

## **Surnina-Dalekorey O., Maradyk N. Peculiarities of political participation of citizens of Czech Republic**

The study analyzed specifics of the political activity of citizens of the Czech Republic in the process of democratization. The Czech Republic is a typical country of Central Europe that develops a democratic political culture and values. The political and public participation of Czechs in practice is realized through participation of citizens in elections, local and national referendums, membership in political and public associations, petitions, complaints to authorities at all levels. The most common forms of political participation of the Czechs are electoral participation, membership in non-governmental organizations and trade unions.

However, despite the establishment of the attitude towards democracy as an optimal political regime, as well as high rates of citizens' involvement in the elections, the skepticism of the Czechs on the potential of a democratic political regime is widespread. Moreover, as survey data show, the trust of the Czechs in the political institutions is not high too.

Instead, citizens of the Czech Republic have a positive attitude towards the process of civil society development, as evidenced by extensive statistics. However, among the main problems of functioning of the civil sphere in the Czech Republic can be distinguished: the lack of historical experience of self-organization, the critical attitude of the part of the political elite to civil society organizations, doubts in the professionalism of public activists.

The nature of the political and cultural orientations of the Czech population is a consequence of many socio-political and economic processes unfolding within the country, the influence of national traditions, the post-authoritarian heritage, the establishment of civil society institutions. As a result, it can be defined the mixed type of political culture of the modern Czech Republic, with the predominance of both activist and parochial type of thinking. The case of the Czech Republic is evidently confirmed the fact that, unlike the modernization of political institutions, changing the culture and value orientations of the population is a much longer process.

**Key words:** Czech Republic, democratization, political participation, political culture, civil society.