

FEATURES OF REGIONAL POLICY OF MODERN GREECE THROUGH THE PRISM OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES REGION'S POLITICS

The research is devoted to analysis of social and political processes taking place in Greece at present, within the European Community.

The influence of the EU on the processes taking place in the socio-political sphere of Greece in the context of the European integration course is researched.

Keywords: *social and political development, European integration, Europeanization, European Union, decentralization, demographic trends, regional policy.*

The second half of the twentieth century for Greece was a period with changes in the political system, social services and economic relations. The transformation of public consciousness toward recognizing the benefits of a democratic system gradually led to the conviction on the need for greater involvement in European processes, evidence of what was the process of integration of Greece into EU structures. In turn, the active involvement of the EU on the Europeanization of Greece objectively facilitated the transformation of the country into one of the developed nations of the modern world. It should be noted that this process took place under conditions of limited natural, demographic, economic, and educational resources.

Implementing the policy of European integration, Greece had to radically change their attitude towards the role of the state and its bureaucracy, the business environment in society. However, the need to adapt to European standards objectively created favorable conditions for the further development of modern Greek society and its regional policy.

Traditionally, the main aim of regional policy is the coordination of spatial development of each region with the overall strategy development. The main factor influencing the features of regional policy is the structural heterogeneity of the country in natural geography, resource, economic, social, ethnic and political aspects

Thus, under the regional policy meant the public policy that regulates the political, economic, social, scientific, technical, environmental, demographic, humanitarian, national regional development and internal politics of the regions carried out by local authorities on the basis of national interests. This is especially true in view of the growing role of regions in the political, economic, social and other aspects of the state, as reflected in the transition from centralization to decentralization in decision making.

West scientists or political transformation of South-Eastern Europe, described in the context of major European and global processes, and it does not always take into account the national development model, which often extrapolated to a completely different social activities [3, p.454]. To the Greek scientists studying the problem objectively related to the formation of the political system and characteristics of foreign and domestic policy should include authors such as T. Veremis , N. Tsunis , M. Tayfun E. Siskos , A. Platias , N. Muzelis A. Mitsos , C. Lavdas , Y. Kranidiotis , T. Dokos , E. Zorbalas , E. Hramatikopulus .

Analysis of the socio-political processes that took place in Greece in the second half of 1970-2000's also important in terms of the implementation strategy of the European integration of Ukraine. Transformation of Greece inside the EU took place in several key spheres, among which should be noted, first of all, the transformation of social and political system of Greece. Over the years, membership in the EU Greek authorities had to create a pension system, public education, based on the principles free-paid; insurance. These events led to the development of fundamentally new situation, which is characteristic not only positive but also negative effects, including very high level of state involvement in society, its

economic activity, bureaucratic regulation. Germination of these trends with relevant processes in Ukraine allows to appropriate parallels and try to identify the main ways to overcome similar problems in our country, under the experience of Greece.

The European Community and later the European Union, Greece has always been considered a backward country in terms of economic development. Since joining the EU Greece was a recipient of economic aid, as the object of regional policy in Greece is economically backward and problem areas. European regional policy specifically contributes to the economy depressed (poor) regions of the Community. The Measures to reduce the differences in the economic development of certain regions is regarded as one of the objectives of the European Union. In paragraph 2 of Article 158 of the EC Treaty it seeks to reduce the differences in the development of the various regions and the backwardness of the most undeveloped areas [2]. To the goal of regional cohesion serves Agricultural Fund, Social Fund and Regional Fund.

The third phase of the European selective regional policy to the mid 70's - early 90-ies of XX century, it is characterized by a change in regional policy objectives (and hence the change in the types of selective policy) in a number of foreign countries and a shift in emphasis aligns selective policy from direct government regulation to stimulation endogenous potential problem regions, finding inner reserves to overcome their difficulties and encouragement for this purpose of private enterprise. After the crisis of 1974, the goals that are of a macroeconomic nature, not regional came at the forefront. In terms of the state orientation to increase competitiveness in the global market, public investment in troubled regions at previous levels is unacceptable luxury. In Greece, the program 1976-1980 Conservative government's main goal was announced to achieve the overall efficiency of the country, which meant an autonomous regional development through the use of their own resources [6, p.36].

In the process of European integration of Greece was rethinking the role and place of political parties, who had to work out a compromise approach to the most pressing issues of society, among them political system, the social security system of the population, foreign policy and so on. Despite the rather fierce inter-party struggle, the country achieved political rights and freedoms of people, freedom of the media and civil society organizations [1, p.7].

With regard to this important segment of the European regional policy, as convergence at the national and state levels, then Spain, Portugal and Ireland have chosen a strategy of economic development of a national convergence in order to achieve higher macroeconomic indicators such as cost of most developed countries of the European Union. This result did not contribute to the reduction of regional disparities between areas within these states, however, only strengthened the regional imbalance in them. Excellent strategic choice was Greek (provided with a "strong" impact from the EU), which main goal was to determine regional convergence as a reduction of regional disparities in the state.

Historically, the development of regions has never been a leading focus of government policy in Greece. In the 80's regional policy has been given relatively little attention, and the most serious instances were indicative five-year plans, which were developed by the Greek Institute for Economic Development. However, these plans are only pointing targets and parameters that you want to strive for, while nothing was said as to achieve this goal. They do not display a clear strategy and tactics, timeline and financial justification methods of evaluating the effectiveness of programs. That is, these plans were not full program of activities under the regional policy.

In post-war Greece the main task was considered of restoring the economy mainly through the development of Athens as a leading industrial and economic center of the country. Indeed Greece's economy first developed enough vigor and as a result of this approach was

excessive development of the Athens metropolitan area and surrounding areas, and the rest of Greece was thus in a much worse position.

Greece has a number of features that have a major impact on the uneven development of its regions. The country is located in south-eastern periphery of Europe and is surrounded by neighbors with enough disreputable (Macedonia, Albania, Turkey), Greece for a long time was in a situation that complicates the activity of local businesses in the EU internal market. Greece itself is characterized by a great fragmentation of physical and economic space. Mainland has mostly mountainous terrain, the whole territory from northwest to southeast cross two mountain ranges. In addition, the composition of Greece consists of more than two thousand large and small islands. This territorial fragmentation increases transport costs and requires significant infrastructure costs. A combination of internal and external limitations on economic contacts led to the formation of a special economy in which the majority of medium and small companies focused on the domestic market.

There are different points of view about the beginning of the system of regional policy in Greece. Some researchers believe that the count should be conducted by the enactment of Development (2004) and others associated with the beginning of the regional policy of the EU Integrated Mediterranean Programme (1985). Undoubtedly one - Greece joined the European Community in 1981, strongly influenced the regional policy. Highlights of the regions was made on the eve of the entry of Greece into the EU.

At this point, the country's situation of uneven regional development was next: the most advanced were Attica, the region of Athens metropolitan area, where a significant percentage of the population. Peripheral areas are located in the mountainous part of the country along the border were in the least favorable position.

Overall, the country is divided into a number of regional areas. In zone A were included high level of prefectures - Attica and Thessaloniki, in zone B (intermediate) are regions of Crete, the Aegean south, the Ionian Islands, Central Greece, Thessaly, Western and Central Macedonia; other regions - Epirus, Eastern Macedonia, Thrace, Peloponnese, Aegean West and North Greece amounted third zone of low-level developed regions. The status of the region depends on the size effect coefficients and subsidies [4, p.160].

Another component of the state regional policy - the allocation of public investment, which is realized through the state budget. Program of public investment is part of the annual budget and consists of two parts. The first part contains the projects implemented with the support of EU structural funds, the second - national projects implemented by the government alone.

Initially all interaction with the EU regional policy carried out by the Ministry of Economy, representing programs and plans, coordinating them with the European Community, and received the allocated funds. In fact, regional planning regions deposed, and decisions were made for them. This situation persisted until the appearance Framework Community support plan. According to the new rules in preparing development plans for the region must be involved local authorities. The most effective is embodied in the appearance of a Regional Center of Framework Plans. This new regional policy of the EU support embodied in these priorities. First is the general infrastructure improvement, the second - supporting agriculture in underdeveloped regions. Also one of the main priorities is to support residents of highland areas and small islands (the construction of rural roads, irrigation systems, reforestation, subsidies for the construction of small hotels and small tourism infrastructure facilities, development of fisheries).

Analyzing the regional management system let's focus on the implementation of the two programs "Capodistria" and "Kallikratis" that are intended to reform this sector in line with EU requirements .

Because of their implementation in Greece there was established a system of local government that meets the requirements of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a single "Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics" (NUTS) and "local administrative units" (LAU) in accordance with the 2003 reform. Greece is a centralized state, which consists of the prefectures. Under the influence of the EU for a common policy was introduced intermediate level, but until now this regional level has meaning only within the regional policy, while the prefecture, which in turn are divided into municipalities and communities are more important administrative value [4, p.158]. Thus, in 2011 the territorial-administrative units of the first level in Greece are the municipalities, the number of which is limited to 325 units. They form the 13 prefectures leadership which according to the "Kallikratis" transferred to the elected government. This is done through a process of decentralization of governance and strengthening the powers of local authorities. It should be noted that the government retained control of the financial system of local government. According to the program "Kallikratis" territorial-administrative units of higher level are decentralized administrations, which were established in 2010, their number is seven. New formation headed by Secretary of State, appointed by the Minister of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization.

In the process of solving problems of corruption, political radicalism the significant place is given to the policy of decentralization of governance, empowerment of local authorities real powers. Consider the features of the functioning of the Greek government, among which we note that the Ministry of Interior, Public Administration and Decentralization separated from the Ministry of Public Order, which controls the state police and the fire service.

It, in turn, is responsible for managing the region, implementation of the principle of decentralization in the field. However, through this ministry government funding in areas is going that turns it into one of the most important centers of decision-making in the country. The Ministry is responsible for conducting elections: national and local. In order to develop remote areas the Ministry of Macedonia and Thrace, and the Aegean islands were created. Their goal - integration of these territories into Greek and European community; attracting investment to the region, improving the socio-economic situation of the local population. In general, estimating the system of the central government of Greece, we consider it necessary to mention that it meets the regulatory standards of international and European law and traditions of political life and government of democratic countries.

Today new is the fact that Greece is not one of the most backward countries of the European Union. Another aspect of the impact of the crisis in Greece is directly related to the geographic location of the state in the Balkans. Greece in 1981 became the first Balkan state admitted to the EU in this regard is often a negative impression of the state of the economy translated into a distrust of the not yet linked to the EU Balkan countries. Such sentiments are amplified with the example of Romania and Bulgaria joined the EU in 2007 and remains the poorest countries in integration associations.

The last EU enlargement significantly changed the overall picture. Among all the variety of factors that determine the policy of the EU enlargement Greece factor can be singled out. It can be understood as a manifestation of the Greek crisis, and as the position of Greece in respect of candidates for membership of the European Union. State which entered the EU is seeking new sources of funding, and these countries, of course, can take part in the program association under EU regional policy.

On the one hand, the situation in Greece affects the attractiveness of the idea of joining the EU candidate countries. However, the enlargement affects not only the crisis that has engulfed Greece, but its position relative to direct the candidate countries, particularly Macedonia and Turkey [5, p.178]. Of particular interest is the position of Greece in view of

the fact that this country holds the EU presidency on January 1, 2014. That regional policy is closely related and determined by EU regional policy, so changes in the distribution of funds between lagging states will affect on amount of financing of regional projects in Greece. This means that the Greek government will have a high probability rely on their own strength.

Studying the experience of socio-economic and political changes in Greece in terms of European integration is the essential need for the Ukrainian society in view of the similarity of the problems that stood in front of Greece initially Europeanization and those that currently impede Ukraine flourish. This experience keeps its value even in a political and social crisis that has engulfed Greece in 2008, because it gives an opportunity to identify ways to prevent similar events in Ukraine.

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Дослідження присвячено аналізу соціальних та політичних процесів, що відбуваються в Греції на сучасному етапі в рамках Європейської спільноти. Досліджено вплив ЄС на процеси, які відбуваються в соціально-політичній сфері Греції в контексті реалізації курсу на євроінтеграцію

Ключові слова: соціально-політичний розвиток, європейська інтеграція, європеїзація, Європейський Союз, децентралізація, демографічні процеси, регіональна політика.

Исследование посвящено анализу социальных и политических процессов, происходящих в Греции на современном этапе в рамках Европейского сообщества. Исследовано влияние ЕС на процессы, которые происходят в социально-политической сфере Греции в контексте реализации курса на евроинтеграцию.

Ключевые слова: социально-политическое развитие, европейская интеграция, европеизация, Европейский Союз, децентрализация, демографические процессы, региональная политика.

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Христина Федорищак

ПОРІВНЯЛЬНИЙ АНАЛІЗ ДОСЛІДЖЕНЬ «ПОЛІТИКА ПАМ'ЯТІ» ТА «ІСТОРИЧНОЇ ПОЛІТИКИ» В УКРАЇНІ ТА РЕСПУБЛІЦІ ПОЛЬЩА

У статті досліджено питання розвитку політики пам'яті та історичної політики в Україні та Республіці Польщі, проаналізовано й визначено їхню природу, суть, специфіку та структуру.

Ключові слова: пам'ять, колективна пам'ять, політика пам'яті, історична політика.

Трансформаційні процеси кінця ХХ століття змінили акценти у підходах до вивчення і розуміння історичного минулого, зокрема в країнах Центрально-Східної Європи. Особливо великої актуальності набули питання, що стосуються спільної історії народів та держав, формування колективної пам'яті, конструювання нових моделей ідентичності. Сьогодні суспільство все більше усвідомлює зростання активності пам'яті. Пам'ять людства про своє минуле, виникнення, еволюцію, сьогодення одночасно об'єднує й роз'єднує їх.