

## MECHANISM OF ELECTORAL PROCESSES IN UKRAINE AND WAYS OF ITS IMPROVEMENT BASED ON THE EXPERIENCE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION COUNTRIES

*Redchyts Olena<sup>1</sup>*

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**Abstract.** The aim of the article is to study the components of the mechanism for the provision of electoral processes in Ukraine, taking into consideration the experience of the European Union countries in order to simplify the administration of elections. The design of the research consists of the use of process and systematic approaches to the formation of the mechanism of electoral procedures, which consists of regulatory, institutional, organizational, information, financial and logistical support. The scientific novelty of the research is to use a comparative approach in the research of the electoral law of the EU and Ukraine. The research field is limited by the norms of electoral law. Practical results of the study provide an opportunity to identify the advantages of harmonization of the country's electoral law with EU electoral law. Comparative analysis of the certain stages of electoral processes in the EU and Ukraine helps to identify threats and limitations of electoral procedures in Ukraine and to develop ways to improve the mechanism of electoral procedures to obtain a synergistic effect. The scientific novelty of the research is to use a comparative approach in the study of the electoral law of the EU and Ukraine. The research field is limited by norms of electoral law. Practical results of the research provide the opportunity to identify the advantages of harmonization of the country's electoral law with EU electoral law. Comparative analysis of certain stages of electoral procedures in the EU and Ukraine helps identify threats and limitations of electoral procedures in Ukraine and develop ways to improve the mechanism of electoral procedures to obtain a synergistic effect.

**Keywords:** electoral procedures, electoral law, parliamentary elections, presidential elections, election process mechanism, Voters Register.

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<sup>1</sup> Olena Redchyts, postgraduate, Department of Global and National Security, Educational and Scientific Institute of Public Administration and the Civil Service of the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Akademika Romodanova Str. 12/2, 04050 Kyiv, Ukraine, ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1483-8763>

## INTRODUCTION

Electoral law in Europe, in accordance with harmonization of electoral legislation, determines that elections are governed by constitutions, electoral legislation and election laws, such as party laws, media laws, etc. As for electoral legislation, it is recommended to include main aspects of electoral legislation in single electoral code adopted in open and inclusive order (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2013, p. 4).

In Ukraine, regulatory framework has been formed, regarding electoral processes is formed according to the analogy of European legislation, which is represented by the number of documents, namely:

- Constitution of Ukraine;
- Electoral Code of Ukraine;
- Law of Ukraine “On the State Voters Register”;
- Concept of E-Democracy Development in Ukraine;
- Concept of improvement of local elections legislation in connection with the reform of local self-government and administrative-territorial structure.

However, the regulatory provision is only the basis of mechanism of electoral processes, which by stages are quite complex in administration and need some improvement in other spheres.

In EU countries and in Europe in general, they pay attention to both electoral law and electoral processes in the following publications: Electoral Law, Report on Electoral Law and Electoral Administration in Europe, Europeanising the elections of the European Parliament, The European Parliament: Electoral Procedures.

In Ukraine in the sphere of the state government many scientists are paying attention to electoral procedures L. Antonova, A. Antonov (2020), S. Zakirova (2020), Yu. Kliuchkovskiy (2018), T.

Steshenko (2013), which in their researches study principles and topical issues of electoral processes, as well as conduct quantitative measurement of the development of party system of Ukraine P.Molochko (2016).

### *Methods*

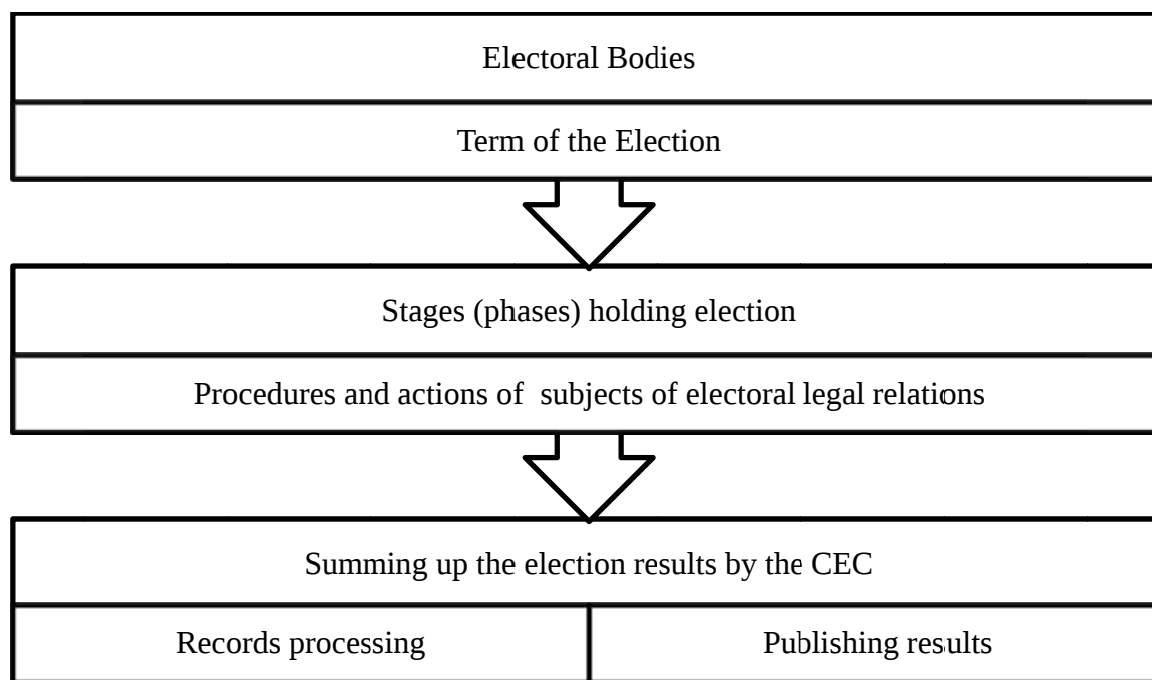
During considering electoral processes in Ukraine, process approach was used, which allows to consistently consider all stages of elections for better administration. The systematic approach is used in the development of mechanism for ensuring electoral processes, which allows to take into consideration regulatory, institutional, organizational, informational, material, technical and financial support of elections. The method of comparative analysis is used in case of comparing the stages of electoral processes and comparing the electoral systems of EU and Ukraine.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The Electoral Code of Ukraine defines the concept of “electoral process” as follows: “the electoral process is the implementation during the period established by this Code by the subjects defined by the Article 22 of this Code, electoral procedures related to preparation and holding relevant elections, establishment and official announcement (official publication) of their results” (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020).

Author Steshenko T.V. summarizing legal norms expresses the opinion that electoral processes provide for legislative order of successively changing stages (phases) in time, which consist of specific procedures and actions of subjects of electoral legal relations in the formation of representative authorities or elections of officials. Electoral processes begin within clearly defined period, must go through all the mandatory stages (phases) provided by the law and end with the publication of the relevant election commission election results (Steshenko, 2013, p.107).

The conceptual scheme of electoral processes is depicted in the Figure 1.



**Figure 1. The conceptual scheme of electoral processes**

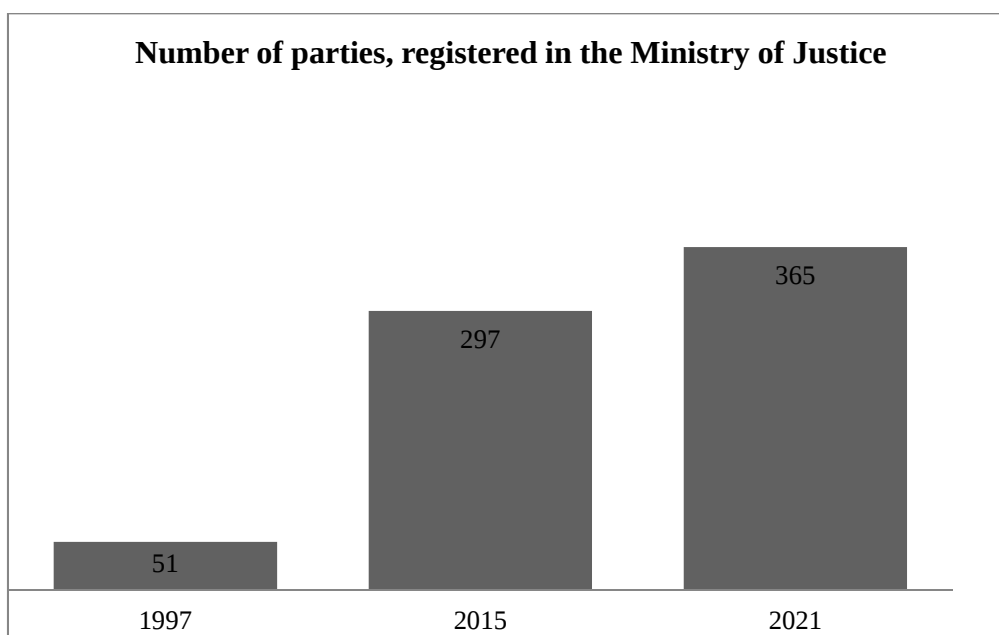
Developed by author.

Determining frequency of elections in EU, it is necessary to consider both International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and the Additional Record to the European Convention on Human Rights, which stipulate that elections should be held periodically. The General Election is usually held at intervals of four or five years, whereas for Presidential Election there may be longer periods, although the maximum should be seven years (Electoral Code of Ukraine, 2020, p. 5). Thus, the terms of Ukrainian legislation are harmonized with European. Authors Antonova L.V. and Antonov A.V. justifying organizational and legal aspect determine the factors that affect the procedure of election, namely:

- stability of political system in the country;

- stability of social and political relations;
- fundamentality of the current laws;
- level of organization of electoral process at all stages;
- presence of high political and legal culture in the vast majority of participants (representatives of public authorities, political bodies);
- image of the political elite and public opinion about it (Antonova & Antonov, 2020).

Defining Ukrainian realities, we should focus on factors that pose threats to electoral processes, which are as follows: For 30 years of independence, there is no established political system in the country, unlike EU countries. According to the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, the Register of Political Parties is constantly changing, Fig. 2,



**Figure 2 – Number of political parties, registered by Ministry of Justice of Ukraine**

Source: Molochko P. Quantitative indicators of development of party system of Ukraine. // Scientific Notes Issue 3-4(83-84). P. 339 and information of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine

Data provided in the Drawing 2 indicate that the number of political parties from 1997 to 2015 increased almost by 5.82 times, and in the period from 2015 to 2021 by 1.22 times, which indicates the loss of interest of the electorate to political processes.

Allocation of state funding to parties is clear, objective and fair and aims to ensure that all political applicants have sufficient resources to reach voters and thus contribute to the alignment of playing field for candidates and parties. At the same time, it is an important tool in the fight against corruption and reduces the dependence of political parties on wealthy groups or individuals. In almost all European states, political parties receive direct government funding either on a regular basis or, additionally, related to election campaigns. In Ukraine, regular state funding of political parties was introduced only in 2015 (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p. 22), which was a quite progressive step for the country.

2) In Ukraine there is an instability of socio-political relations, which directly depends on the positions of the leader of the ruling party. As P. Molochko rightly notes, parliamentary election is very personalized. By voting for one or another political force, the majority of Ukrainian voters vote not for the party itself and its program, but only for the leader who leads it (Molochko, 2016, p. 342).

As a result, electoral priorities change for every parliamentary and presidential elections.

1) Lack of fundamentality of existing laws. According to the Venice Commission, changes to the fundamental aspects of the electoral system should not come into force less than a year before the election (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p. 15).

If we follow the dynamics of amendments to the Electoral Code, which was adopted in Ukraine in 2020, they were introduced 5 times during 2 years, namely:

- № 720-IX of 17.06.2020, Information of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2020, № 47, Article 408;

- № 805-IX of 16.07.2020, Information of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2020 № 36, Article 273;
- № 884-IX of 15.09.2020, Information of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2020, № 51, Article 485;
- № 924-IX of 29.09.2020;
- № 1638-IX of 14.07.2021 (Electoral Code of Ukraine, 2020).

Therefore, the significant problem of Ukrainian electoral legislation, according to European norms, is the frequent change of the Electoral Code.

There is low level of organization of electoral processes at all stages: from agitation campaign to counting votes by electoral and territorial commissions. Thus, in 2004, the CEC, under the influence of public, listed the results, thus recognizing falsification of the Presidential Election.

During all years of independence in Ukraine there is a low level of political and legal culture in the vast majority of participants. Since politicians constantly change parties and political programs, election programs are not carried out, voters change their thoughts about parties under the influence of uncovered bribery, etc. Accordingly, the electoral system changed from proportional to mixed.

Based on paragraph 5, the positive image of the political elite and public opinion about it quickly changes to the negative, since voters do not see the real changes proposed in the election programs.

In European electoral law, the main idea is clearly highlighted, which is that political parties and candidates must be secured, at least as far as possible. This should encourage the state to be impartial towards parties and candidates and guarantee equal opportunities for campaigning for election participants. All parties and candidates competing should have the freedom and opportunity to convey their programs and goals to voters throughout the country (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p. 24).

Unfortunately in Ukraine, the multiparty system is designed to delay voter votes, blur differences from parties, create twin parties to mislead the voter.

Focusing on electoral processes should consider the stages of their implementation.

In the scientific monograph "Principles of electoral law: doctrinal understanding, state and prospects of legislative implementation in Ukraine" Yu. Kliuchkovskyi summarizes the following stages of electoral processes:

- 1) formation of the territorial basis of election;
- 2) creation of administrative bodies for direct organization of the electoral process;
- 3) drafting of electoral registers;
- 4) registration of election participants;
- 5) control over compliance with the rules of agitation campaigning;
- 6) organization of voting;
- 7) calculation and summing up [6, p. 586]

By analogy with European electoral law (Kliuchkovskyi, 2018), the Electoral Code was developed in Ukraine.

However, the European Commission notes that electoral legislation cannot guarantee democratic elections. The democratic nature of elections largely depends on the proper implementation of electoral legislation by the authorities and on the commitment of all other participants of elections (voters, candidates, parties, media, etc.) to conduct democratic elections. Thus, the degree to which possible improvements in legislation can have a positive impact on the electoral process will mainly be determined by both the will and the ability of election authorities and other stakeholders to respect and apply the law effectively (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p. 102). In the electoral processes, the most

complex process is the preparation of the voter register.

The context marked by violent conflicts and challenges to the territorial integrity of countries does not create favorable environment for democratic elections. In Ukraine, for example, failed to organize elections in certain parts of the country due to the war in the East of Ukraine and the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. Moreover, these conflicts have led to the large number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) who have made significant efforts to ensure that IDPs have the opportunity to exercise their right to vote. Such measures had to be taken in other Member States of the Council of Europe participating in long-term conflicts (for example, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia) (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p.4).

The European Commission Report considers the issue of proper creation and maintenance of voter registers to ensure and guarantee universal suffrage. In practice, this is a prerequisite for voters to enjoy the right to vote. However, voter registration is one of the most difficult and difficult parts of election administration. Typical problems are that voter registers are incomplete (i.e. do not contain all voters who have the right to vote) and inaccurate (i.e. containing false data, names of the dead, etc.).

Creating and maintaining accurate voter registers is especially difficult in conflict situations with the large number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). However, the UN Internal Displacement Guidelines (1998) stipulate that IDPs should not be deprived of the right to vote (Principle 22). Accordingly, the Committee of Ministers recommended that PE member states take appropriate legal and practical measures to allow IDPs to effectively exercise their right to vote in national, regional or local elections (CM/Nec (2006) 6, paragraph 9). Although great efforts

have been made to allow IDPs to vote in (post-) conflicting states, there is still a large number of IDPs that are not included in voter registers in Ukraine. However, according to the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Affairs, there must be permanent lists of voters. In fact, permanent registers are standard in the member states of the Council of Europe except Bulgaria and Latvia. In addition, most EC member states have centralized voter registers for national elections that allow cross-examination of nationwide data and improve data quality. Several countries, such as Ukraine (2010) and recently Austria (2018), followed the recommendation to create the National Voters Register. (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p. 12).

Attracting young people to electoral processes in the modern world is the key to intensifying their life position in building future of the country.

According to the Code of Good Practice in Electoral Matters, the right to run in elections is desirable at the same age as the right to vote (CDL-AD (2002) 023rev2-cor, Part I.1.1a.iii). However, in the number of EC member states, the right to vote is granted to citizens who have reached the age of 18, while only voters aged 21 and over have the right to run in parliamentary elections. Examples are Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Slovakia and Ukraine. Minimum age for the right to run in elections is even set at 23 in Romania and 25 in Italy and Lithuania. The biggest gap is in Greece: 17 years for the right to vote (in the upcoming elections) and 25 years for the right to run in parliamentary elections (Venice commission) (2020), p. 13).

Thus, in the electoral processes there are certain restrictions on the preparation of the register of voters. The rights of voters are limited territorially, as in (post-) conflict countries and age restrictions that affect the lower level of the Age Census on the right to vote and the right to run for

election and belong to the most active layer of youth.

The issue of voter campaigning is also relevant for the EU countries, and in Ukraine, if there are 365 parties in the Register, it becomes urgent for the consolidation of voters.

It should be noted that the restrictions that allow campaigning exclusively in the state language contradict international standards. However, Bulgaria's electoral legislation restricts campaigning only in the Bulgarian language, which affects the ability of some competitors to communicate with voters (PACE, doc. 14294). Instead, candidates were able to use minority languages in election materials and during campaigning, for example, in Ukraine. During series of recent elections, the line between state activity and political campaigning was even completely erased, as the state institutions and state resources were openly used for election purposes. Open abuse of powers, public office and public resources has been regularly considered by international observers in some recent elections, for example in Hungary, Poland and Ukraine. Also, the use of financial incentives (social assistance programs, wage increases, bonuses, etc.) as campaign tools was the subject of widespread criticism against officials there (European commission for democracy through law (Venice commission), 2020, p. 24).

Rather tangible issue in the political struggle was the placement of political advertising in the media.

In addition to free airtime, paid political advertising is another opportunity for political parties and candidates to spread their message through the media. In a number of countries (for example: Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Hungary, Latvia, Malta, Portugal, Spain), however, paid political advertising is prohibited on public and/or private TV channels (and sometimes on radio), but often (for

example, in France) is allowed in print media. Some other countries (such as Poland, Sweden and Ukraine) allow paid political advertising on television during election campaigns.

But, the Venice Commission realizes that Europe has no consensus on how to regulate paid political advertising in broadcasting. Thus, restrictions should be considered taking into account the legal and political background of each individual state. However, if, according to the judiciary, there is evidence that national, regional or local conditions cause difficulties in compliance with the limitations of financial costs in practice, as in Ukraine, it is possible to consider banning paid political advertising in TV and radio media, ensuring the effective distribution of free airtime for all competitors in election (CDLAD (2015) 025) (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p. 27).

In Ukraine, it is also not uncommon for the media to publish political content in exchange for payment during elections. Hidden political advertising, which is indistinguishable, but should be banned and prevent coverage in the editorial board. Although private broadcasters are commercial enterprises, they must also adhere to professional standards and ethics. In some member states of the Council of Europe, not only public broadcasters, but also private ones require balanced and impartial coverage of election participants. In some cases, private media - politically and financially - are closely connected with the political and economic elite (for example, Ukraine) European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p. 28).

The problem of using the campaign resource on private TV channels related to oligarchs can be solved in Ukraine only in case of the law on deoligarchilization.

Moreover, in several member states of the Council of Europe there is hostile

atmosphere about the media in general and during election campaigns. Verbal and even physical attacks on journalists by politicians and/or certain groups of society, including current leaders and their allies, are a worrying trend in countries such as Latvia and Ukraine European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p. 29).

Rule CDL-AD (2009) 031, Clause 64 is regulating the period of silence a day before election. In some states (for example, in Cyprus, in Malta, in Ukraine), the rules on the silence of the election campaign, especially in social networks, are not always observed. The transition of the election campaign to online platforms made it more difficult to monitor compliance with such provisions. This is the more difficult, since many violations of electoral silence come from websites that operate outside the jurisdiction of a particular state (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p. 30). The issue of social networks in Ukraine has become more relevant for electorates aged 16 to 60 years, who are active users of social networks, and for voters of retirement age - television remains relevant.

Also, the European Commission Report defines that the secrecy of voting is not only a fundamental right, but also a duty. However, in practice, there are still a number of cases when voters mark or roll up their ballots outside the voting booths or show their ballots (for example, Hungary, Ukraine) (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p. 34).

Thus, the President of Ukraine was imposed administrative fine for violating the electoral code, as he demonstrated his ballot for voting to journalists on the camera. Such open voting must be strictly prohibited and not allowed by election officials.

Open voting illegally affects other voters and may indicate the purchase of

votes. The purchase of votes, that is, the distribution of goods or money to voters combined with a request to vote for a particular candidate or party, is strictly prohibited by law, but it is quite difficult to prove. According to international observers, in some countries it is supposedly common practice on the eve and election day. Many years of practice of bribing voters and "organize" voting have caused concern, among other things in Bulgaria and Ukraine (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p. 34).

But in the electoral processes, the most difficult stage is the counting of votes, since at this stage there are many falsifications.

In European electoral law is emphasized, that it is extremely important that the counting of votes is carried out correctly. The correctness of counting depends on clear procedures, proper staff training and their dedication to the process. Although the general process of counting votes in most of the EC member states is organized properly, sometimes there are still technical and political problems. Even in some recent elections, mandatory procedures for counting votes were not followed or followed strictly, and procedural shortcomings were noted during the counting of votes and data (for example, Ukraine). In some cases, it turned out that the shortcomings are the result of poor administration, not manipulation attempts. But in other cases, there were also obvious attempts of fraud, including ballot throwing and falsification of results and records (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p. 39). According to the Scheme on Fig. 3, it can be seen that there has been the significant improvement in the regulatory provision stipulated by the adoption of the Electoral Code of Ukraine.

The adoption of the Electoral Code of Ukraine significantly simplified the administration of the electoral process, as

the following Laws of Ukraine have lost their validity:

"On the election of the President of Ukraine" (Information of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 1999, № 14, Article 81 with the following changes);

"On Elections of People's Deputies of Ukraine" (Information of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2012, № 10-11, Article 73 with subsequent amendments), except for provisions on the organization and holding of interim elections and replacement of people's deputies of Ukraine elected in the national electoral district, whose powers are terminated early, acting before the next regular or early elections of people's deputies of Ukraine;

"On local elections" (Information of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, 2015, № 37-38, Article 366 with subsequent amendments), besides provisions on the organization and conduct of repeated, intermediate, additional elections and the replacement of deputies elected in a multi-member electoral district, whose powers are terminated ahead of time, acting before the next regular or early elections of deputies of local councils (Electoral Code of Ukraine, 2020).

Mechanism of ensuring electoral processes in Ukraine is clearly differentiated by the spheres that disprove the administration of the electoral process.

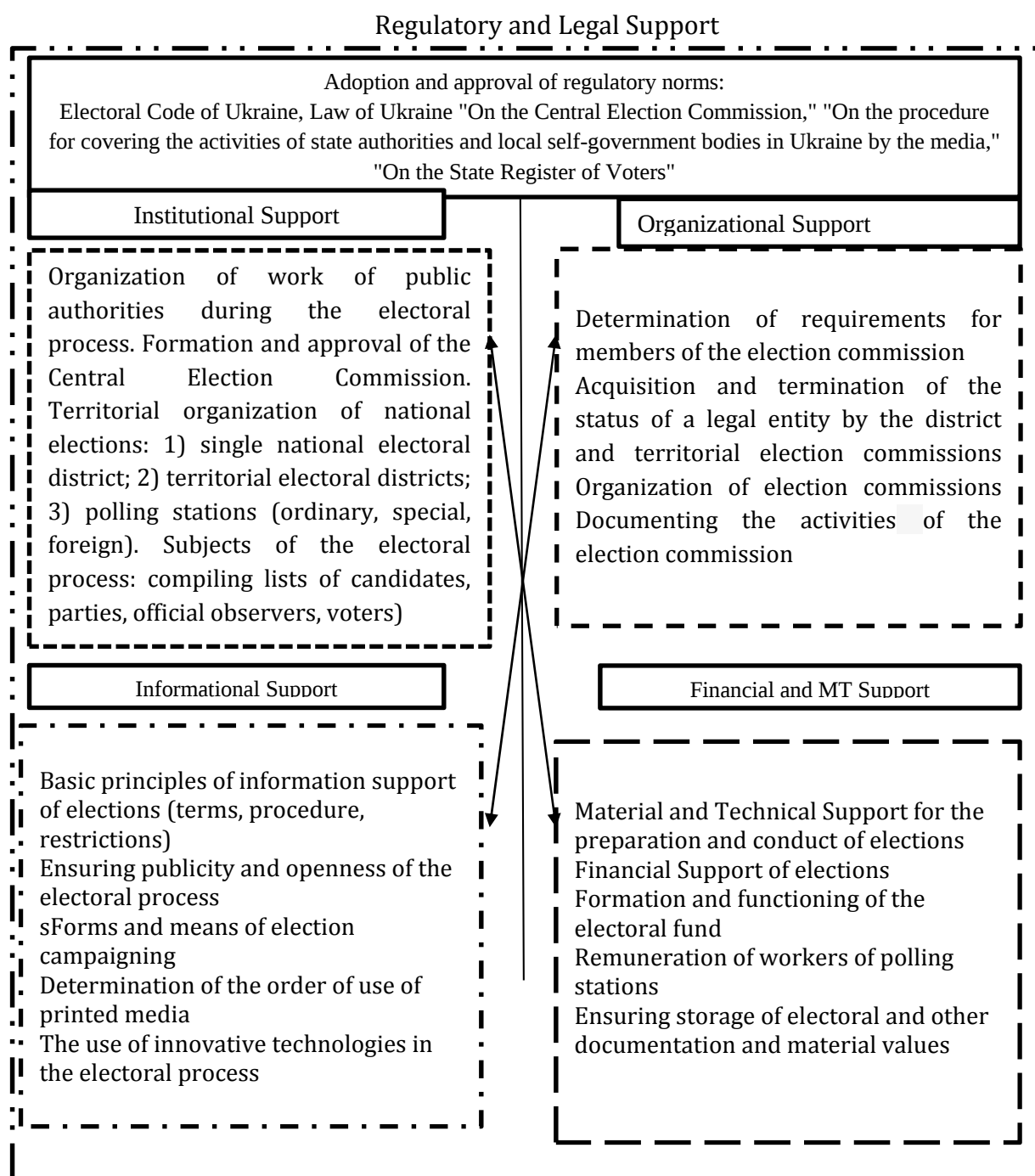
But we should pay attention to the presidential elections in Ukraine, where we witnessed an extraordinary and atypical collision. As we have seen above, the European Commission documents pay attention to the Voters Register and the participation of temporarily displaced persons. The topic of dismissal of voters of Donetsk and Luhansk Regions is not discussed in a wide circle, where in 2014 militias visited polling stations the day before elections and before elections, with the demand not to open polling stations. Thus, about 3-3.5 million voters from Donetsk were detached from the electoral

process, according to our estimates, population at that time was more than 6 million people. This topic is taboo in the media, and is discussed only in social networks. Thus, in Ukraine in the history of presidential elections, the President was elected in one round.

Mechanism for ensuring electoral processes in Ukraine looks quite complicated, but if you generalize it by the systems of security, but if summarized by the systems of security, it may consist of regulatory, institutional, organizational, information, financial and material-technical support. As a result, the schematic representation of the mechanism for ensuring electoral processes is as follows, Fig. 3.

As for the direct Presidential Election, the main difference lies in the rule of the majority group and the second round of election. According to the rules of plurality, a candidate who has received the most votes is elected. In the second round of the majority vote for the first round elections required a majority of votes (i.e. more than 50%). If no candidate receives a majority, then (usually the first two) candidates compete in the second round of election. Around the world, there is a clear tendency towards majoritarian re-tour systems to avoid "plurality trap" whereby a candidate who is strongly opposed by a majority of voters can win the presidency. According to the global trend, the second round of the majority is widespread in the direct Presidential Election in the EC member states (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p. 41).

After Presidential Election in Ukraine, the question of improving the parliamentary electoral system always arises. Since the President tries to have a ruling majority in the Verkhovna Rada created in his support, or even monolithic, as happened with the pro-presidential party "Servant of the People" in 2020.



**Figure 3 - Mechanism for ensuring electoral processes in Ukraine**

Compiled by the author according to the Electoral Code of Ukraine

To the question of Parliamentary Election is given attention in the Report of the Venice Commission, as various electoral systems are used in the EC member states.

In general, electoral systems in the EU and Ukraine are quite different, Table 1.

Only few plural and majority systems are used in Europe. Some countries use Proportional Representation (PR) Systems in single Nationwide Electoral District. However, much more common are PR listing systems in multi-member districts, sometimes with additional lists at the regional and/or national levels.

Table 1

**Parliamentary Election System in the EC member states (2020)**

| Category                             | Electoral System                                                       | Division of Seats                                                                                               | Countries                                                                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Majority System                      | Majoritarian two-round system                                          | Majority in SMD (2 <sup>nd</sup> round: majority)                                                               | France                                                                                                                              |
| National proportional representation | National proportional representation (with national or regional lists) | General division of seats according to the PR-formula on the national level                                     | Netherlands, Slovakia*                                                                                                              |
| Electoral District PR                | PR in MMD                                                              | PR-formula in (preferably) MMD                                                                                  | Belgium*, Bulgaria*, Croatia*, Czech Republic*, Cyprus*, Estonia*, Finland*, Latvia*, Poland*, Portugal, Spain, Romania, Slovenia*, |
| 1                                    | 2                                                                      | 3                                                                                                               | 4                                                                                                                                   |
| Multi-Level PR Systems               | PR in MMD with Additional or Compensated PR Places                     | PR-formula in <b>MMD</b> and Additional or Compensated PR Places for Supply                                     | Austria*, Denmark*, Estonia*, Sweden*                                                                                               |
| Combined ("Mixed") Systems           | Parallel Systems                                                       | Parallel Calculation: Majority or Majority in Two Rounds in SMD and PR-formula on the National Level            | Lithuania*, Ukraine                                                                                                                 |
|                                      | Mixed and Proportional Systems                                         | Combined Distribution: Majority in SMD, but the general distribution of seats according to the PR election list | Germany                                                                                                                             |
|                                      |                                                                        | Combined Distribution: Majority in SMD, compensated seats on the regional and/or the National Level             | Hungary                                                                                                                             |

Source: Krennerich 2020. PR = Proportional Representation; SMD = Single-Mandate Electoral Districts; MMD = Multi-Mandate Electoral Districts багатомандатні округи;

\* Open lists and preferential voting are possible;

\*\* open lists and cross voting are possible.

Besides, there are a significant number of "mixed" electoral systems that combine majoritarian or majoritarian elections in single-mandate constituencies with a list-based PR system. None of these systems can

be recommended as a "better model" (European commission for democracy through law (venice commission), 2020, p. 42).

As you can see, each electoral system has advantages and disadvantages and must meet the specific needs and conditions of each country.

### **Conclusion**

As a result of the detailed consideration of the components of the mechanism for ensuring electoral processes, the author defines the main problems of their administration: problems with maintaining the State Voters Register, due to the restriction of the rights of voters of temporarily displaced persons, which is a feature of Ukraine due to the military conflict with the Russian Federation; problems connected with taking into account voters in the foreign district; problems of proportional appointment of observers from the parties and international organizations; imperfect process of formation and approval of election commissions; restrictions on the amount of paid airtime for the certain parties; multi-party system that has irrational content, since 365 parties were registered in Ukraine on 01.01.2021; the high level of personification of parties, in which trust is expressed to its immediate leader; widespread use of political advertising by parties and candidates with the resources and financial opportunities;

The Electoral Code of Ukraine was again adopted in 2 years by the 5 amendments.

The research made by the author revealed positive changes that have taken

place during the last three years in electoral processes, namely

- the adoption of the Electoral Code simplified the administration of electoral process, due to the abolition of the number of election laws;
- implementation of the State Voters Register, the administration of which requires the search for new leverage, regarding its adjustment before electoral processes;
- the introduction of three-level territorial organization of the national elections, which simplifies the administration of electoral processes;
- professionalism and competence of members of election commissions, which were formed during thirty years of independence;
- transparent financing and logistical support of election;
- voters' interest in campaigning in social networks prevails over campaigning in traditional media, which accordingly requires some attention in the future;
- falsification of election results can be overcome by conducting elections in an electronic format, but there may also be situation of interference in the electoral process, and due to the digital gap, some voters will not be able to participate in election.

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