note that each EU member state also has its own distinctive national identity, determined by its own unique historical experience.

The formation of the humanitarian space of each individual country is based on the experience of its own political history, economic and socio-cultural development trends. That is why the existence of the so-called "Europe of Values" does not mean that the processes of European integration have led to the complete elimination of differences in cultural development between EU member states. These national differences still remain vital political reference points for most Europeans. Respect for national identity and the lack of harmonization in some cultural issues are also among the principles that influence the formation of a common European humanitarian space.

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Петро ОПАНАЩУК, канд. іст. наук, доц.  
ORCID ID: 0000-0001-7164-4143

e-mail: [opanaschukpetro@gmail.com](mailto:opanaschukpetro@gmail.com)

Київський національний університет імені Тараса Шевченка, Київ, Україна

## ПРИНЦИПИ, СТАНДАРТИ ТА ЦІННОСТІ ГУМАНІТАРНОЇ ПОЛІТИКИ ЄС

**Вступ.** Наголошено, що для України як для країни, яка прагне стати частиною Європейського Союзу, важливим є усвідомлення того, що інтеграція до ЄС не обмежується лише тим, щоб зробити відповідною до європейських стандартів вітчизняну практику функціонування інституційно-правових механізмів, які регулюють різні сфери суспільних відносин. Не менш важливим є зближення з Європою у культурно-духовній площині, в ціннісних орієнтирах, принципах та стандартах, на яких вибудовуються основні засади державної політики. З огляду на це все більшу увагу на сучасному етапі привертють до себе питання забезпечення безпеки людини, створення умов для розширення її прав і свобод, поваги до національних та релігійних особливостей, толерантного ставлення до культурного різноманіття тощо. Саме ці характеристики найбільш повно відображаються у гуманітарній політиці держави й саме їх треба покласти в основу європейської інтеграції України. Цим і зумовлена актуальність теми, обраної для цього дослідження. Адже від розуміння основних цінностей, принципів та стандартів гуманітарної політики ЄС значною мірою залежить те, наскільки ефективними будуть подальші процеси європейської інтеграції України.

**Методи.** У процесі проведеного дослідження з метою з'ясування рівня розкриття у вітчизняній та зарубіжній історіографії даної теми було використано метод теоретичного аналізу наукових джерел, а також метод порівняння, що дозволило вивчити наявні наукові підходи до розв'язання окресленої проблеми. З метою розкриття ціннісних орієнтирів гуманітарної політики в країнах ЄС було

використано методи узагальнення, формалізації, аналізу та синтезу. У процесі дослідження було задіяно також низку інших загальнонаукових та спеціальних методів пізнання, зокрема абстрагування, конкретизації, індукції та систематизації. Це дало можливість обґрунтувати сутнісні характеристики принципів та стандартів, на яких базується гуманітарна політика ЄС. З метою формулювання загальних висновків дослідження було використано метод логічного узагальнення результатів.

**Результати.** Розглянуто принципи супранациональності та субсидіарності як фундаментальні основи, на яких базується функціонування ЄС. При цьому встановлено, що окремі аспекти гуманітарної політики, які стосуються таких питань, як розвиток культури, освіти, навчання, молоді та спорту, вибудовують у ЄС таким чином, щоб забезпечити максимальну свободу національних урядів у виборі шляхів їх розвитку й уникнути гармонізаційного ефекту. На практиці це означає, що акти ЄС, які мають обов'язковий характер для усіх країн-членів, не повинні гармонізувати їх законодавство в частині, яка стосується розвитку даних сфер.

Розкрито, що центральною категорією у питанні європейської самоідентифікації є становлення загальноєвропейських цінностей, які й зумовлюють своєрідну європейську ідентичність. До найбільш фундаментальних для ЄС цінностей зараховано повагу до людської гідності, свободу, демократію, рівність, верховенство права та дотримання прав людини, включаючи права осіб, що належать до меншин.

Аргументовано тезу про те, що дотримання зазначених принципів, а також приділення належної уваги захисту загальноєвропейських цінностей є важливим інтеграційним чинником, що забезпечує єдність європейських країн не лише на основі економічного співробітництва, але й у гуманітарній площині.

**Висновки.** Установлено, що досвід функціонування й розширення ЄС ґрунтується на поширенні демократичних принципів і верховенства права. Принцип поваги до прав людини та основних свобод, їх гарантування виступають об'єднавчим чинником, своєрідним ціннісним маркером, який свідчить про приналежність до європейської спільноти. Однак при цьому слід брати до уваги те, що кожна країна-член ЄС також має власну особливу національну ідентичність, зумовлену своїм власним унікальним історичним досвідом. Формування гуманітарного простору кожної окремо взятої країни відбувається з урахуванням досвіду власної політичної історії, тенденцій економічного й соціокультурного розвитку. Повага до національної ідентичності, відсутність гармонізації у деяких питаннях культурної сфери також належать до принципів, які впливають на формування загальноєвропейського гуманітарного простору.

**Ключові слова:** гуманітарний простір, гуманітарний розвиток, гуманітарна політика, мовне середовище, національна ідентичність, європейські цінності, стандарти гуманітарної політики ЄС, принципи гуманітарної політики ЄС.

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