

## **Hnatiuk V. The subnational comparative method: some peculiarities in modern research**

Many modern research projects are increasingly turning to the analysis of subnational units, but there are a theoretical and methodological uncertainty in their comprehension.

The problem of studying the course of policy at subnational level borrows in the 70's of the twentieth century and represents by a considerable number of works, but the questions of theoretical and methodological aspect begin to be understood only at the beginning of the XXI century with the release of the article by researcher R. Snyder and a few works in this direction (L. Tillin, I. Harbers, M. K. Ingram, E. Gibson).

The central category of the method is «the subnational political regime», which, despite autonomy of scientific consideration, is analyzed exclusively in a discursive section, where the role of the political national regime, the type of state structure and the condition of processes at the local level are criteria for structuring forms of the type of subnational regime in the subnational units.

The principle of A. Karenina is a fundamental basis in the construction of any type of regime in sub-national units. It accumulates two points: firstly, it articulates and aggregates all the factors that determine the political processes at the subnational level, and secondly, synthesizes their integrity, which determines the specific type of subnational political regime. The principle of A. Karenina sounds like this: there are a large number of ways in which the data combination violates the null hypothesis, and only one variant in which the hypothesis is valid. The idea of A. Karenina's principle is directly correlated with the comprehensive analysis of any subnational unit of the state. After all, in the presence and real functioning of all democratic institutions and structures in a particular territorial unit, the type of regime will be «pure» democratic (as an ideal condition), other situations are determined by numerous variations in the linear development from autocracy to democracy: at the same time, the degree of distance from the ideal conditions produces a specific type of subnational political regime.

The subnational comparative method is a modern research tool by which comparative political researchers conduct investigations. Its appearance is conditioned by political practice, which requires own theoretical and methodological design. On the other hand, today it does not receive the status of a conventional fundamental methodology for subnational researches. In essence, the method is a synthesis of methodological and theoretical developments of various authors, which does not eliminate its uniqueness and efficiency, and, as a result, it is flexible in use in modern political science research.

The subnational comparative method is open for updating and improving. In the article, it is noted attention to the old basics, and also highlighted some new peculiarities in modern researches.

The subnational comparative method in political science is the process of theoretical and methodological crystallization. The authors who laid the foundation, supplemented by new developments. This process continues, and, in the end, it must be formed as a general paradigm for the analysis of subnational units in the state. The scientific potential of subnational politics has achieved the greatest freedom, since the theoretical barriers (national bias and federative monism) have been overcome, and hence the prospect of full-fledged research projects based on the use of new achievements of the subnational comparative method and the author's methods of measuring and categorizing the types of regimes of subnational units.

The number of countries, which need analysis is equivalent to the number of states with problems of establishing the democratic foundations of a public organization as a whole. Prospects are grandiose in such researches today.

**Key words:** subnational comparative method, subnational unit, subnational political regime, comparative political science, subnational policy, principle of A. Karenina.