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**MEASURING CONFLICTS.
METHODOLOGICAL APPROACHES TO MONITORING
AND MEASUREMENT**

In the article methodological foundations and examples of monitoring and evaluation of ethnic and religious conflicts, which are applied in Europe and CIS countries for the last 20 years are analyzed.

Keywords: conflict, systems analysis, monitoring, indexation, methodology.

In geographical and political aspects the modern world is divided into states - powerful and meaningful social coalition of people. States and their borders are historically formed under the influence of power, economic, environmental and other factors. Among them, an important place belongs to cultural factors, which include religion, ethnicity, language, historical divisions. People living in the same country, have more cultural similarities than the population of neighboring countries, and especially distant states.

The state in order to ensure its existence, to protect its interests and to exercise management function should provide a system of communication and interaction between citizens, between citizens and administrative apparatus. For this established and maintained by the general rules (standards) cultural identity (primarily linguistic identity), and a civil identity and loyalty of the population to the state are.

Based on certain cultural similarities among the population territorial unity formed that becomes the basis of the state, built on the idea of a nation or people. Naturally, this idea of the state and people usually is reflected in the names (American, Spanish, and Ukrainian).

Identity to a particular state - nationality - is not only a form of political identity. The emergence of many states was the spatial design of the mutual in culture population at the certain area. And then, as a result of joint socio-historical transformations, formation of bureaucracy

and elites, establishment of common social values and norms, the states emerged that bore a certain solidarity of society. These states and social solidarity, in different historical stages of development were different. They faced threats and challenges from external forces and certain internal ethnic and cultural inclusions. The later never fade and shape cultural complexity of the population of the world.

Historically societies of Western Europe and North America are distinguished by its political homogeneity (national unity). By definition of D. Rastou "national unity" means that the majority of citizens in potentially democratic state should have no doubt about to which political community they belong to [1].

Quite a different situation is observed in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, where the society according to political science literature defined as multifold. The main characteristics of these societies are the absence or weakness of national unity. Such societies (plural society) include segmental differences. Segments of society can be regarded as a set of individuals in association organized or ad hoc groups, different in ethnic, linguistic, religious and other grounds, practicing different views and have different interests. Political and state processes in such societies are characterized by the lack of integration of efforts among the participants. Political behavior is largely determined by factors of ethnicity. Such a climate of society provokes conflict and conflict situations. Conflict occurs between groups with different identities, if at least one group feels that it needs in equality, security and participation in political processes are not fulfilled.

In most cases, the subject of conflict is access to power or historical antagonisms between groups. Quite often the conflicts exercise influence of external factors (neighboring states, diaspora intervention).

European social scientists have proposed certain model for definition of conflicts. In particular, Darendorff R. [2] proposed a model of the conflict (see Table 1).

TABLE 1**Determination of the conflict**

Kind of misbalance	Type of interaction (confrontation, compromise, coalition consensus)	The nature of conflict	
		Constructive (not compatible with the similarity of objectives)	Destructive (incompatible action because incompatible goals)
Between actors (followers of different concepts)			
Between actors with different attitudes to power			
Between different institutions of government			
Between different levels of government			
Between the demands of actors and decisions of authorities			
Between the authorities and the actions of actors			
Between the state system and the environment			

Many of the state elite or politicians – ethno nationalists are dreaming about coinciding of administrative state and ethnic boundaries. But this dream has never been and will never be realized without ethnic cleansing or territorial re distinction. States with a relatively long history of existence has always been culturally complex (by language, religion, ethnic culture) territorial associations with inherent local or regional ethnic groups and sometimes individuals.

Cultural differences, personal or group identities are significant in society and the state. It is difficult to compare them with the social,

gender, age and occupational factors, but ethnicity and religion are a powerful tool of political mobilization, factor in political stability or instability. Sometimes they come to the forefront of public life and provoke civil conflict or violent conflicts.

Thus the state as a multicultural social territorial formation is a complex and dynamic phenomenon.

Therefore, for effective management of the state is important:

- An adequate understanding of the multicultural society' nature,
- To develop a constructive (positive and tolerant) societal attitudes towards this social factor
- Formation of effective public policy in the field of cultural diversity in society

One of the means for providing meaningful management and conflict prevention is an expert monitoring by the state, region, and location. Such monitoring is a system of early warning of conflicts and instrument of positive public and political practices.

As early warning should be understood based on continuous monitoring and comparative analysis of the ability to assess the socio-cultural and political situation in the state, regions and local communities to identify existing and potential threats of confrontation and conflict, the ability to effective use the evaluation results to appropriate preventive measures.

What should be monitored? Usual for domestic science and policy response involves monitoring of ethnic communities (ethnic groups) and the so-called national (ethnic) relations.

It should be said that sociological approach retains its significance, but it does not give the necessary answers in complex and dynamic situations. Especially when it is used to a kind of surrogate sociology, performing measurements for outdated methodologies interrogatories "level of civilization development" of representatives of various ethnic cultures, their degree of "passionarity" or largely fictional "cultural distance" between Tatar, Ukrainian, Russian and others.

The subject of monitoring, which can be defined as ethnological or religious minorities is first of all "relations" and not even the condition of cultures (ethnic groups), but it is what can be defined as "climate" or as a condition of the social environment, which includes various options - from the harsh realities of ecology and demography -

to the subject of public debate and discussion on the interpretation of past and current problems. That refers to all socially significant events and public reaction to them (the public reaction - also event).

The proposed monitoring model based on a broad view to human communities where conflicts based on cultural differences arise. This approach is that which goes beyond the "ethnic" and "international relations." Not differences themselves are the cause of tension and open violence, but much more complex factors of social, political, ideological and even emotional nature.

An interesting testing ground for such monitoring is the *Carpathian Euroregion*, which integrates the border regions from 5 countries (Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Ukraine). Interesting this region is that its territory compactly residing population that varies both by language and religious beliefs. The tolerance and patience of the population is impressive, but because of the ethnic-religious differences there is some tension in the relationship both on the international level and the interpersonal one too.

The conflict in its broad, complex and dynamic understanding is the main object and purpose of monitoring. For this reason, formulation the goals for ethno monitoring can define ethnic conflict as any *form of civil unrest in which at least one of the conflicting parties mobilized along ethnic "borders" (not only territorial but also other criteria), or on behalf of other ethnic communities.*

Religion and beliefs are equally significant cultural characteristics of people as ethnicity. Both of these substances are linked and very often based on religious differences emerging between ethnic identity (idea of a separate nation) among people with the same language and other characteristics.

Religious differences, especially through the world's religions laid the basis of the state, and this factor still retains its value and is used for political purposes.

There were many conflicts and wars on this basis.

In the former USSR the most significant in the past were the religious conflicts between Islam and Orthodoxy in the Caucasus and the Volga region, but also between different streams of Christianity in western Ukraine. But the most visible impact on our recent post-Soviet reality was left by atheistic politics of Bolshevik rule. In that recent

times the religion and religious institutions were effectively barred from public life.

Religious intolerance in the world today seems as a kind of anachronism, but it exists. Moreover, even in the so-called developed countries on the basis of religious indoctrination formed personalities and groups who demonstrate a high degree of intolerance and fanatical devotion to religious slogans are formed. One of these manifestations of political Islam has become a fundamentalist direction.

Analytical monitoring in this area helps to establish the who, when and where take action on the ideas and practices of religious intolerance, terrorism, and who carries out the preparatory steps to spread religious fanatics and terrorism under religious slogans.

For effective response it requires accurate "diagnosis" phenomenon, because it has features in each country.

There are many different methods of permanent or regular monitoring of ethno-cultural situations and conflicts in the world.

There are global projects in the field of view of which is the whole world, and which, in addition to scientists are involved Politian and community activists. The most thorough and long-term based monitoring of ethnic minorities and vulnerable minority peoples crops that store much so-called traditional support system. Among the international systems can be called scientific project of the scientists' from University of Michigan (Minorities at Risk), which for almost 20 years collecting data on many parameters on the situation of ethnic groups that are in a situation of minorities within state structures [3] .

Even before any emerged non-governmental organization "Cultural Survival», «Minority Rights Group», « International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs [4]. If the American project is based on a method of quantitative data [5], the activities of NGOs are based on the above issue magazines, newsletters, annual reports and preparation of special reports on specific problems and situations [6].

The monitoring of military conflicts, based on different methods, depending on the preferences and interests of those it holds has Ancient tradition. American researcher D. Zinger established in the late 1970 large comparative study of reasons why there are wars, but his technique is bad applicable to modern conflicts. Swedish Institute on Peace and Security (SIPRI) and the Norwegian Institute for International Peace in Oslo (prio)

perform an annual analysis of military conflicts in the world via publishing inspection reports and analyzes. In recent years, has applied methods of quantitative analysis of mass media coverage, including the "dimensions" according to the global, national and local press and news agencies on the frequency of mention the problems and "situations." Methodology is used by American scientists under the "Global data» (Global Event Data System - GEDS) and Swiss Peace Foundation.

Meanwhile, more than 10 years in Ukraine and in most post-Soviet countries acts the monitoring of the academic sample, called "Network ethnological monitoring and early warning of conflicts" (English name EAWARN - Early Warning). The network has a decent story and good reputation among domestic and foreign experts and politicians. Bulletin of the Network, its annual overview report, a series of models on ethnological monitoring using specially developed indicators, and many other publications are widely used by government and regional authorities, politicians and experts from other countries of the CIS and Baltic countries.

Director of IEA RAS and manager of ethnological monitoring prof. V.A. Tishkov in 1996 has developed a system of 46 conventional indicators of conflict that demanded from experts of Network descriptive (narrative) analysis, a mandatory assessment of trends in the scores.

It used the estimated interval scale is based on binary opposition "worse-better." Over the years, Network EAWARN in Ukraine uses narrative analysis and publishes it in regular newsletters and annual reports, but the network also uses quantitative data processing - expert opinions expressed in points. The method has its pros and cons. Unlike the methods of measuring the intensity of media reports, here the key role belongs to the expert, and to his assessment underlying the analysis. Lack of testing procedures and parallel assessments (and this is largely due to the financial costs of monitoring) leads to a high level of subjective judgment and is largely dependent on the presence or absence of expert completeness.

Yet the system scores have no alternative, given the ease of use and relatively small financial outlay.

Ethnological monitoring system works as stored internally network quality control of experts and are working for their support and ongoing training.

The idea of indicators for performance generalized and very quick analysis is not new.

Scale for ethnological monitoring:

- 1 - society is in a conflict (conflict 75-100%)
- 2 - frequent conflicts (40-75%)
- 3 - visible conflicts (25-40%)
- 4 - in a society emerging conflicts (10-25%)
- 5 - in society recurrent tension (5-10%)
- 6 - stable environment (less than 5%)

According to current variable data of monitoring are formed statistical numbers and are carried calculations on ranking conflict regions and states.

After the most ambitious expansion in its history in 2004 and 2007 external borders of the European Union are linear coincide with previously existing borders Central (Hungary, Slovakia, Poland), Baltic (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia) and Eastern European countries (Ukraine, Belarus, Russia). *Thus, the relationship of these states received a new quality of relations between subjects and the subjects of the EU.*

Principles of Eastern Policy of the European Union for upcoming period were approved at the inaugural summit of the new EU initiative "Eastern Partnership" in May 2009 in Prague. In the Joint Statement EU declared that "the main goal of the Eastern Partnership is to create the necessary conditions to accelerate political association and further economic integration between the European Union and interested partner countries. Significant strengthening of the EU policy towards the partner countries will be achieved through the development of a specific Eastern dimension of the European Neighborhood Policy "[7]. The document also stressed that the Eastern Partnership is launched as a joint endeavor of states - members of the European Union and its Eastern European partners on the basis of mutual interests and commitments. It was noted that it developed jointly and in a fully transparent manner.

In the system of relations East - West cross-border cooperation at the new eastern border of the EU has three main functions.

First - *practical* - associated with the solution of specific economic, social, environmental and other issues in concern to residents

of border areas. It is focused on the daily lives of people, their interests, health, and well-being¹.

Besides the first, utilitarian in nature practical function cross-border cooperation performs and the second - equally important - *communication*, providing bridge between East and West, the function of civilized dialogue. In various projects, promotions, events in the CBC involved millions of people of different ideological, geopolitical orientation, ethnicity and religious affiliation. People Diplomacy brings them closer, destroying entrenched in the minds stereotypes.

The third option - Geopolitical - *function conflict prevention* follows from the previous two. The joint solution of various problems, active formal and informal communication contribute to the formation of the inhabitants of the border regions, the citizens of Eastern European countries as an unbiased attitude to neighboring countries in particular and the European Union and the West in general (and vice versa). This is important to prevent complications, prevention of conflicts in international relations.

To measure particularly complex, multifactor objects (which is the "conflict") recently used the concept of a synthetic indicator. This concept (it is also called the indicator rating, etc.) is often expressed as quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the phenomenon. Today around the definition of synthetic indicators of various aspects of social life is booming.

Ideas on quantitative and qualitative assessment of conflicts as part of inter-state and inter-regional relations and conduct monitoring on this basis were first founded in the concept of cross-border cooperation at the new eastern border of the European Union, which was developed

¹Транскордонне співробітництво є ефективним засобом вирішення багатьох регіональних, найперше економічних, проблем. Але воно може бути лише допоміжним, доповнюючим чинником регіонального розвитку. Це слід підкреслити, тому що, як показує практика, іноді у частини регіональних еліт і населення, особливо східноєвропейських прикордонних територій, формуються завищені очікування по відношенню до результатів ТКС. Воно сприймається як свого роду панацея від всіх бід, головний і універсальний засіб виходу регіону з кризи.

Безумовно, що ці очікування безпідставні. ТКС не в змозі підмінити внутрішні ресурси прикордонного регіону, державну підтримку його розвитку. Хоча при належній організації воно, безумовно, стає вельми результативним.

by the director of the Institute for transborder cooperation S. Ustych commissioned by the Brussels Centre of New York Institute "East-West" (President John Mroz) in 2006.

In 2008 the idea of indexation and monitoring was supported by authoritative experts and organizers of European cross-border cooperation - Director of the Institute for stability and development (Prague, Czech Republic) Vasil Hudak and Secretary General of the Norwegian Barents Secretariat (Kirkinnes, Norway) Rune Rafaelson. For their initiative and support was established International Working Group (IWG), which included experienced experts from different European countries: V. Hudak, R. Rafaelson, A. Staalesen (Norwegian Barents Secretariat), A. Espiritu (Barents institute, Kirkinnes / Tromso Norway), S. Ustych (Institute for transborder cooperation, Uzhgorod, Ukraine), M. Bizilya (Institute for transborder cooperation, Uzhgorod, Ukraine), A. Presnal (Institute of Jefferson, Belhrad, Serbia), S. Kolesh (International Center for Democratic Transition, Budapest, Hungary), R. Harnett (Institute for stability and development, Skopje, Macedonia) P. Payas (Political Association Open Society, Prague, Czech Republic), V. Licht (Fund of policy changes, Belgrade, Serbia), A. Ignatiev (Regional Development Agency, Kaliningrad city, Russia), M. Samusyev (Euroregion "Baltic", Elblag, Poland), M. Cherpal-Wolan (Statistical Office, Rzeszow, Poland), L. Stoyka (Carpathian Foundation, Satu Mare, Romania) and others [8].

Subsequently Institute (Uzhgorod, Ukraine), together with its partners in the framework of the ENPI 2007-20013 developed the project "Borders for people" whose goal was to develop the concept of "Effective transborder cooperation through international monitoring and coordination of national subjects objects. "

System on indexation and monitoring of CBC (SIM) in bordering regions of Hungary, Slovakia, Romania and Ukraine - a set of theoretical activities, providing the correct analysis and comparison of common and distinctive features, and the development trend of cross-border cooperation in order to improve its efficiency, primarily through management optimization.

One of directions of the quantitative and qualitative assessments issues related to conflict factors that arise in society.

A set of 6 indicators, which suggests conducting analytical studies was suggested:

«Conflict causing factors – risks and challenges» (assessed on a 10-point scale):

1) Were there wars of armed conflicts in the history of neighboring states relations?

Quality indicators:

- whether the neighboring states are in zones of high geopolitical activity.

Quantity indicators:

- if there were wars or armed conflicts, how many
- if wars or armed conflicts generated human losses, how many

2) Characteristics of military-political relations among neighboring states. Do they belong to any political block?

Quality indicators:

- analysis of the military policy of the neighboring states.

3) Level of militarization of border areas.

Quality indicators:

- high, middle, low

4) Existence or absence of border disputes.

Quality indicators:

- stability of border delimitation

Quantity indicators:

- number of border disputes .

5) Existence or absence of ethnic conflicts in border areas in the past and in the present.

Quantity indicators:

- if ethnic conflicts took or take place, how many
- if ethnic conflicts generated human losses, how many

6) Existence or absence in border areas of conflicts on inter-confessional ground in the past and in the present.

Quantity indicators:

- if conflicts on inter-confessional ground took or take place, how many
- if conflicts on inter-confessional ground generated human losses, how many

Conclusions

The development of ethno-political situation in the second half 1990 years in Europe and several other countries rise new phenomena which initially were not considered. However, above all, greater analytical attention demanded the growth of radical Islamist forces and used their methods of terror against the civilian population.

Religious factor in general began to play more significant role in social and political life. In Europe and the former Soviet states antimigrant sentiment, xenophobia clearly seen in activities of far-right groups had grown. At the same time, many countries reduced the level of ethno-nationalist sentiments and virtually ceased to exist so-called "national movement" that called for political autonomy of the regions in the early nineties.

In some post-Soviet states began to form social and political movement organized resistance to the policy of discrimination and limitations of language and ethnic and cultural rights of the population. Stood outlines many other conflicts factors and showed the results ethno monitoring all these years.

To improve the monitoring system in order to transform it into an effective instrument for early warning of tensions and conflicts significant adjustments were required. Changing and complementing system of indicators, monitoring has found a new name "confessional" and the religious side of the events was monitored in more detail. The author suggests further conduct special training experts on religious issues.

Simultaneously, there is an urgent need to analyze the phenomenon of extremism, which has carried out monitoring in the main human rights organizations. Apparently, it is necessary to clarify

the method of early detection of the emergence of extremist ideologies and their followers, as well as expand the scope of monitoring, including the scope of the Internet and publications.

Later the system of ethnic monitoring in Europe and the CIS will expand geographically as well as in terms of their status. This issue needs to support civil authorities. It must finally come to understand the importance of an independent and qualified expert in the field of conflict early warning and improve ethnic relations.

Glossary

Peaceful Conflict Resolution

Peaceful conflict resolution aimed at limiting open conflict confrontation on conflict termination action, reducing opposition parties, de-escalation of tension, reducing hostility, conflict interaction transition participants to find common solutions.

Conflict Prevention

Early prevention of conflict is an integral part of the strategy to prevent conflict confrontation with violence and thus an instrument of this strategy. Meaning early warning comes from one side to the forecast of the likely time and place of conflict and the appropriate action at an early stage.

Building Peace

Activities to consolidate peace oriented to the peaceful solution of conflicts by creating and developing joint projects of economic, social and cultural development of educational work, the formation of non-violent conflict resolution systems with the media.

Mediation

Form to assist States in cases of protracted and complex conflicts, flexible way to influence the conflict to a peaceful settlement, focused on dialogue between the conflicting parties themselves and each broker

Peacekeeping

Disconnect the warring parties, to prevent armed clashes between them control of the armed actions of the opposing sides.

Monitoring of Conflict

Observing the situation, illumination of conflict interaction in the media, the elections and etc.

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