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Formation of priority tasks and strategies for education highly qualified political scientists: European experience, and Ukrainian practice

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Abstract

The aim of our study is to examine the experience of European countries in strategies for the development of the training of highly qualified specialists in political science. The task of the article is to identify the advantages of European university and non-university systems of political science education, in order to develop proposals to improve the level of political science teaching in Ukraine. The work uses theoretical research methods, among which the axiomatic, historical and structural-comparative methods stand out. It was found that the teaching of political science in European universities focuses on the acquisition of practical skills, but despite all the difficulties in the training of political scientists in Ukraine, the curricula of Ukrainian universities correspond in many respects with European standards. The conclusions indicate that the practical part of political science teaching does not play a minor role than the theoretical one. In Ukraine, education is not provided in institutes, while university curricula are mostly theoretical.

Keywords: political science in Ukraine; university education; studio plans; European experience; highly qualified professionals.

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Tareas y estrategias prioritarias para la formación de politólogos altamente cualificados: La experiencia europea y la práctica ucraniana

Resumen

El objetivo de nuestro estudio es examinar la experiencia de los países europeos en las estrategias para el desarrollo de la formación de especialistas altamente cualificados en ciencias políticas. La tarea del artículo es identificar las ventajas de los sistemas universitarios y no universitarios europeos de enseñanza de la ciencia política, para desarrollar propuestas para mejorar el nivel de la enseñanza de la ciencia política en Ucrania. En el trabajo se utilizan métodos de investigación teóricos, entre los que destacan el método axiomático, el histórico y el estructural-comparativo. Se comprobó que la enseñanza de la ciencia política en las universidades europeas se centra en la adquisición de habilidades prácticas, pero a pesar de todas las dificultades en la formación de los politólogos en Ucrania, los planes de estudio de las universidades ucranianas se corresponden en muchos aspectos con los estándares europeos. Las conclusiones indican que la parte práctica de la enseñanza de la ciencia política no desempeña un papel menor que la teórica. En Ucrania, la enseñanza no se imparte en los institutos, mientras que los planes de estudio universitarios son mayoritariamente teóricos.

Palabras clave: ciencia política en Ucrania; educación universitaria; planes de estudio; experiencia europea; profesionales de alta calificación.

Introduction

A study of contemporary political science education and training programs is a pressing academic challenge. Employment of political scientists is projected to grow by 9% over 2020-2030, which is about as fast as the average for all professions. A total of 700 new political science jobs are projected to emerge each year over the decade in democracies. Many vacancies are expected to arise as older generations of political scientists change careers or retire. For this reason, there is a need to analyze the European experience of training specialists of the appropriate level in order to identify strengths and weaknesses in the training of Ukrainian political scientists, to adapt applicants to the next professional activity by improving curricula and programs.

The aim of our research is to analyze the experience of European countries on strategies of development of training of highly qualified

specialists in political science. The task of the article is to identify the advantages of European university and non-university systems of political science education, to work out proposals to improve the level of political science education in Ukraine.

1. Materials and Methods

The theoretical part of the article is built on the systematic study of modern professional literature on the indicated issue and generalization of some previous experience of researchers. For example, Vilkov and Rudenko (2017), who researched the peculiarities of creating the system of political science education in Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, - thoroughly defined the global and national ideological and ideological factors that influenced the activities of university teachers, as well as highlighted the features of organizational support and content. training of political scientists. Medvedev (2014) summarized the current problems of teaching political science in the post-Soviet space Babichev (2014) investigated the specifics of political science courses under the Bologna process.

Additional sources of work were our preliminary reconnaissance on this issue, statistical and informative data, including those obtained from educational and methodological materials of educational institutions in Ukraine and Western Europe. For comparison and description of a more complete worldview picture, some data on the corresponding educational programs in the USA are also given.

The paper applies theoretical methods of research, among which the following are highlighted: axiomatic, based on certain initial provisions - axioms, from which the following knowledge and statements are logically derived; historical - involving the description of the real process of transformation of the research object: this method reflects the formation of political science education in Ukraine since it gained independence. The structural-comparative method used in the consideration of the internal structure of the system of training of specialists-political scientists in specific institutions of Western Europe was also applied. Equally important was the method of comparison, with the help of which we were able to compare the practice of European universities with Ukrainian regarding the formation of strategies of training political scientists.

The experience of European countries on preparation of highly qualified specialists in political science was investigated on the basis of the system analysis, according to which the university political science directions were considered through a prism of cumulative steady interrelations, which simultaneously dynamically develop. So general scientific methods of research as: analysis, synthesis, induction, and deduction were used along

with weighty for our research - logical method and method of abstraction, which implied ascending from the abstract to the concrete, when we analyzed general theoretical approaches and provisions and proposed specific ways of their implementation in further.

Special attention in the work is paid to empirical methods of collection, analysis, and interpretation of information. In particular, the work is formed on the basis of analysis of different kinds of documents, first of all, curricula, and syllabuses of political science disciplines of Ukrainian and European universities. As a result, an objective position on the experience of European countries on the formation of priority tasks and strategies of development of training of highly qualified specialists-political scientists is achieved.

2. Results

The training of political scientists is an integral part of university training in many countries of the world. Now political science majors are in high demand, so the problem of the formation and foundations of political science requires constant renewal, which would be based on the best examples of the world.

2.1. French experience and practice

Among European countries, France and its research institutions are a recognized leader in the study of political science. It should be noted that a characteristic feature of French educational institutions is the immediate absence of departments of political science. The political sciences are often studied together with law, and the corresponding academic structures are called Faculties of Law and Political Science. At the same time, eight institutes of political science (Instituts des Etudes Politiques) continue to operate in France after 1945 and to this day - these include the Institute of Political Science Panthéon-Sorbonne at the University of Paris, the Institute of Political Science of Grenoble, the Institute of Political Science of Toulouse at Toulouse, and several others (Sage *et al.*, 2021).

These institutions put forward different curricula based on a wide range of academic disciplines. Such a system is implemented through attempts to provide graduates with broad political-management knowledge and to instill in them the ability to pursue different fields of study without being specifically trained as specialists in a particular field. There is also a lot of emphasis on methodological issues, which makes teaching somewhat rigid and requires discipline. Institutes of political science are open educational institutions, especially, perhaps, learning foreign languages and conducting foreign internships to gain the necessary practical experience for a future professional career (Medvedev, 2014).

The educational process here takes place according to the Bologna system; the period of study for the political science profile is 5 years, which is quite equivalent to the generally accepted European framework for the training of a master (master) in political science. Much attention is paid to the professional orientation of future specialists, in particular, even within specific disciplines (e.g., political science). Applicants are usually able to determine their future career immediately by enrolling in one or another type of institution of higher education. Applicants who are academically oriented and tend to be research-oriented tend to enroll at universities. Other applicants oriented towards practical work often choose higher schools and Institutes for education (Vilkov and Rudenko, 2017).

The peculiarity of training of high-class specialists in political science is the active involvement of applicants in practical work. According to the adopted methodology, for at least 9 months an applicant should undergo an internship outside the Institute: in administrative structures, private companies, enterprises, in a political or public foundation or organization (association), including - international.

International internships are also practiced. In some cases, if previously agreed with the administration of the Institute of Political Science, it is possible to have an internship in several different structures, but its total duration should not be less than 9 months. For example, the International Relations and Internship Department of the Political Science Institute in Aix-en-Provence offers quite a few options for work placements for its students, also citing a considerable list of foreign partner institutions which may accept students from Provence for internships.

There is also a compulsory introductory computer science class. It determines students' computer science background and recommends additional classes for students who need them. Attendance is mandatory, and appropriate academic grades are given at the end of this course. Foreign language classes are also important for political science students. Typically, as a first foreign language, a choice is offered to take, German, English, Spanish, or Italian. A second foreign language is given, as for the French, a more "exotic" one: Arabic, Chinese or Japanese.

The training of political scientists in French universities usually takes place in French only. The only exceptions are the Institute in Toulouse, where both French and English are taught in parallel, and the International Chiller University in Paris, where both French and English master's degrees can be taken simultaneously (Sage *et al.*, 2021).

An additional advantage of French institutions where political science is studied is the wide range of opportunities for subsequent employment. In particular, graduates can become researchers in political science, pursue doctoral studies, work as experts in the private or public (public) field, enter

professional politics, work as a parliamentary attaché, a commissioned officer, or in charge of a political project. As a rule, the best political science graduates are invited to work in the research centers of the institutes themselves.

An additional guarantee of successful employment is extensive contact with stakeholders (employers). For example, the Paris School of Political Science maintains links with about 1,000 potential employers. These include various enterprises, companies, organizations, foundations (both public, private, and non-governmental). Each year they contribute a certain amount to the institution's budget, investing in the training of their future employees. They also gain access to scientific and scholarly journals and have some influence on the formation of curricula and research projects. By controlling their implementation, the beneficiaries must achieve in the educational process the correspondence between the academic training of undergraduate and graduate students and the needs in the professional qualities of future specialists. Often the best students are invited to intern at these partner organizations and companies.

2.2. German experience and practice

Political science courses at German universities do not differ significantly from those at North American and Western European universities in terms of their curricula. In addition to classical political theory, the study of political practice at the local (state) level where an institution is located occupies a significant place. Training takes place according to the Bologna system - usually the Bachelor's training is 3-4 years and the Master's is 5-6 years (Babichev, 2014).

After completing the full course of study in the Master's program in Political Science, applicants to German universities are required to obtain a second specialization. As a rule, students choose related academic disciplines, in particular economics, sociology, jurisprudence, etc. Some institutions may offer other options, and the practice exists of obtaining several auxiliary qualifications. Note that a similar system greatly increases the labor market opportunities for graduates. Its organizational elements are worth a closer look from the point of view of reforming the Ukrainian educational system.

Unlike the French experience, the German educational institutions do not cooperate so closely with non-state structures. For this reason, excellent. a feature of employment of graduates of a political science profile in Germany is the identification of their own initiative in search of work. Internships also take place independently: Applicants choose where they wish to work: political organizations and associations, public organizations and foundations, publishing houses, newspaper, and magazine editorial

offices, etc. Undoubtedly, the number of the most desirable places in terms of future career is limited, so potential employers have the right to choose interns on a competitive basis. Preference is given to the most talented and capable students and graduates.

2.3. UK experience and practice

In Great Britain, political science education exists in more than 50 universities, however - in all the so-called “classical” universities (which are at least 100 years old). The first educational degree in political science is the bachelor’s degree - it can be obtained in 3 years of study (in the universities of Scotland - in 4 years). Actually, students who have completed such a program, study political science as part of other humanities and social sciences, get an opportunity to get political science specializations at the second level of higher education - master’s level. UK political science education is also characterized by two different types of curricula - advanced theoretical and research courses.

As a result of studying advanced theoretical courses the applicant will receive a master’s degree and, as practice shows, significantly greater opportunities for subsequent employment (especially if compared with those who have received a bachelor’s degree). In selecting research courses, the main emphasis is on writing a master’s thesis, which in some universities (e.g., Oxford) reaches the size of a dissertation research - up to 25-30 thousand words (Sage *et al.*, 2021). There is also an emphasis on practical work and internships.

Note that the British experience is a peculiar combination of the German and French systems of teaching political science. British universities also actively engage potential employers, but the latter have little influence in shaping courses and disciplines. Perhaps this system should be considered optimal. Although stakeholders have the right to influence the training of their future specialists, they should not determine the main directions of training or interfere in the development of authoring curricula and methods.

2.4. USA experience and practice

The British university system is close to the American system, so the training of specialists in political science there is at a high level. Let us briefly analyze the U.S. experience in the formation of priorities and strategies for training political scientists. Nearly 400 U.S. institutions of higher education in various fields train political scientists. According to the American educational classification, the “Political Science” curricula are combined in one section with the closely related “International Relations” thematic program. At the same time, there is also a general direction: “political science and international relations”. It is common for departments,

faculties, and graduate schools in American educational institutions to be called by the same name (Sage *et al.*, 2021).

Thus, the association of political science studios with international studios is a reasonable alternative for the introduction of joint specializations (not just separate disciplines) in Ukrainian higher education institutions. This will allow a broader understanding of the importance of political science in the context of international transformations.

2.5. Ukraine experience and practice

On the basis of the European and partly American experience the situation of political science education in Ukraine should be analyzed. It should be noted that political science education in Ukraine is somewhat different. Within the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, the teaching of political science is also concentrated at the Faculty of Philosophy and consists of the Department of Political Science and the Department of Political Science. Both are staffed by highly qualified professionals who ensure a high level of teaching.

Training is carried out according to the Bologna system, for 4 years students receive a Bachelor's degree, another year continues in the Master's program, after which the best applicants can continue in the PhD program and get a scientific degree of "doctor of philosophy" in the specialty "052 - political science" (in Ukrainian) classification.)

The study provides a wide choice of disciplines, the full list of which can be found in advance on the websites of the relevant university departments. Some of them are free choice subjects, which allows applicants to compose an individual trajectory of study at least partially. At the same time, we can point out weaknesses in the training of political scientists. Even in the program documents (Development Programs 2020-2026) only the beginning of the transition from knowledge to competence-based approach, which provides other goals of the educational process is noted. It is, in particular, about reducing theory in favor of practice.

Programs for the development of departments stipulate the use of foreign experience of European educational institutions, which provides for the need for scientific and pedagogical internships for teachers of departments, but nothing is specified about the possibility of organizing internships for students (Prohrama rozvytku, 2021).

Internships (political science, research, and teaching assistantships) usually take place within the framework of Kyiv National University, although it would also be useful to intensify work with external structures (state and non-state), as in universities in Germany and Great Britain. This actualizes another problematic place in the training of Ukrainian political

scientists - work with potential employers. Neither training programs, nor departmental development strategies indicate how cooperation with stakeholders takes place and whether they influence teaching and the formation of the educational process.

Obviously, the best graduates can continue their academic careers (to enter graduate school), but not all even the best students are attracted to academic activities. The system of preparation of specialists in political science is in some respects similar to the German one, with the difference that in Germany applicants are more focused on practical work (which consequently gives advantages in job search).

At the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, political science belongs to the structure of the Faculty of Philosophy. Future specialists-political scientists can study on the basis of several educational programs. In particular, the educational and professional program “political analysis and consulting” (Osvitno-profesiina prohrama “politychnyi analiz i konsaltnyh”, 2021) was formed in 2019.

The outlined program is aimed at obtaining the professional skills required to perform the functions and typical tasks of activities in the field of political theory, political practice, and analysis (Osvitno-profesiina prohrama “Politologia”, 2019). This program provides cumulative knowledge and professional skills for independent practice in areas of professional work related to politics, government, and local government.

Also, during the training provides practical skills of foreign languages in the specialty and the creation of conditions for academic mobility and training in the specialty “Political Science” in the leading HEAs of Ukraine and abroad (Osvitno-profesiina prohrama “Politologia”, 2019). Training on the program is problem-oriented, involves self-study and gaining knowledge on the basis of their own research.

The purpose of another educational program “Political Communication and PR” is to provide theoretical knowledge and practical skills sufficient to solve complex specialized tasks and various problems in the field of professional activity (Osvitno-profesiina prohrama “Politychna komunikatsiia i PR”, 2020). The peculiarity of the specialization program is the formation of future specialists’ certain visions of the basic concepts of political communication, stages of its development and specifics of modern forms, knowledge and understanding of the principles of analysis of political communication, its types, and forms, no less important is the understanding of the essence of PR and its role in the political sphere (Osvitno-profesiina prohrama “Politologia”, 2019).

A special curriculum in political science is also provided for Master’s degree candidates, the objectives of which are primarily aimed at preparing highly qualified workers in political science (political history and theory,

political institutions and processes, political management, and marketing). The latter are expected to master the methods and tools of analysis, forecasting, and advising in various fields. A special feature of this program is the thorough study of disciplines aimed at obtaining a variety of skills in the fields of political analysis, marketing consulting and management. For this reason, the program is practical and research-oriented.

At the Department of Political Science of the Lviv National University there is the Center for Political Studies. One of its tasks is to attract international experience of political analysis for the elaboration of political processes in Ukraine. The Center also establishes permanent cooperation between political, state, and scientific institutes of the country. It is engaged in systematic research of public opinion on a number of political problems; carrying out various political science research, popularization of political education with a characteristic emphasis on the environment.

At the same time, ensuring a high theoretical level of knowledge goes against the organization of practical activities. Just as at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, students' practical activities are reduced to a minimum (in fact, to internships and seminars, which are also theoretical in nature). Although there is academic mobility, the percentage of students who have taken advantage of European academic experience is small.

This is due, in particular, to the fact that the harmonization of legislative support for academic mobility has not been fully implemented. Therefore, it is difficult to provide students with internships abroad. It seems just as difficult to work with stakeholders who do not take an active part in the training of future political scientists.

Political science at the Uzhhorod National University belongs to the Faculty of History. In addition to the teaching process for the specialty of political science, the Department of Political Science of the UNU provides teaching of the course "Political Science" for all faculties. Directly political scientists' study international relations, problems of world politics, basics of conflictology, history of political doctrines, theory of political conflict etc. Specially designed courses are offered for this purpose: "Theory of International Relations", "Contemporary Foreign Political Science", "International Terrorism", "Methodology of Political Studies", "Political Leadership", etc. In addition, given the specificity and basic needs of the Transcarpathian region, bordering Hungary, Romania and Slovakia, the curricula of the UNU compiled by the Department of Political Science are markedly supplemented by materials on the state and prospects of political science in certain countries.

2.6. Some questions about tuition at different universities

It should be noted that despite all the difficulties in training specialists in political science in Ukraine, tuition fees at Ukrainian universities in many respects correspond to European standards. In the U.S., the cost of training in political science master's programs ranges from several hundreds to several tens of thousands of dollars, depending on the type of educational institution (public or private) and its prestige. At the same time, tuition fees for political science majors in France are lower.

For example, at the faculties of law and political science of French universities, as well as at the Institutes of Political Science, tuition fees range from 200 to 700 euros per year. The cost of training for specialized diplomas, as well as training for doctoral studies can be from 3000 euros per year. The most expensive is the Master's degree in Political Science at the Schiller International University, which is considered the most prestigious in the region. Higher education in political science in Germany is free because it takes place almost exclusively at state universities.

Table 1. Annual Tuition Fees for Master's Programs in Political Science (in Euros)

NAME OF EDUCATION INSTITUTION	COST OF THE MASTER'S DEGREE, €
Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Grenoble (France)	of 200
Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Toulouse (France)	of 500
Aix-en-Provence Institute for Political Science (France)	500
Université International de Chiller (France)	18300
Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris (France)	of 500 to 4 000
University of Essex (England)	of 5 000
Queen's University of Belfast (United Kingdom)	of 5 000
Marshall University (United States)	2400
University of Rhode Island (US)	3700
University of Pittsburgh (USA)	8800
Lviv National University (Ukraine)	1100
Kyiv National University (Ukraine)	1600
Uzhhorod National University	600-800

Source: suggested by the authors.

So, as we can see, the tuition fees for political science in European educational institutions and Ukraine are comparable. At the same time, in our opinion, the content of education significantly differs.

3. Discussion

So, our study significantly differs from the previous ones, first of all, because it is directed to the comparative analysis of European and Ukrainian systems of training of political scientists. This is due to the novelty of our study, because among Ukrainian researchers of political science no one has ever turned to such a problematic. However, if we take the environment of European political scientists, such studios are popular, because they allow us to critically compare the current state of political science and new methods in training.

The results we obtained demonstrate that in Ukraine the emphasis in the education of political scientists is on the theoretical aspect, while in European countries (France, Germany, and Great Britain) along with academic disciplines students develop their practical skills much better. For example, we managed to establish that in some French universities and institutes the practice lasts nine months. In Ukrainian conditions it is impossible to realize such a practical course now because academic mobility does not compensate it, because this system is underdeveloped even at the level of founding documentation.

Of course, the vulnerability of our intelligence is that the analysis of training of both European and Ukrainian educational institutions is made in general terms. For this reason, it is impossible to take into account the specifics of teaching and learning in each academic or educational center. However, in our opinion, in order to start implementing the European experience in Ukraine first of all it is necessary to address the general tendencies. Later we suggest introducing more specific elements of the European experience, its harmonization with the Ukrainian legislation, educational and scientific sphere on the basis of a concrete educational institution.

Conclusions

An important motivation for the professional training of political scientists in Western countries is the system of scholarships (or study grants). Yes, in Germany even private companies or public organizations (foundations) can provide scholarships to students. Academic practice plays an important role in the professional training of political scientists.

Every month students are offered the opportunity to participate in various seminars, round tables, and conferences that can take place in different European countries.

Internships play a notable role in preparing for independent professional activity in higher education in Great Britain, as well as in other Western European countries. For example, the University of Birmingham (England) constantly organizes internship trips for political science students to European Commission structures in Brussels, European Parliament and NATO Headquarters, etc. The same activities take place directly in English political science institutes.

It is established that this practical part of political science education plays no less role than the theoretical part. Teaching in Ukrainian universities in this respect has many differences from the higher schools of the West. In Ukraine, teaching is not carried out in Institutes, and university curricula are mostly theoretical. Only now, plans for the development of political science departments suggest increasing the practical component in the teaching process.

We are talking, in particular, about an increase in internships and intensification of cooperation with employers. However, these trends have not yet been realized. In our opinion, more detailed stages of implementation of European practices have not yet received proper research in the professional literature, so they should be promising areas for further scientific research.

In subsequent studies we plan to propose a program of training specialists, based on specific elements of curricula and experience of leading European universities, which should first be harmonized with the Ukrainian legislation, which can already be involved in the educational and scientific sphere on the basis of a particular educational institution, which will form the basis of our next study.

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