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STRATEGIC PATHWAYS: ACHIEVING UNITY IN UKRAINE'S HUMANITARIAN SPACE WITH EUROPEAN UNION

Abstract. This article explores the intricate dynamics of Ukraine's foreign policy, particularly in its relations with the European Union (EU), and the consequential impacts on its national security and humanitarian space. Emphasizing the pivotal role of foreign policy decisions in shaping Ukraine's security landscape amid geopolitical complexities, the analysis delves into the EU's stance on Ukraine's European integration and the challenges posed by Russian influence. Central to the discussion is the oligarchic structure's impact on Ukraine's economy, highlighting the need for comprehensive reforms. Furthermore, the concept of hybrid resilience emerges as a strategic framework for addressing multifaceted threats and navigating through complex geopolitical challenges. The article also examines mechanisms governing the EU-Ukraine relationship and strategies for safeguarding Ukraine's humanitarian space, stressing the importance of collaboration, resilience-building, and upholding humanitarian principles. Concluding with insights on harmonizing humanitarian efforts between Ukraine and the EU, the article underscores the significance of strategic pathways for achieving unity, stability, and resilience in the face of evolving global challenges. Protecting Ukraine's humanitarian space involves collaboration with international entities, upholding humanitarian values, ensuring security and stability, and effective diplomacy. Strengthening internal structures and institutions is crucial for resilience against external influences.

The result of the research of this article is envisaged Harmonizing humanitarian efforts between Ukraine and the EU is essential for addressing global challenges collaboratively. Despite ongoing challenges, Ukraine is progressing towards closer integration with the EU, including in humanitarian policy. Hybrid resilience offers a strategic pathway for Ukraine to address complex challenges in the humanitarian space, aligning with European and global standards. Overall, the analysis underscores the importance of comprehensive approaches, strategic partnerships, and reforms in addressing the multifaceted challenges facing Ukraine in its relationship with the EU and in safeguarding its humanitarian space.
This article highlights the significance of the hybrid resilience concept in addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by modern Ukraine. It outlines the key aspects of hybrid resilience, emphasizing its multifaceted nature and its ability to combine traditional resilience with adaptive strategies to address dynamic threats. The research underscores the importance of local self-governance in building hybrid resilience, empowering communities to manage their affairs and enhancing societal cohesion. It also emphasizes the crucial role of functional public institutions in building trust and confidence in the state, thereby bolstering resilience against internal and external threats. Furthermore, the article discusses strategic practices aimed at enhancing national security and stability, including fostering partnerships with international actors, implementing targeted reforms, and promoting civic engagement. Overall, it emphasizes the importance of embracing resilience-building practices to effectively navigate the complex geopolitical challenges faced by Ukraine.

Keywords: Geopolitical Complexities, Oligarchic Structure, Hybrid Resilience, Humanitarian Space, Strategic Partnerships, Civic Engagement, Resilience-building Practices, Unity.

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СТРАТЕГІЧНІ ШЛЯХИ: ДОСЯГНЕННЯ ЄДНОСТІ В ГУМАНІТАРНОМУ ПРОСТОРІ УКРАЇНИ З ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКИМ СОЮЗОМ

Анотація. У статті досліджуються складні процеси зовнішньої політики України, зокрема у відносинах з Європейським Союзом (ЄС), та їх наслідки для національної безпеки й гуманітарного простору. Наголошується на ключовій ролі зовнішньої політики в формуванні безпекового ландашафту України з урахуванням сучасної геополітичної ситуації. Проведений аналіз демонструє позицію ЄС щодо європейської інтеграції України в умовах викликів, пов’язаних з російською агресією. Важливим елементом дослідження є вплив олігархічної структури на економіку України, що підкреслює необхідність проведення комплексних реформ. Крім того, актуальною є концепція гібридної стійкості як стратегічного каркасу для вирішення багатогранних загроз в умовах сучасних складних геополітичних викликів. У статті також розглядаються механізми регулювання відносин України з ЄС та стратегії забезпечення гуманітарного простору України, підкреслюючи
важливість співпраці, підвищення стійкості та дотримання гуманітарних принципів. У підсумку проведеного дослідження підкреслюється значення стратегічної співпраці з ЄС для досягнення єдності, стабільності та стійкості в умовах змінних глобальних викликів. Забезпечення єдності гуманітарного простору України передбачає співпрацю з міжнародними організаціями, дотримання гуманітарних цінностей, забезпечення безпеки та стабільності, а також ефективну дипломатію. Підвищення ефективності внутрішніх структур та установ є ключовим для стійкості проти зовнішніх впливів.

У результаті дослідження запропоновано активізувати процеси гармонізації гуманітарних зусиль між Україною та ЄС, що є необхідним для спільного вирішення найбільш актуальних проблем. Незважаючи на наявні труднощі, Україна просувається до ближчого інтегрування з ЄС, включаючи сферу гуманітарної політики. Запропоновано розглянути гібридну стійкість як стратегічний шлях для України, який сприятиме вирішенню складних завдань у гуманітарному просторі з урахуванням європейських та світових стандартів.

Загалом, результати проведеного дослідження підкреслюють важливість комплексних підходів, стратегічних партнерств та реформ у вирішенні багатогранних викликів, що стоять перед Україною у відносинах з ЄС та у забезпеченні гуманітарного простору.

Ключові слова: геополітичні виклики, олігархічна структура, гібридна стійкість, гуманітарний простір, стратегічні партнерські відносини, громадянська діяльність, практика розвитку стійкості.

**Formulation of the problem.** In the modern conditions of social development of any state, there is a need for creation world where strategic pathways pave the way for cohesive collaboration and impactful change. In today's interconnected landscape, the need for aligning efforts towards a common goal has never been more crucial. Let's delve into the depths of achieving unity in Ukraine's humanitarian sphere with European Union (EU), exploring how strategic pathways can bridge divides and foster harmonious relationships.

Ukraine's aspiration towards European integration has been a significant focal point in its foreign policy strategy. The Ukrainian government has placed a strong emphasis on aligning with the European Union to enhance its national security and societal well-being. This strategic move aims to break away from historical ties and influence, especially in the face of Russian intervention and increasing concerns about the oligarchic structures within Ukraine's economy. The EU has expressed consistent concern regarding Ukraine's position in the geopolitical landscape, especially in the context of its relationship with Russia. The integration of Ukraine into the European Union is not only a matter of policy but also carries broader implications for Ukrainian society as a whole. It signifies a
potential shift towards Western values and governance practices. The signing of the Association Agreement with the EU marked a pivotal moment in Ukraine's journey towards European integration. This agreement not only outlined the framework for cooperation but also set the stage for deeper engagement and alignment with EU policies and standards. The process of harmonizing Ukrainian laws and regulations with those of the EU reflects a commitment to structural reforms and convergence with European norms. Ukraine's concept of resilience in the face of external pressures highlights the country's adaptive capacity and determination to safeguard its sovereignty and national interests. The functionality of Ukrainian public institutions plays a critical role in this resilience, as they serve as the backbone of governance and decision-making processes. By understanding and implementing hybrid strategies, Ukraine seeks to navigate the complex geopolitical landscape while maintaining its agency and independence. The dynamic between the EU and Ukraine has evolved over the years, shaped by political developments, economic considerations, and mutual interests. From the reluctance of some EU member states to fully embrace Ukraine's European aspirations to the strategic dialogue between high-ranking officials, such as the summit meetings and diplomatic engagements, the relationship reflects a blend of cooperation, negotiation, and mutual expectations.

Looking ahead, the research of the issue of achieving the unity of Ukraine and the EU in the humanitarian space acquires important relevance on the way to deepening integration into the EU. Factors such as the state of affairs in the region, the influence of external actors such as Russia, and the internal dynamics of Ukrainian politics all contribute to the complexity of Ukraine's European path. Overcoming these complexities requires a delicate balance between diplomacy, governance reforms, and strategic decision-making.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The essence of unity in Ukraine's humanitarian space with the European Union considered by many domestic and foreign scientists, namely: G. Rysabak-Smith, E. J. Nilles, B. D. Gushulak, S. Kayden, V. Golovchenko, O. Sobodar, V. Denisyuk, P. Petrovsky, and others dealt with the issue of the humanitarian factor in international relations. However, it is the humanitarian activity of the EU as one of the directions of its foreign policy activity that remains unrealistic for researchers. Currently, these issues are debatable and require special research.

The purpose of the article is to analyze the complexities of Ukraine's foreign policy, particularly in its relations with the European Union (EU), and to examine the resulting impacts on national security and humanitarian efforts. It aims to highlight the pivotal role of foreign policy decisions in shaping Ukraine's security landscape amidst geopolitical challenges. Additionally, the article seeks to explore the EU's stance on Ukraine's integration, the challenges posed by Russian influence,
and the effects of the oligarchic structure on Ukraine's economy. Furthermore, it introduces the concept of hybrid resilience as a strategic framework for addressing multifaceted threats and navigating through complex geopolitical challenges. The article also aims to examine mechanisms governing the EU-Ukraine relationship and strategies for safeguarding Ukraine's humanitarian space, emphasizing collaboration, resilience-building, and upholding humanitarian principles. Ultimately, the article aims to provide insights into harmonizing humanitarian efforts between Ukraine and the EU and to underscore the significance of strategic pathways for achieving unity, stability, and resilience in the face of evolving global challenges.

Presenting main material. Researching the definition of the humanitarian space, we agree with the opinion of M. T. Stepiko, who identifies that the integrity of the humanitarian space of the state requires a nationwide cultural and communication environment, which is ensured by the functioning of the Ukrainian language and a network of effective channels of cultural connections covering the whole society. It is in the course of communication in a single linguistic and cultural space that national consolidation takes place, national identity is created. Therefore, the national humanitarian space can be defined as a set of spheres of social and cultural activity, which are fully capable of providing the cultural and linguistic needs of the citizens of Ukraine [1]. Also, foreign policy plays a pivotal role in shaping Ukraine's national security landscape, influencing its relations with global powers like the European Union, Russia, and the United States. Understanding the impacts of foreign policy decisions on Ukraine's security is crucial for safeguarding its sovereignty and stability amid geopolitical complexities. The European Union's stance on Ukraine's national security is closely intertwined with its foreign policy objectives in the region. The EU's reluctance to fully embrace Ukraine's European integration has posed challenges for the country's security architecture. Despite Ukraine's agency in pursuing closer ties with the EU, concerns linger about the functionality of Ukrainian public institutions and the oligarchic structure of its economy. The shadow of Russian influence looms large over Ukraine's national security landscape, with the concept of hybrid resilience gaining significance in countering external pressures. The Russian army's actions along Ukraine's borders and the risk of a restart of Russian invasion underscore the enduring security threats faced by the nation. Ukraine's position as a buffer between East and West exposes it to geopolitical tensions that necessitate robust foreign policy strategies. That is why understanding the intricate dynamics of foreign policy and its influence on Ukraine's national security is essential for navigating the complex geopolitical landscape of the region. Ukraine's national security has been a focal point in its relations with the EU, especially in light of Russian influence in the region. The EU's stance on Ukraine's agency in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity has been a critical aspect of their engagement. The concept of hybrid resilience has emerged as
a response to the complex challenges faced by Ukraine, particularly in the context of the restart of Russian aggression. The Ukrainian government's freedom to maneuver in the face of external pressures has become a defining feature of its resilience. Analyzing the previous opinion, we can conclude that the functionality of Ukrainian public institutions is paramount for the country's ability to navigate geopolitical complexities. Ukraine's position as a geopolitical player hinges on its ability to balance EU interests with its historical ties to Russia and as a result the EU's cautious approach and Ukraine's resilience play crucial roles in shaping the dynamics of their relationship, impacting regional stability and geopolitical developments.

Researching the issue of humanitarian unity of Ukraine and the EU is worth paying attention to mechanisms for EU-Ukraine Relationship. The relationship between the European Union (EU) and Ukraine is multifaceted and crucial for both parties. Here, we delve into the various mechanisms that underpin this significant partnership. One of the key mechanisms shaping the EU-Ukraine relationship is the Association Agreement. This agreement is designed to strengthen political ties, enhance economic cooperation, and promote shared values between Ukraine and the EU. It serves as a blueprint for reforms in Ukraine, aligning the country more closely with European standards and practices. Trade and economic integration between Ukraine and the EU are vital components of their relationship. The Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) is part of the Association Agreement, facilitating increased trade and investment flows between Ukraine and the EU member states. Political dialogue and cooperation form the backbone of the EU-Ukraine relationship. Regular meetings, consultations, and joint initiatives help address common challenges and opportunities, promoting stability and progress in the region. The EU provides financial assistance and support to Ukraine through various programs and initiatives. This assistance aims to bolster Ukraine's economy, strengthen institutions, and support reforms to enhance governance and democracy.

Security and defense cooperation are essential aspects of the EU-Ukraine relationship, particularly in the context of shared security challenges. Collaboration in areas like defense reforms, cybersecurity, and counterterrorism helps enhance the security of both Ukraine and the EU.

The scientist O.M. Chechel, who considered the concept and content of the mechanisms of public administration in the humanitarian sphere notes that the content of public administration mechanisms in the humanitarian sphere is revealed through the mandatory orientation of the methods, tools, means and principles of implementation by state authorities of their own range of tasks in the humanitarian sphere to the general goals, standards and expected results of the development of the humanitarian sphere. It is appropriate to talk about the consolidation and synergistic effect of the implementation by each individual body of state power in a separate
sub-sector of the humanitarian sphere of its own functions, which in aggregate leads to high-quality socio-political and socio-economic transformations in the state as a whole, for which the humanitarian sphere is defined as the basis [2, p.143].

Thus, summarizing the above the EU-Ukraine relationship is built on shared values, mutual interests, and a commitment to promoting stability, prosperity, and democracy in the region. The mechanisms governing the EU-Ukraine relationship encompass a wide range of dimensions, including trade, politics, security, and cooperation, aimed at fostering closer ties and mutual benefits.

Researching the issue of the unity of the humanitarian space of Ukraine and the EU, it is important to recognize one challenge that forms a certain distance from cooperation in this aspect. This is impact of oligarchic structure on Ukrainian Economy. The oligarchic structure in Ukraine's economy has long been a defining feature, shaping the country's economic landscape in profound ways. The dominance of a few powerful business figures has resulted in a concentration of wealth and resources that has both positive and negative repercussions.

Challenges Posed by Oligarchs:

One significant impact of the oligarchic structure on the Ukrainian economy is the lack of competition and transparency in key sectors. Oligarchs often control major industries, stifling innovation, and creating barriers to entry for new players. This concentration of power can lead to monopolistic practices that limit economic growth and sustainability.

Economic Inequality:

The presence of oligarchs exacerbates economic inequality within Ukrainian society. The vast wealth accumulated by a select few contrasts sharply with the struggles of the average citizen, leading to social tensions and disparities. This disparity not only hinders economic development but also poses a threat to social cohesion and stability.

Political Influence:

Oligarchs in Ukraine wield significant political influence, further complicating the relationship between economic interests and governance. Their ability to shape policy decisions and influence regulations can skew the economic playing field in their favor, undermining the principles of fair competition and market efficiency.

Fostering Economic Reform:

Addressing the impact of the oligarchic structure on the Ukrainian economy necessitates comprehensive economic reforms aimed at promoting competition, enhancing transparency, and reducing the concentration of power in the hands of a few individuals. By fostering a more open and competitive business environment, Ukraine can unlock its full economic potential and pave the way for sustainable growth.
Having analyzed this issue, we can conclude that the oligarchic structure in Ukraine poses a formidable challenge to the country's economic development and democratic governance. By addressing the root causes of oligarchic power and promoting a more level playing field, Ukraine can chart a path towards a more inclusive and resilient economy. The oligarchic structure in Ukraine's economy exerts a significant influence on various facets of economic and social life, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive reforms to foster competition, transparency, and sustainable growth.

It is advisable to agree with L.V. Sergienko, who emphasizes that periodic review and evaluation of humanitarian policy vectors enables the search and implementation of preventive measures to prevent and/or minimize threats in the humanitarian sphere, probable risks of a humanitarian crisis in order to increase the level of efficiency of public administration in the humanitarian sphere and ensuring humanitarian security as a component of the country's national security [3, p.172].

One of the ways to face such challenges can be hybrid resilience concept in modern Ukraine. In the context of modern Ukraine, the concept of hybrid resilience emerges as a crucial strategic framework for navigating through complex geopolitical challenges and safeguarding national interests. Let's delve into the key aspects of this concept.

Hybrid resilience is a multifaceted approach that combines elements of traditional resilience with adaptive strategies to address the dynamic and multifaceted threats facing Ukraine. It encompasses the ability of the Ukrainian government and society to effectively respond to a wide range of challenges, including external pressures, internal vulnerabilities, and hybrid warfare tactics. Local self-governance plays a significant role in building hybrid resilience within Ukraine. Empowering local communities to manage their affairs and make decisions that affect their well-being enhances the overall responsiveness and adaptability of the state apparatus. By fostering strong networks of local governance, Ukraine can strengthen its ability to withstand external influences and maintain societal cohesion. A cornerstone of hybrid resilience is the functionality of Ukrainian public institutions. Ensuring the efficiency, transparency, and accountability of government bodies is essential for building public trust and confidence in the state. By enhancing the capabilities of public institutions to deliver services and uphold the rule of law, Ukraine can bolster its resilience against internal and external threats. Ukraine's journey towards hybrid resilience is marked by a series of strategic practices aimed at enhancing national security and stability. These practices involve fostering strategic partnerships with international actors, implementing targeted reforms in key sectors, and promoting civic engagement and participatory decision-making processes. By embracing resilience-building practices, Ukraine can effectively navigate the complex challenges it faces.
In the complex landscape of geopolitics and global relations, Ukraine's humanitarian space stands as a critical domain requiring protection and strategic planning. Let's delve into some key strategies that can aid in safeguarding and nurturing Ukraine’s position within its humanitarian space. One of the first steps in protecting Ukraine's humanitarian space is acknowledging the multifaceted challenges it faces. From geopolitical pressures to internal political dynamics, a comprehensive understanding of the hurdles is essential for formulating effective strategies. Collaborating with international entities, particularly the European Union, is vital for reinforcing Ukraine’s position in the humanitarian sphere. By fostering strong partnerships, Ukraine can benefit from shared expertise, resources, and diplomatic support. At the core of protecting Ukrainian humanitarian space is the promotion of humanitarian values and principles. Upholding concepts such as human rights, dignity, and equality not only enhances Ukraine’s standing but also fosters solidarity within the global community. S. Horbatyuk in his studies of the modern model of humanitarian policy also notes that a real and effective modernization of humanitarian policy can be implemented under the condition of granting it the status of a national project for the formation of appropriate conditions for ensuring human development. For this, at the state level, it is necessary to provide political, legal, organizational, informational, material and technical support for the implementation of innovative management models and forms of activity regarding the formation and implementation of humanitarian policy as the main element in the system of ensuring human development [4, p.88].

Ensuring the security and stability of Ukraine is paramount in safeguarding its humanitarian space. Implementing robust national security measures can mitigate external threats and internal vulnerabilities, thereby creating a secure environment for humanitarian initiatives. Given Ukraine's historical context and geopolitical complexities, building resilience against external influences is crucial. By strengthening its internal structures and institutions, Ukraine can fortify its position and autonomy within the humanitarian space. Also, Effective diplomacy plays a pivotal role in protecting Ukraine's humanitarian interests. Engaging in dialogue, negotiations, and diplomatic initiatives with key stakeholders can help navigate complex geopolitical waters and advocate for Ukraine’s humanitarian priorities. Protecting Ukraine’s humanitarian space requires a combination of strategic foresight, collaborative efforts, and unwavering commitment to humanitarian principles. Strategies for safeguarding Ukraine's humanitarian space encompass a range of approaches, from bolstering international partnerships to promoting core humanitarian values, all aimed at ensuring the country's resilience and autonomy within the global humanitarian landscape.

Conclusions. In conclusion, the harmonization of humanitarian efforts between Ukraine and Europe stands as a crucial step towards a more united and
collaborative approach to addressing global challenges. By aligning goals, principles, and standards, both regions can create a cohesive humanitarian space that fosters greater impact and effectiveness. Drawing from European and global practices, there is a wealth of valuable insights to guide this strategic pathway towards unity. The application of foreign mechanisms provides a blueprint for success in navigating the complexities of modern times. Currently, Ukraine is working towards closer integration with the European Union, both politically and economically. This includes implementing reforms and aligning with EU standards in various areas, including humanitarian policy. However, there are still challenges and obstacles that need to be addressed in order to achieve a truly unified humanitarian space between Ukraine and the EU. The oligarchic structure in Ukraine has a significant impact on its economy, as a small group of powerful individuals control a large portion of the country's wealth and resources. This can lead to unequal distribution of wealth, corruption, and hinder economic growth and development. Additionally, the influence of these oligarchs in politics can create instability and uncertainty in the business environment. Efforts to address this issue and promote a more fair and transparent economic system have been ongoing in Ukraine. Ukraine faces various challenges in achieving its strategic goals, particularly in the humanitarian space [5]. These challenges include political instability, economic issues, and ongoing conflicts with neighboring countries. These challenges require strategic pathways to be developed in order to achieve unity and coherence in the humanitarian space with Europe. Hybrid resilience is a concept that combines traditional resilience strategies with innovative and adaptive approaches to better respond to complex and interconnected challenges. In the context of Ukraine, this concept can help strengthen the country's ability to address and overcome challenges in the humanitarian space, such as conflict, migration, and natural disasters. It involves a coordinated and comprehensive approach that integrates both traditional and non-traditional actors, including government agencies, NGOs, and international organizations, to achieve unity and resilience in the face of these challenges. By implementing hybrid resilience strategies, Ukraine can better align with European and global standards and practices in humanitarian policy and effectively respond to the evolving needs of its people.

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