

ppi 201502ZU4645

Esta publicación científica en formato digital es continuidad de la revista impresa  
ISSN-Versión Impresa 0798-1406 / ISSN-Versión on line 2542-3185 Depósito legal pp  
197402ZU34

# CUESTIONES POLÍTICAS

Instituto de Estudios Políticos y Derecho Público "Dr. Humberto J. La Roche"  
de la Facultad de Ciencias Jurídicas y Políticas de la Universidad del Zulia  
Maracaibo, Venezuela



Vol.40

Nº 73

Julio

Diciembre

2022



# Formation of Social Ukraine's Policy on the Principles of Social Governance in EU Countries

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46398/cuestpol.4073.10>

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## Abstract

The purpose of this article was to identify the characteristics of the development of Ukraine's social policy in the context of integration into EU standards. The historical method was used to perform analysis of documentary sources in the temporal context and to investigate the genesis of the introduction of social policy and trends towards its further development with Europe. The legal method was also used to investigate Ukrainian and EU legislation and its application in the social field, in order to investigate its gaps, as well as its influence on integration processes. By way of conclusion, it was determined that the processes of European integration and, more precisely, the adaptation of Ukrainian legislation to EU standards in the social field played an important role in the development of the country's social policy. At the same time, there were differences in terminological approaches to key categories of the legislative systems of Ukraine and the EU, as well as in separate areas of social policy.

**Keywords:** governance; social policy; European integration; social justice; collective well-being.

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## Formación de la Política de Ucrania Social sobre los Principios de Gobernanza Social en los Países de la UE

### Resumen

El propósito de este artículo fue identificar las características del desarrollo de la política social de Ucrania en el contexto de la integración a las normas de la UE. El método histórico se utilizó para realizar análisis de fuentes documentales en el contexto temporal y para investigar la génesis de la introducción de la política social y las tendencias hacia su mayor desarrollo con Europa. Se utilizó además el método legal para investigar la legislación de Ucrania y la UE y su aplicación en el ámbito social, con el fin de investigar sus lagunas, así como su influencia en los procesos de integración. A modo de conclusión se determinó que los procesos de integración europea y, más exactamente, la adaptación de la legislación ucraniana a las normas de la UE en el ámbito social desempeñaba un papel importante en el desarrollo de la política social del país. Al mismo tiempo, había diferencias en los enfoques terminológicos de las categorías clave de los sistemas legislativos de Ucrania y la UE, así como en áreas separadas de la política social.

**Palabras clave:** gobernanza; política social; integración europea; justicia social; bienestar colectivo.

### Introduction

The relevance of this work is determined by the need to study the social policy of Ukraine in accordance with European integration processes.

The principles of social policy in Ukraine are one of the priorities of public policy and they are entrenched at the constitutional level. Accordingly, social policy aims to meet the needs of citizens through social security and welfare aid by providing shelters, appropriate medical and educational services and monetary payments to overcome poverty. Each direction represents an important area of human needs, which should be guaranteed and provided by the State at the appropriate level.

However, in the realities of the State's strengthening, the social sphere has been one of the most vulnerable ones since attainment of independence. And with the beginning of Ukraine's European integration, the process of adaptation of Ukrainian legislation to EU standards and the demands of the European community on Ukraine have led to a number of changes in the regulatory framework of the social sphere in accordance with EU principles. Thus, the relevance of our study stems from the need to determine the feasibility and effectiveness of implementation of social policy in Ukraine in the context of European integration processes.

The purpose of this article is to identify the features of legislative development and patterns of practical implementation of social policy in Ukraine in accordance with the European Union standards and norms.

This article defines the following tasks:

- to determine the place of social policy in Ukraine's European integration process;
- to analyse the state of practical implementation of social policy in Ukraine in the context of European integration processes;
- to identify the main gaps and development trends in the social policy of Ukraine and the European Union.

The purpose of this article is to study the development of social policy in Ukraine on the basis of principles and under the influence of integration processes of the European Union.

The object of research is social relations in the field of social policy development in Ukraine in accordance with the process of adaptation of legislation to EU standards and principles of social governance in the European Union.

Development and practical implementation of social policy in Ukraine remains a problematic issue. This problem becomes especially relevant in connection with Ukraine's European integration. It is necessary to analyse the legislative, practical and scientific base of sources in the field of social policy of Ukraine and the European Union. It is important to explore the features and gaps in the legislation, as well as their impact on integration processes in the social sphere. These factors determine the relevance of this article.

## **1. Literature Review**

Okladna and Yakovyuk (2016) analysed the evolution of scientific views on social policy as part of the European integration process of Ukraine based on the scientific papers of the leading specialists in the field of European integration and social policy, statutes, legal and political acts of the European Communities.

Aravacik (2018) undertook a detailed analysis of the process of changes and transformations in different states and their social policy on a global scale, which will be considered conceptually and in terms of historical development. The paper established, that social problems change depending on economic and environmental factors, as well as differ depending on the social structure and public policy.

A study by Graziano and Hartlapp (2018) identified the causes of the financial and economic crisis and the change in the ideological composition of the European Commission as a determinant of the agenda and became a key driver of the European Union's social welfare policy.

A study by Copeland and Daly (2018) identifies the basic guidelines of EU social policy and the place of the "European Semester" in EU social development. It was noted that EU social policy is more focused on the support of market development than on the correction of market failures, due to a combination of factors, including the strong influence of some social agents in the context of restrictions, moderation in expectations and adoption of strategic practices by the key agents as well as due to policy differences among Member States.

The work by Babenko *et al.* (2020) determines that ensuring sustainable economic development in difficult political and economic conditions is one of the priorities for Ukraine, which is forced to reorient the vector of foreign economic cooperation to the integration groupings of the European Union.

Yakovlev (2020) reveals the importance of the principles of social security law and their role in social protection of the population. According to this study, the principles of social security are the key guidelines for rule-making activities aimed at the formation of a new system of social protection of the Ukrainian population. The more fully they are taken into account, the more successfully they will be adapted to modern demands, and the more reliably and efficiently the relevant social security system will function.

It was proposed to establish the following principles of social security law at the legislative level: multipurpose Ness, non-discrimination, equality of rights and opportunities, social justice, targeting, planned use of funds, State guarantees of the established rights, solidarity and subsidizing, transparency, timeliness, provision of a standard of living not lower than the minimum living standard, established by law, defence and protection of the lawful rights and interests of citizens in accordance with the national and international legislation. The more fully they are taken into account, the more successfully they will be adapted to modern demands, and the more reliably and efficiently the relevant social security system will function.

Sokurenko (2020) considered the principles of the welfare state from the perspective of some acts of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine and proved that formalization of the social State principles occurs due to some acts of the Constitutional Court within the national legal system of Ukraine.

Another study, undertaken by Begg (2010) determines the very special role and place of the "European Semester" in social and economic policy coordination. In particular, it was determined that European market integration contributes to the creation of an increasingly "social" Europe and that the "European Semester" is now the main coordination mechanism

for socio-economic policy. In general, it is an annual cycle of coordination aimed at better harmonization of the EU's national social and economic policies with commonly agreed objectives.

Karunarathne (2021) in the study of the relevance of social policy in social maintenance noted the role of the State and public administration in the development of social policy of each state.

The Covid-19 pandemic has become a significant socio-economic problem, causing a significant crisis in the world. In 2019-2021, there was a lot of research on various aspects of the pandemic and its impact on the modern world. Another topical research is Cavallin's (2021) study on preventing pandemics by building bridges in EU Policy and Law of 2021, which states that the approaches and positions of the EU and Member States often lack determination and ambition and are limited in synergy and coherence, representing lost opportunities both in terms of ambitions and in building bridges in various areas in connection with the pandemic.

Vesan and Corti (2021) investigated the return of the Social Entrepreneurship Commission before and after the Covid-19 pandemic in the context of adoption of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR). The paper identifies that the EPSR was both a "policy support" and a "policy trigger" strategy, deepening the EU's social policy integration after a decade of significant political inertia.

Čeginskas *et al.* (2021) revealed that the discussion between the countries of Northern and Southern Europe on Eurobonds or the Economic Reconstruction Fund to respond to the economic and social consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic is the most relevant example of lack of political unanimity, which undermines the legitimacy of the Union. Researchers have found that if heritage sites manage to create polyphonic interactions between different groups and emotionally move people, they can help increase empathy and solidarity.

These are necessary preconditions for building a social Europe based on the recognition of the right to the same level of well-being in all Member States and the responsibility for correcting structural inequalities as a joint effort of Member States and EU citizens. Such an image of Europe can lay the groundwork for more active social policy and raise this policy to the top of the EU agenda. Therefore, European cultural heritage policies and practices can and should help make Europe more "social", especially as they become more citizen-oriented.

At the same time, we cannot agree with the allegations of Jordan *et al.* (2021), that in recent years the regime has not paid more attention to the social goals of the EU. The authors indicated that this was done through an in-depth analysis of pay statistics, employment protection and collective bargaining policies in Germany, Italy, Ireland and Romania between 2009

and 2019. It was concluded that EU intervention in these three areas of industrial relations policy continues through the liberalization program that transforms the labour force into commodities, albeit to varying degrees, in the uneven but still integrated European political economy. In our opinion, the formation and social orientation of the EU has significantly improved in recent years.

## **2. Methods and Materials**

This article uses general scientific and legal research methods, among which the historical method is very important, as it allowed to conduct a detailed study and analysis of materials in the historical context, as well as to investigate the genesis of establishing social policy in Ukraine and trends for its further development and integration. Also, legal and comparative-legal methods were used to study the legal framework of Ukraine and the European Union, and the practice of their application in the social sphere and to explore the features and gaps in legislation, as well as their impact on integration processes in the social sphere.

Having analysed Ukrainian and foreign academic and practical literature, we have selected the scientific papers that allowed to study the history of the social policy development in Ukraine, European integration policy and legislation, as well as the practical consequences of their application. Further, we carried out the analysis of the legislation of Ukraine and the European Union in the field of social policy.

The research procedure included determining the relevance of the chosen research topic, analysis of scientific and practical methods and approaches used to conduct research on EU social policy, as well as their impact on the social sphere of Ukraine.

At the first stage of the study, we reviewed the scientific sources for the period from 2016 to 2021 to analyse the main aspects and theoretical basis of European and Ukrainian social policies, and accordingly to analyse different approaches. Also, it allowed to explore the historical background and development of European social policy and determine the directions of its further development. Next, a study of relevant legislation and current legal and regulatory instruments was conducted.

The next stage involved the selection of practical and theoretical materials in the field of social policy in accordance with the criterion of territoriality on the basis of an integrated approach, which allowed to identify the main problems and prospects of this research, study the experience of the EU and determine the state of development of this problem in different regions.

Next, we analysed the common and distinctive features of European and Ukrainian social policies and identified the obstacles to the formation of the Ukrainian social sphere on the basis of the EU principles. An important aspect at this stage was the study of the compliance of social spheres with the goals of sustainable development in these regions.

To verify the results, we analysed the budgets and financial costs for social security of Ukraine and the EU and undertook the appropriate comparable monitoring of practical materials for the implementation of certain areas of social policy in the EU and Ukraine.

### **3. Results**

The analysis of the data conducted in this study confirms our hypothesis that the definition of the list of principles of social policy in Ukraine is a debatable issue.

One of the most controversial issues of Ukraine's social policy is the problem of principles, which play an important role in the provision of social security. However, there is no scientific consensus regarding the determination of the list of such principles.

Accordingly, there is a contradiction in approaches to understanding the terminology of social policy in Ukraine. If the term "social policy" is used in the EU countries, the Ukrainian legislation operates with such terms as "social welfare policy", "social protection policy" and "social policy" itself. There are two points of view on the meaning of these terms: the first indicates their identity, and the second states that "social welfare policy" and "social protection policy" are included into the notion of "social policy". The differences in the legal systems of the EU and Ukraine, as well as different legal systems (Anglo-Saxon legal system in the EU and the Romano-Germanic legal framework in Ukraine) necessitate different concepts and approaches to understanding of the term "social policy".

In the empirical analysis, we compared the income and expenses of the budget in certain areas for the last five years (2017-2021).

Funding for 2021 was approved according to the Law of Ukraine "On the State Budget of Ukraine for 2021" (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2020).

According to this document, the government revenues for 2021 amount to 1,147,876,117.3 thousand hryvnias, and the state budget expenditures amount to 1,385,492,043.2 thousand hryvnias.

The state budget for 2021 provides for almost UAH 160 billion for healthcare, and almost UAH 170 billion will be allocated for the development of education and science. Expenditures on national security and defence



are projected at UAH 267 billion, or 5.93% of GDP. In 2021, the minimum subsistence level per person per month in Ukraine is in the amount of 2189 hryvnias from January 1; 2294 hryvnias from July 1, and 2393 hryvnias from December 1. The minimum wage in 2021 in Ukraine from January 1 is 6000 hryvnias, from December 1 - 6500 hryvnias.

State revenues for 2020 amount to UAH 11,022,051,935 and state budget expenditures for 2020 were provided in the amount of UAH 1,270,677,100.3. The maximum limit of Ukraine's government deficit is set at UAH 298,404,307.9. In 2020, the minimum subsistence level per person per month in Ukraine was from January 1, 2020 - 2027 hryvnias, from July 1 - 2118 hryvnias, from December 1 - 2189 hryvnias. The minimum wage in 2020 was from January 1 - 4723 hryvnias, from September 1 - 5000 hryvnias (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2019).

Ukraine's State budget for 2019 provided for government revenues in the amount of UAH 1,007,303,177.9 and state budget expenditures in the amount of UAH 1,093,021,713.2. In 2019, the minimum subsistence level per person per month in Ukraine was 1853 hryvnias per month from January 1, 2019, 1936 hryvnias from July 1, and 2027 hryvnias from December 1 (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2020). In 2019, the minimum wage from January 1 was 4173 hryvnias (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2018).

Ukraine's State budget for 2018 provided for government revenues in the amount of UAH 917,998,866.4, and state budget expenditures in the amount of UAH 991,930,698.4. In 2018, the minimum subsistence level per person per month in Ukraine was 1,700 hryvnias from January 1, 2018, 1,777 hryvnias from July 1, and 1,853 hryvnias from December 1. In 2018, minimum wage from January 1 was 3723 hryvnias.

Ukraine's State budget for 2017 provided for government revenues in the amount of UAH 771,266,617.6 and state budget expenditures in the amount of 841,402,834.3. In 2017, the minimum subsistence level per person per month in Ukraine was 1544 hryvnias from January 1, 2017, 1624 hryvnias from May 1, and 1700 hryvnias from December 1 (Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2016). In 2017, the minimum wage from January 1 was 3200 hryvnias.

Accordingly, Table 1 shows the following trends in budgeting for 2016-2021.

**Table 1. Social budget of Ukraine for 2017-2021.**

Year	State revenues	State budget expenditures	The minimum subsistence level	The minimum wage
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<i>calendar year</i>	<i>Thousand UAH</i>	<i>Thousand UAH</i>	<i>from January 1</i>	<i>from May 1</i>	<i>from July 1</i>	<i>from December 1</i>	<i>UAH</i>
<b>2017</b>	771.266.617,6	841.402.834,3	1544	1624	1624	1700	3200
<b>2018</b>	917.998.866,4	991.930.698,4	1700	1700	1777	1853	3723
<b>2019</b>	1.007.303.177,9	1.093.021.713,2	1853	1853	1936	2027	4173
<b>2020</b>	11.022.051.935	1.270.677.100,3	2027	2027	2118	2189	<i>from January 1 - 4723, from September 1 - 5000.</i>
	1.147.876.117,3	1.385.492.043,2	2189	2189	2294	2393	<i>from January 1 - 6000., 3 from December 1 - 6500.</i>

Source: Authors.

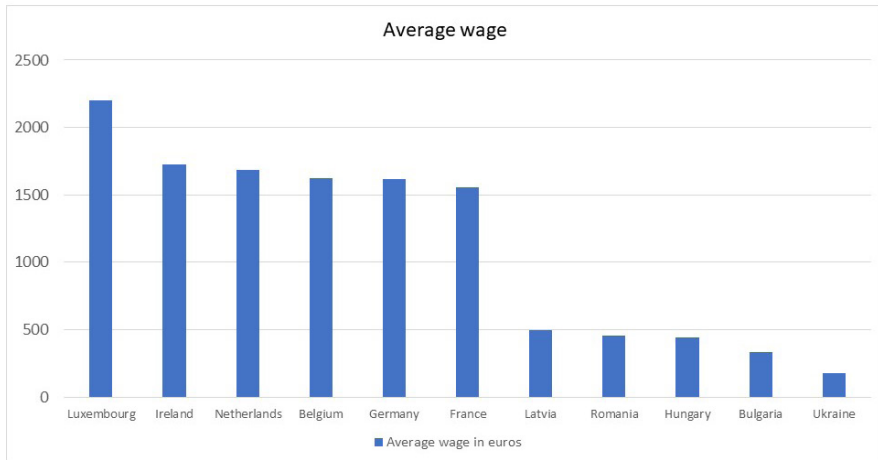
Thus, from 2017 to 2021, Ukraine's government revenues increased by UAH 376609499.7, state budget expenditures increased by UAH 544089208.9, the minimum subsistence level increased by 849 hryvnias, and the minimum wage by 3 300 UAH. Thus, the percentage ratio can be calculated as follows (Table 2).

**Table 2. Percentage changes in the social budget of Ukraine for 2017-2021.**

<b>Year</b>	<b>State revenues</b>	<b>State budget expenditures</b>	<b>The minimum subsistence level</b>	<b>The minimum wage</b>
previous / next year	%	%	%	%
<b>2017/2018</b>	19,94	17,94	9,00	16,34
<b>2018/2019</b>	9,72	19,28	9,39	12,09
<b>2019/2020</b>	1094,54	16,26	4,49	19,82
<b>2020/2021</b>	-89,58	9,03	9,14	30,00

Source: Authors.

At the same time, the wage level in the EU in 2021 ranged from 300 euros in Bulgaria to 2202 euros in Luxembourg (Eurostat, n. d.). It is estimated that the average wage in Ukraine is less than 180 euros per month (Figure 1).



**Figure 1: Comparison of average wages.**

Moreover, although life expectancy in Ukraine is growing, it still remains one of the lowest in the world (Worldometer, n. d.). We analysed the average age in some EU countries and in Ukraine in 2020 and determined that the average life expectancy in Ukraine is lower than the global by 0.7 years, female life expectancy is higher by 1.67, and life expectancy for men is lower by 3.24 years. In total, Ukraine ranks 119-th in the world (Table 3).

**Table 3. Average life expectancy in Ukraine and the EU.**

2020	World	Ukraine	Sweden	France	Germany	Italy
<b>Women</b>	75.6	77.27	84.97	85.82	84.14	85.97
<b>Men</b>	70.8	67.56	81.69	80.32	79.62	81.90
<b>In general</b>	73.2	72.50	83.33	83.13	81.88	84.01

Source: Authors.

As a result, we should emphasize that Ukraine should pay more attention to certain aspects of social policy development, but take into account the fact that on general social indicators Ukraine cannot fully meet the EU requirements. Nevertheless, given the data, it can be determined that the direction of social policy in accordance with the European integration processes has led to a significant development of certain social indicators in Ukraine.

As a result of the analysis of scientific and practical materials of 2016-2021, we concluded that the social policies of Ukraine and the European Union have significant differences that were not duly taken into account, which complicates the process of adaptation and harmonization of Ukrainian legislation with EU legislation.

In particular, the legislative frameworks of Ukraine and the European Union are based on different legal systems that have different features of their implementation.

Furthermore, the level of socio-economic development and government priorities also play a significant role in shaping the country's social policy. Accordingly, Ukrainian and European realities differ in these areas.

In our opinion, it is especially important that the coordination of policies of EU Member States is among the main tasks of the EU, and migration from the Middle East is a significant problem, which has led to significant additional burden on the budget and social sphere of Europe and lead to instability and made the crime situation worse.

At the same time, in Ukraine European integration plays a key role among the main tasks, in the process of this integration it is important to adapt and harmonize Ukrainian legislation to EU requirements, as well as to further implement it effectively. An important task is the systematization of social law rules and the formation of a comprehensive system of social policy in accordance with the requirements and principles of the social direction of the European Union. The main obstacles in the Ukrainian realities include overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe and social support for Chernobyl victims, which is an exclusively national issue of Ukraine.

Secondly, the elimination and overcoming of the consequences of Russian aggression, and, accordingly, social security and protection of ATO participants, as well as their families, is an acute problem of Ukraine's social policy in the 2020-s. The issue of social security for internally displaced persons became relevant with the annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the Donetsk region. These aspects have a significant impact on the social sphere of the State.

Ukraine's European integration is the common goal, in which, in accordance with modern political conditions, both sides are interested.

Also, both sides are characterized by the so-called "aging of the nation", i.e., citizens of pensionable age constitute the majority of the population, which complicates proper social security.

Also, the whole world faced a difficult common issue related to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019-2022, which particularly affected the social sphere of each country, including the EU and Ukraine. Accordingly, the

crisis in the social sphere of the countries of the world and their interaction and the consequences of overcoming the epidemic is a topical area for further research.

#### 4. Discussion

As a result of the study, we determined the features of social Ukraine's policymaking under the influence of European integration processes and the difference with the social policy of the EU. It was determined that the Ukrainian and European preconditions of development and geopolitical features significantly influenced its formation. The experience and trends of the EU social direction have influenced Ukrainian realities, but cannot be considered as imperatives for Ukrainian reality.

In general, the EU is an international entity with a global reach which has a number of special characteristics compared to state actors. Particular challenges, which the EU is facing, include the diversity of institutions and members, the effectiveness of its external actions, and the question of legitimacy.

Social policy is concerned with how societies around the world meet human needs for security, education, work, health and well-being (Platt, n. d.). The complexity of the study is due to the peculiarities of socio-political changes in public life, which led to a change in social needs (Aravacik, 2018). As a result of the 1991 Maastricht European Council, the Treaty on Political, Economic and Monetary Union was concluded, which together constitute the Treaty on European Union (2012). According to the Treaty, Member States confirm their commitment to fundamental social rights (Begg, 2010).

Changes in globalization processes have led to the need to reform the social sphere, which is associated with the definition of new parameters of social problems and the social policy transformation (Čeginskas *et al.*, 2021).

Despite the crisis, the European Pillar of Social Rights was adopted, which was the impetus for development (Garben, 2019; Vesan and Corti, 2021). It identifies 20 principles and rights necessary for equity of labour markets and social protection systems (European Commission, n. d.).

Also, the European integration process in Europe has become especially important for the development of the social sphere, as it has gradually become a factor influencing the socio-economic development of countries around the world (Haas *et al.*, 2020). In 2008, the European Parliament adopted a Resolution stating that it is unacceptable to favour social rights. Thus, the implementation of the common social policy becomes an essential

element necessary for strengthening internal ties within the EU and for the formation of European identity.

In 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals for the period up to 2030 were adopted in order to ensure peace, social development and prosperity for people and the planet now and in the future (United Nations, 2015). It has been acknowledged that over the past fifteen years, there has been a lack of new policy solutions for underrepresented groups in the labour market (Alcidi and Gros, 2017). These changes affect other areas, such as gender equality, protection of social rights, health protection or global competition for skills and innovations.

Thus, the Ukrainian social sphere must respond and develop in accordance with the new directions and trends of European social policy. Article 46 of the Constitution of Ukraine stipulates that *all* citizens have the right to social protection, which includes the right to security (Voronina, 2020). The Association Agreement of June 27, 2014, between Ukraine and the EU serves as a strategic guideline for systematic social reforms (Proskura, 2020). Ukraine, respectively, must provide gradual approximation to EU law, standards and practices in the field of social policy (Sokurenko, 2020).

At the same time, integration plays a key role among the main tasks of Ukraine, within which it is important to adapt and harmonize Ukrainian legislation with EU requirements. The main obstacles are overcoming the consequences of the Chornobyl catastrophe and social support for the victims. An acute problem of Ukraine's social policy is the elimination and overcoming of the consequences of Russian aggression, social security and protection of ATO participants and their families. The issue of social security for internally displaced persons became relevant with the annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the Donetsk region. These problems strongly influence the social sphere (Bekker, 2021).

The European integration of Ukraine is the general objective, in which, in accordance with the political conditions, both parties are interested. The high level of public debt in the EU and Ukraine is a factor that today increases economic vulnerability (Casagrande and Dallago, 2021a, b). Although a number of social reforms have not been successful, they have led to significant development and formation of new social policies in the EU and Ukraine (Alcidi and Gros, 2017). The crisis in the social sphere in recent years has been caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has particularly affected the social sphere of each country. At the same time, the pandemic crisis is a window of opportunity for fundamental changes in the social sphere (Ladi and Tsarouhas, 2020; Seabrooke *et al.*, 2020).

## Conclusions

As a result of the study, we can conclude that this policy is necessary for the world community, as the social sphere is key area for the establishment of democracy, human rights and in the formation of the appropriate level of welfare of citizens of each state. Accordingly, current socio-political changes, crises and challenges require a review and rethinking of basic approaches and trends in the development of the social sphere.

The relevance of the work is determined by the need to study the social policy of Ukraine in accordance with the processes of European integration and the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The principles of social policy in Ukraine are enshrined at the constitutional level and are one of State policy priorities, aimed at meeting citizens' needs through social protection and security, which must be guaranteed and provided by the state at the appropriate level. However, in the realities of Ukrainian nation building, the social sphere has been one of the most vulnerable ones since independence. The development of social policy in the state took place gradually, and scientific and theoretical approaches to understanding social policy developed and improved progressively as well.

And with the beginning of Ukraine's European integration, it has led to a number of complications and drastic changes in the social sphere that need to be addressed. Therefore, our study of the need to determine the practical feasibility and effectiveness of social policy in Ukraine in the framework of European integration reforms is relevant and topical.

In general, in Ukraine and the EU there are different approaches to understanding the socio-political processes arising from different political systems of the countries, features and state of socio-economic development.

Accordingly, the problem of social security and social protection of Chernobyl victims and ATO participants, the problem of social security for internally displaced persons in Ukraine and migrants in the EU are especially acute.

Instead, both sides have adopted the principles of sustainable development and adhere to them, these principles have defined the main criteria, needs and ways of socio-economic, social and environmental development of countries.

It ought to be noted that for all countries of the world, including Ukraine and the EU, the coronavirus pandemic 2019-2021 is a sensitive issue that caused a significant social and economic crisis.

Thus, we can conclude that the EU and European integration play a significant role in shaping Ukraine's social policy. At the same time, it should be recognized that the category of the social sphere has expanded significantly in recent years, which has led to a new understanding of the role and importance of the EU in this area.

Taking into account the results of this study provide an opportunity to more effectively and systematically approach the effective social policy-making in Ukraine and its adaptation to EU standards.

Determination of the features of the application of social policy principles in Ukraine, as well as exploration of the specificities of social security and protection of Chernobyl victims and former members of the ATO participants may constitute prospects for further research.

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Vol.40 N° 73

*Esta revista fue editada en formato digital y publicada en julio de 2022, por el Fondo Editorial Serbiluz, Universidad del Zulia. Maracaibo-Venezuela*

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