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INTERCULTURAL COOPERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF MODERN CZECH-UKRAINIAN RELATIONS

The article analyzes the main directions, forms and mechanisms of the intercultural cooperation between the Czech Republic and Ukraine within the framework of their bilateral relations and pan-European collaboration of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

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An overview of Czech-Ukrainian cooperation's contractual and legal basis in the cultural sphere was made. Peculiarities of the parties' approaches to the mutual guarantee of the rights of national minorities are considered. Interrelationships in the humanitarian sphere, particularly in cultural exchange, preservation of historical and cultural heritage, joint research, and cultural and artistic events, were studied.

It has been found that joint activities to preserve the historical and cultural heritage of both countries (mass burials and burial places of prominent figures, memorials, memorial tables and commemorative signs, literary, library, and archival funds) are one of the critical directions of intercultural cooperation.

The effectiveness of joint cultural-political, educational-scientific, and charitable-humanitarian measures to deepen bilateral cooperation in all areas and levels has been proven based on specific examples. As a rule, the initiators of their organization and holding are embassies, governments of both countries, relevant ministries and departments, cultural centres, diaspora and public organizations. The most popular among them is the traditional actions of the Ukrainian community in the Czech Republic: «Ukrainian Meetings», «Ukrainian Day», «Malanchyn Evening», «Meeting of Cultures», «Shevchenko Days», as well as new ones that take place in support of Ukraine in the conditions of martial law.

It has been established that both the Czech Republic and Ukraine create the necessary conditions for the participation of national minorities in the cultural, social, and economic life of the country of residence and state affairs.

Keywords: *Intercultural cooperation, intercultural exchange, Czech Republic, Ukraine, European Union, Czech-Ukrainian relations, cultural heritage, cultural and artistic projects.*

МІЖКУЛЬТУРНА СПІВПРАЦЯ В КОНТЕКСТІ СУЧАСНИХ ЧЕСЬКО-УКРАЇНСЬКИХ ВЗАЄМИН

У статті аналізуються основні напрями, форми і механізми міжкультурної співпраці Чеської Республіки та України в рамках їхніх двосторонніх взаємин та загальноєвропейського співробітництва кінця XX – початку XXI ст.

Зроблено огляд договірно-правової бази чесько-української співпраці в культурній сфері. Досліджено взаємозв'язки в гуманітарній сфері, зокрема у напрямках культурного обміну, збереження історико-культурної спадщини, проведення спільних досліджень, культурно-мистецьких заходів. Розглянуто особливості підходів сторін до взаємної гарантії прав національних меншин.

З'ясовано, що спільна діяльність зі збереження історичної культурної спадщини обох країн (масові поховання та місця захоронення видатних діячів, меморіали, меморіальні таблиці й пам'ятні знаки, літературні, бібліотечні, архівні фонди) є одним із ключових напрямів міжкультурної співпраці.

На основі конкретних прикладів, доведено ефективність спільних культурно-політичних, освітньо-наукових і благодійно-гуманітарних заходів для поглиблення двостороннього співробітництва на усіх напрямках та рівнях. Ініціаторами їх організації та проведення, як правило, стають посольські установи, уряди обох країн, профільні міністерства і відомства, культурні центри, діаспорні та громадські організації. Найпопулярнішими серед них визнано як традиційні акції української громади в Чехії «Українські зустрічі», «Український день», «Маланчин вечір», «Зустріч культур», «Шевченківські дні», так і нові, що відбуваються на підтримку України в умовах воєнного стану.

Встановлено, що як Чеська Республіка, так і Україна створюють необхідні умови для участі національних меншин у культурному, соціальному, економічному житті країни проживання та державних справах.

Ключові слова: Міжкультурна співпраця, міжкультурний обмін, Чеська Республіка, Україна, Європейський Союз, чесько-українські взаємини, культурна спадщина, культурно-мистецькі проєкти.

Problem statement. Today, intercultural cooperation is one of the most dynamic and promising international and European practices used in the system of bilateral relations. In addition to the mutual benefit of such cooperation, which affects everyone in the spheres of interstate relations, its relevance is also due to the need to support the existing peaceful dialogue between both countries, to preserve their cultural identity within the framework of the European cultural space and the cultural policy of the European Union.

Analysis of recent research and publications. In the scientific literature, we find the works of Ukrainian and foreign researchers devoted to the issues of the history of the formation and development of Czech-Ukrainian relations of the modern type by I. Tkachenko [1], their political and trade and economic cooperation by R. Korsak [2], V. Votapek [3], ethnopolitical aspect of relations S. Motruk [4]. In addition to the mentioned works, analytical and review materials from the periodicals of both countries also provide an opportunity to trace individual steps of bilateral cooperation. These are, in particular, publications by S. Ustych [5], N. Kolesnichenko [6], O. Pelenska [7-8], and O. Drbal [9].

The purpose and tasks of the research. Considering the need for broader coverage of intercultural cooperation issues, this article aims to analyze the relations between the Czech Republic and Ukraine in the cultural sphere in the context of the development of bilateral cooperation during the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Following the topic and goal, the following tasks have been identified: to investigate relationships in the humanitarian sphere, in particular in the areas of cultural exchange, preservation of historical and cultural heritage, conducting joint research, cultural and artistic events, the peculiarities of the approaches of the parties to the mutual guarantee of the rights of national minorities.

Presenting main material. Intercultural relations between the Czech Republic and Ukraine have a long history, including a broad spectrum (cultural and artistic, educational and scientific cooperation, information exchange, tourism, youth and sports ties) and are based on a stable contractual and legal basis. It consists, first of all, of the «Treaty on friendly relations and cooperation between Ukraine and the Czech Republic» (April 26, 1995) [10], the «Agreement on cooperation in the field of tourism between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Ukraine and the Ministry of Regional Development of the Czech Republic» (February 17, 2006) [11], «Agreement between the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine and the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic on cooperation in the field of culture» (December 15, 2016) [12], «Agreement between the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Ministry of Education, Youth and of Sports of the Czech Republic on cooperation in the field of education and science» (November 22, 2022) [13]. They define the directions and scope of cooperation, its principles and forms, and implementation mechanisms based on considering the internal legislation of both countries. In particular, the regulations on forms of collaboration include direct contacts and connections between relevant ministries, departments and other state institutions, educational institutions, research institutions, creative unions, youth and sports organizations, and individual citizens. This makes it possible to conclude direct documents between the institutions,

institutions and organizations of the Czech Republic and Ukraine.

One of the critical directions of intercultural cooperation is preserving both countries' historical and cultural heritage, which includes mass and burials of prominent figures, memorials, memorial tablets and signs, and literary, library and archival funds.

Taking into account the existence on the territory of Ukraine and the Czech Republic of military cemeteries in which citizens of both states are buried, the activity of determining their location, preservation, care and maintenance in proper condition is regulated by the provisions of the eighteenth article of the «Treaty on Friendly Relations and Cooperation between Ukraine and the Czech Republic» dated April 26, 1995 [10] and the corresponding «Agreement between the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the Government of the Czech Republic on military burials» dated October 21, 2013 [14]. Both countries undertook to provide care for military graves and monuments on their territories, as well as to identify the burial places of its citizens and maintain access to them.

Mass burials of Ukrainians and memorials are scattered across various Czech cities. Thus, in Brno, at the city's central cemetery and in Pardubice, there are memorials to all Ukrainians who lived in these cities. Monuments to the Ukrainian Galician Army soldiers have been erected in Hradec Kralove, Terezin and Yablunny – a monument to the marksman of the Ukrainian Brigade. A memorial was opened in Libetsy to the interned soldiers of the group of General A. Kraus, which in the summer of 1920, separated from the active army of the Ukrainian People's Republic, crossed the Carpathians and was disarmed in the Czech Republic. In Prague, the burials of Soviet soldiers (among whom there are many Ukrainians) who died in the battles for Prague in the spring of 1945 and representatives of the Ukrainian emigration (more than 150 graves) were found at the Olšany cemetery. More than 40 burial places of representatives of the Ukrainian interwar emigration were found in Podjebrady, and a monument to Ukrainians who died in the 20s and 30s in the Buda sanatorium was erected in Zasmuck (43 km from Prague) [15, арк. 16-17; 6, с. 44-45]. At the end of

December 2020, the large-scale restoration of the unique Memorial to Ukrainians who participated in the First World War in the armies of various countries, as well as to the soldiers of the Ukrainian Galician Army, was completed at the Brno Central Cemetery. A total of 154 Ukrainians were buried in the Memorial. With a few exceptions, they all come from Halychyna, mostly from Buchachchyna, Drohobychchyna, Kolomyichyna, Przemyslchyna, Pidhayechchyna, and Snyatynchyna [16, с. 3].

Prominent public figures and Ukrainian science and culture representatives are also buried in the Czech Republic. In particular, there are graves of O. Oles, V. Leontovych, S. Rusova, S. Siropolk, I. Gorbachevsky, and I. Pulyu in Prague. D. Antonovych, E. Chikalenko, V. Lashchenko, O. Vilinska, V. Vilinskyi are buried in Podyebrady, I. Pankevich in Olomouc, and N. Koroleva in Melnyk [15, арк. 16-17; 6, с. 44-45].

Military burials of the First and Second World Wars (387 soldiers) have been found and partially organized in Ukraine. So, there are eight burial places of Czechoslovak legionnaires from 1914 to 1920 in Kyiv, Bakhmachi, and Chernihiv Region, (common grave unidentified), Tsetsov (Kalynivka), Zborivsky district, Ternopil region – 6 common graves with the remains of 195 legionnaires who died in the battle near Zborovo on July 2, 1917, as well as in Ternopil and the surrounding villages (Domamorychy, Ozernii, Volosivtsi) and Krasny (Lviv region). The burial sites of Czech soldiers who died in the Second World War are located in Sadhor (Chernivetsk region) and Sokolovo (Kharkiv region) [17-18].

The Czech and Ukrainian sides are doing the necessary work on the search, restoration, restoration and maintenance of the mentioned objects. Their memory is commemorated. For example, an event is held every year, on July 2, in the village of Kalynivka, Zborivsky District, Ternopil Region, in memory of the Czech legionnaires who died in the First World War. It is constantly attended by the Czech delegation, consisting of heads of departments and Czech veterans, representatives of Ukrainian state authorities and administration. During his official visit to Ukraine in 1997, Czech

President V. Havel also visited this place of military glory. According to the Czech leadership, the Battle of Zborov was a unique event in Czech history, which significantly impacted the subsequent formation of Czech and Slovak statehood [19; 20, c. 2; 21, c. 1; 22, c. 11]. In 2013, commemorative events commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Sokolov took place in the Kharkiv Region, organized jointly with the Ministry of Defense of the Czech Republic, the community of Sokolov, the Military History Club of Kyiv, the Czechoslovak Legionary Society, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine and other organizations [23, c. 11]. And although the battle of Sokolov on March 8, 1943, in the context of the events of the Second World War, was not decisive, it is of great importance for Czechoslovak history. It testifies to their heroism in the resistance to fascism.

The practice of erecting memorial tables and monuments dedicated to outstanding personalities or events from the history of Czech and Ukrainian culture exists in both countries. For example, several memorial tables have been installed in the capital of the Czech Republic, Prague. One of them is located on the building on the street. Opletalova, 22, where in 1876, the first complete (without censored abbreviations) «Kobzar» by T. Shevchenko was printed in Gregor's printing house. In memory of the Ukrainian writer, public figure I. Franko and his historic speech at the First Slavic Congress of Slavic Progressive Youth in Prague on May 18, 1891, opened a memorial tablet in the Dauphin Palace on the Slavic Island on the Vltava River, where the previous congress took place. Another memorial sign at building No. 15 on the street Preslovii was established in honour of the Ukrainian scientist and researcher I. Puluy, who lived in this building for several years and died in 1918 [15, арк. 14]. As part of the commemoration of the 130th anniversary of the birth of the President of the Ukrainian People's Republic, statesman and scientist, and member of the Czech Academy of Sciences M. Hrushevsky, on October 14, 1996, a memorial plaque was opened at the house where he lived in 1920 (in Prague on Dombrovsky, 22) [24; 25, c. 1]. In Podebrady, where the Ukrainian Economic Academy began its work in 1922 and the Ukrainian Economic and Technical

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Institute operated from 1932 to 1945, a commemorative plaque was installed in 2016 [26, с. 5].

The «Last Address» project also exists in the Czech Republic. This is a public initiative aimed at perpetuating the memory of the victims of political repressions by the Soviet authorities. In memory of a person, a small memorial plaque the size of a palm is installed on the facade of the house where she lived. Each memorial sign is dedicated to an individual. The principle of the project is «One name, one life, one sign». Yes, as part of this project, on May 6, 2021, on the facade of building No. 38 on the street Luzhytskyi in Prague, a memorial tablet was installed to the Ukrainian bibliographer, publicist and publisher, former employee of the Prague Slavic Library P. Zlenk [27, с. 3].

In the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, on November 3, 2000, two commemorative signs were installed on the foundation of the First Czech Battalion of the Czech Army in 1914 at the Saint Petersburg Hotel (36 Volodymyrska St.), as well as a Czechoslovak figure of the liberation movement of the times of the Austro-Hungarian Empire by Dr V. Vondrak at the building of the State Committee of Ukraine for Geology and Subsoil Use (34 Volodymyrska St.) [28, арк. 149; 29, арк. 133; 30, с. 3]. The place of installation of the signs was not chosen by chance since it was in the capital of Ukraine in 1918 that the Czech army was created, which became the basis of the Czechoslovak foreign army and played not the last role in the creation of the independent Czechoslovak Republic. In 2016, in Kyiv, at Khreshchatyk 27-A (premises of the Union of Journalists of Ukraine), a memorial table was opened to the UPA soldier, political prisoner V. Makukh, who in 1968 committed self-immolation as a sign of protest against Russification, the totalitarian communist regime in Ukraine and the occupation of Czechoslovakia by Warsaw Pact troops [31, с. 3]. As for other cities, on March 28, 2002, a monument to the first president of the Czechoslovak Republic, T. Masaryk, was opened in Uzhhorod [32, арк. 68], and on May 9, 2007, in Rivne, at the intersection of Soborna-Dubenska Street, a memorial sign to the Volyn Czechs [33, с. 3-4]. In the village In 2008, a monument to the literary

hero of Y. Hasek's work, the brave soldier Shveik, was erected in Skelivka, Lviv Region [34, с. 8].

The Czech Republic and Ukraine also cooperate in issues related to the return of cultural values to the country of their origin, which were taken abroad in different periods. Under such conditions, the Czech side transferred to Ukraine in 1993 the creative and family archive of the outstanding poet O. Oles from the period of emigration, the manuscripts and correspondence of his son, the poet and archaeologist O. Olzhych, as well as the materials of the younger sister of Lesya Ukrainka O. Kosach-Shymanovska. The gift letter on the transfer of the archive was signed on February 27 in Prague, and the procedure for converting, forwarding and transferring the archive was carried out through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine and with the participation of the National Commission for the Return of Cultural Values to Ukraine under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine [35, арк. 23; 36, с. 2].

In the context of the implementation of the state program «Returned Names» in 1997, the Siropolk's family archive was returned to Ukraine, which contains many materials for the study of the history of Ukrainian pedagogy and bibliology. Part of this was done during the lifetime of S. Siropolko's daughter Oleksandra. In the same year, during the visit of the President of the Czech Republic, V. Havel, to Ukraine, copies of letters from M. Hrushevskyi to T. Masaryk were handed over [6, с. 44-45]. Also, during 1995–2007, thanks to the search work of M. Mushinka, it was possible to find and hand over to the museum and archive institutions of Ternopil and Uzhhorod personal belongings, family memorabilia, archival materials of geographer S. Rudnytskyi, lawyer S. Dnistrianskyi and his wife S. Dniestrianska [37, с. 14-16].

Cultural and artistic events are another vital component of intercultural cooperation, which, as a rule, are initiated by embassies, governments of both countries, various ministries and agencies, cultural centres, and diasporic and public organizations. It should be noted that the cultural-political and charitable-humanitarian activities of the Ukrainian community in the Czech Republic gained and continue to gain considerable

authority and popularity. Among them, the series «Ukrainian Meetings», traditional actions «Ukrainian Day», «Malanchyn Evening», «Meeting of Cultures», and «Shevchenko Days» should be noted.

The Ukrainian ball – «Malanchyn evening», takes place every year in January and gathers all supporters of Ukrainianism, regardless of nationality, religion or status. For example, in 1992, Malanchyn's evening took place in Prague's «Variety Prague» with the participation of a vocal-instrumental ensemble from Kyiv (leader – M. Berehovy) and other invited artists [38, с. 6]. In 1995, the Ukrainian Initiative for this holiday prepared a cultural program for the public (500 people), in which Czech artists performed together with the Czech country band and the Ukrainian musical group «Chorna Rada» from Munich [39, с. 2-6]. In 1999, the Ukrainian «Malanka» gathered many official guests from the Ukrainian embassy in the Czech Republic, representatives of local authorities and guests from abroad, which testified to the positive publicity of this event among the European Ukrainian public. In 2002, this event was attended by more than 450 people, including representatives of the Ukrainian diplomatic mission in the Czech Republic, the Czech government, as well as Ukrainians from other countries of the world. A lottery (raffle) was held as part of the holiday, which helped raise funds to help Ukrainian children [40, с. 3]. Over the following years, this event became more and more large-scale and popular.

«Meeting of Cultures» is a traditional evening of national minorities living in the territory of the Czech Republic. The presentation of the cultural program and national dishes by Ukrainian groups allows everyone to get to know the cultural and artistic heritage of the Ukrainian people. For example, in 1998, during the Ukrainian part of the holiday, a youth choir from the country and a singing trio of theatre members named after Dukhnovych from Pryashev performed carols, shchedrivkas and Ukrainian folk songs [41, с. 2-7]. In 2001, along with the traditional cultural program, folk dishes of the national minorities of the Czech Republic were also presented at the holiday [42, с. 7].

Ukrainian culture weeks and days are traditionally held in the Czech Republic. These events include concerts of the most famous Ukrainian groups, screenings of films and performances by Ukrainian directors, the opening of artists' exhibitions, and the presentation of traditional dishes of the national cuisine. The interest of Czech citizens in the cultural heritage of the people of Ukraine is evidenced by their numerous presences at such events. For example, the Day of Ukraine in the Czech Republic in 1993 was dedicated to discussing the problems of the Ukrainian national group in the Czech Republic [43, с. 3]. During the «Ukrainian Days in the Czech Republic» a presentation of the Ukrainian pavilion at the international fair took place in Brno.

The photo exhibition «Ukraine on the path of democratic reforms» was also opened, a round table was held on the topic «Ukraine – Czech Republic: development and prospects of economic relations», and a musical group performed with a concert program [44, с. 4]. In 2005, the Days of Ukrainian Culture in the Czech Republic expanded its program to include regions. The cities of Brno, Pilsen and Khomutov have joined the partnership. The program of the Days included an international scientific conference on the Museum of the Liberation Struggle of Ukraine in Prague at the Slavic Library, a festive reception and a concert with the participation of the Prague theatre group «Jerelo», the group «Ignis», and «Hospodarochki» from the University of Brno [45, с. 5].

The celebration of Shevchenko Days takes place every year in Czech cities at the initiative of Ukrainian diaspora organizations and the Embassy of Ukraine in the Czech Republic. The commemoration of Kobzar takes place primarily according to the traditional scenario – laying wreaths under his memorial table, holding concerts with the participation of diaspora groups and specially invited ones from Ukraine, conferences, exhibitions, round tables and meetings where everyone can learn about his life and creative path T. Shevchenko, his contribution to the development of Czech-Ukrainian cultural relations or simply listen to his poems. In 2009, the Shevchenko Days in Prague received considerable information and publicity because they took place with the participation of the then President of Ukraine, V. Yushchenko. Opening the monument

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to Kobzar, the head of state presented state awards to individual figures «for a significant personal contribution to the development of Ukrainian-Czech cooperation in the humanitarian sphere», namely the Order of Merit III degree to the director of the Slavic library in Prague, L. Babka, to the teacher of the Charles University, associate professor B. Zylinsky, the president of the Pan-European Society of Culture, Education and Scientific and Technical Cooperation «Comenius» K. Muzikarzh and the mayor of Prague-5 district M. Yanchyk. I. Khalupa, the head of the Ukrainian editorial office of radio «Svoboda», received the Order of Princess Olga III degree [46, с. 4-5].

An equally important event for strengthening intercultural relations is the celebration of Ukraine's Independence Day in the Czech Republic. The celebration of the tenth anniversary of the declaration of independence became symbolic when ten trees were planted in Prague Park in front of the Vrshovice station, not far from Ukrainian Street – «Kyiv», «Uzhhorod», «Dnipro», «Kaniv», «Khortytsia», «Lviv», «Dniester», «Hoverla», «Kharkiv», «Cheremosh» [47, с. 2]. These trees became a symbol not only of the past ten years of independent Ukraine but also of hope for its further prosperity and faith in the development of comprehensive cooperation between the two states.

As part of celebrating the 11th anniversary of Ukraine's independence in 2002, the Embassy of Ukraine in the Czech Republic, together with the National Library of the Czech Republic, organized an exhibition of modern Ukrainian book graphics and held a prayer service in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church. One of the most prestigious hotels in the Czech capital, «Prague», hosted a reception on the occasion of the celebration, to which leaders of the Czech state, representatives of the public, business circles, the Ukrainian diaspora, the diplomatic corps and journalists were invited [48, арк. 175].

In 2010, the Ukrainian event «Talent of Ukraine» took place, the first of its kind. On June 6, 2010, at the National House on the Grapes in Prague, 20 boys and girls aged 14 to 25 demonstrated to the jury their talents and skills related to Ukraine, its history, and traditions. An exciting part of the competition was the «Ukrainian Dish», when the *БІЛОВУС Леся, ГОМОТЮК Оксана, СТЕФАНІШИЙ Олена*

contestants cooked dumplings live. The evening was opened by the Ambassador of Ukraine to the Czech Republic, I. Hrytsak, and the jury included representatives of Ukrainian organizations and Ukrainian figures: B. Raichynets, M. Prokop'yuk, V. Bychok, N. Kolva, M. Sasin. As a result of the contest, I. Sviatkin became the talent of Ukraine in 2010 in the Czech Republic [49, с. 4-6].

The cultural work of the newly established Embassy of Ukraine in Prague began with the exhibition activity, namely with the opening on December 2, 1993, in the National Library of the Czech Republic of the exhibition dedicated to the 120th anniversary of the birth of B. Lepky [35, арк. 1-2]. And in 2010, for the first time in post-war history, the Czech Republic prepared the exhibition «Ivan Mazepa and the European Context», which reveals one of the most dramatic and, at the same time, understudied periods of Ukrainian history. The exhibition under this name was opened in Prague on the premises of the famous Slavic Library. The exposition of the exhibition presented European Mazepian with unique literary and artistic works of Ukrainian, Czech, Polish, French and Slovak authors [7, с. 4].

Another important project for the artistic community of both countries is the plein air «Venkov», which began its work back in 2008, bringing together young artists from the Czech Republic, Ukraine and other countries. The first plein air was held at the initiative of the Forum of Ukrainians of the Czech Republic and with the financial support of the Ukrainian Embassy in Prague. Visa support for artists from our country was provided by the Ukrainian initiative in the Czech Republic. Subsequently, private individuals joined the organization of this event, realizing the importance of artistic contacts within the framework of cultural diplomacy. In the following years, the geography of art schools also expanded. For example, in 2012, representatives of the Lviv, Kharkiv, Kyiv schools of painting and the Prague school of applied arts joined the students and graduates from the Kyiv Academy of Arts and Architecture traditionally present at the plein air [50, с. 4; 51, с. 3].

Scientific and educational contacts are also numerous in Ukrainian-Czech cultural cooperation. They are usually represented by joint conferences, round tables, scientific research and projects. International conferences with the participation of Ukrainian scientists have been held in the Czech Republic every year since 1995. For example, in October 1996 and November 1998, international scientific conferences were held on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian Free University and the Ukrainian Higher Pedagogical Institute named after M. Dragomanov [4, с. 203]. Together with the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic and the Slavic Library at the National Library of the Czech Republic, the scientific conference «Dmytro Chyzhevsky: personality and creativity» was organized [52, с. 6].

Several interesting actions were held by the Czech branch of the International Association «Freedom»; one of them was the International Scientific Conference – «Ukrainian Insurgent Army: Different in Literature, Art, Culture», which took place on October 21–22, 2010 in the meeting hall of the National Library in Prague Ambassador of Ukraine to the Czech Republic I. Hrytsak and Director of the National Library L. Babka spoke in the introductory part. The conference was also attended by the representative of the Ukrainian Freedom Ministry, O. Zainullin and Ukrainians from the city of Pilsen [53, с. 9].

Another holiday, which has been held on the third Thursday of May for 16 years in a row, the Day of Ukrainian Vyshyvanka in Prague, is also widely celebrated. In particular, in previous years, marches in embroidered shirts were held in the centre of the Czech capital, and concerts and meetings were held in prominent places. In 2021, well-known representatives of the political, social and cultural spheres of the Czech Republic congratulated Ukrainians on holiday, wearing embroidered shirts donated mainly by the Ukrainian community. The embroidered flashmob was supported by the ex-minister of foreign affairs of the Czech Republic, T. Petršíček, the head of the human rights and humanitarian organization «Man in Trouble» Sh. Panek, the creative Mišyk family – dissident and musician V. Mišyk and his son – singer and actor

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A. Mišyk [54, с. 2]. In this way, the Czechs expressed their solidarity with Ukraine by sharing photos on social networks.

Czech television is also gradually increasing the presence of Ukrainian topics in a positive context. Thus, in 2011, the premiere of the documentary film «Banderivtsi», directed by A. Koudel was held on Czech public television, which was worked on by a group of Czech specialists – historians and publicists. First, it was important for the Czech audience to learn that the history of the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists began precisely in Prague, then Czechoslovakia. It is based on the testimonies and memories of eyewitnesses of the struggle of the Ukrainian insurgent army for the independence of Ukraine. The film itself covers events from the first battles of the UPA to raids through Slovakia and the Czech Republic and to the emigration of individual formations to the West [8, с. 2].

In the same year, two reports about Ukraine were shown on Czech television in the entertainment and journalistic program «On a Journey»: the first about the Hutsul Carpathians and the second about Kyiv [55, с. 4].

After the invasion of the Russian Federation into Ukraine and the start of full-scale military operations, all cultural, artistic, educational, scientific and sports events, as a rule, take place to support our state and are accompanied by the collection of funds and humanitarian aid. For example, in April 2022, charity exhibitions of paintings by Y. Svoboda, «Beauty for Peace in Ukraine» in the Lapidarium gallery and works of Ukrainian artists in the Prague club Rock Cafe collected about 130,000 kroner [56, с. 5].

Thus, in February 2022, the SPORTLIFE4KIDS project was initiated, a free football club for Ukrainian children who had to leave Ukraine due to the war. The club provides soccer training for children three times a week with professional coaches who communicate in Ukrainian. The project team also prepares summer camps in Prague and near Prague for children aged 6 to 16 [57, с. 4].

In the Czech Republic, the legal protection of the rights of national minorities and the peculiarities of their legal status is based on the «Law on the Rights of National Minorities», adopted on August 2, 2001 [58]. At the same time, the Ukrainian state creates the necessary conditions for the participation of the Czech population in the cultural, social, and economic life of the country of residence and state affairs. Guaranteeing the satisfaction of their national and cultural requests takes place within the framework of the Law of Ukraine «On National Minorities in Ukraine» [59].

The Czech minority has existed on Ukrainian soil for about 140 years. Thus, according to the 1989 census, more than 9,000 Czechs and more than 8,000 Slovaks lived on the territory of our country, mainly in Zhytomyr, Zakarpattia, Rivne, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Zaporizhzhya and Vinnytsia regions. 35.5% of Czechs and 35.4% of Slovaks considered the language of their nationalities to be their mother tongue, fluent Russian – 37.9% (Czechs), 51.3% (Slovaks), Ukrainian – 33.6% (Czechs), 27.8 % – (Slovaks) [60, арк. 209]. Over the years, the structure of the diaspora has changed somewhat, as many mixed marriages have appeared.

Contacts of the Czech Republic with the Czech minority in Ukraine were restored during perestroika and in the early 1990s. Then the Czech government paid attention to the fate of the diaspora around the world and developed a program for cultural and educational support for these people so that they feel Czech. In Ukraine, there are associations of Czechs on a cultural and religious basis. The first of them began their formation with kin. The 1980s In 1987, the Lviv National Cultural Society «Czech Conversation» was revived. On April 7, 1990, the republican Czecho-Slovak cultural and educational society was named after Y. Komensky. The study of the native language and history of their peoples, preservation and popularization of national culture, traditions and rituals are the goals of the activity of other societies «Holenderski chehy» (the village of Mykolaivka, Vinnytsia region), «Chehograd» (the town of Bohemka, Mykolaiv region), «Matice» Volynska» (Luts'k), «Stromovka» (Dubno, Rivne Region),

«Volyn Czechs» (Zhytomyr), «Czech Conversation» (Odesa), «Vyshegrad» (Kyiv), «Bohemia» (Melitopol, Zaporizhzhia region) [61, с. 19-20; 9, с. 8-10].

Representatives of the Czech community are free to choose the scope and forms of exercising the rights granted to them by the current legislation and exercise them directly, as well as through state bodies of local self-government and public associations. Several schools in the Zhytomyr, Zakarpattia, and Mykolaiv regions have created electives on studying the Czech and Slovak languages (they are equipped with programs and textbooks). In places of compact residence of citizens of these nationalities, amateur folklore collectives operate, and libraries of national literature are formed. This was confirmed by several festivals, in particular, «We are Ukrainian», which took place in 2000 in Primorsk, Zaporizhzhia region, the celebration of Czech culture in Odesa, where creative teams from the different areas of Ukraine gather, «Grandma's Lessons», which take place in Crimea [62, с. 13-14]. On November 4–5, 2006, the All-Ukrainian Festival of Czechs of Ukraine was held in Volyn for the first time. Its participants were about 250 people from different regions of Ukraine, primarily ethnic Czechs. The event was also attended by the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Ukraine, K. Shtindl. Both adults and children participate in events organized by Czech diaspora organizations, demonstrating culinary talents, dance and theatre numbers, embroidery skills, etc. Ukrainian Czechs are trying to preserve their national traditions, passing them on to the younger generation.

Similar festivals take place in the Czech Republic. Thus, during August 24–28, 2011, a folklore festival of Czechs living in other countries was held in Prague. Six collectives represented Ukrainian Czechs: «Vltava – Simferopol», «Czech Family – Odesa», «Bohemian Friars», Dutch Czechs – Sudak collective, Zhytomyr collective of Volyn Czechs and Vyshegrad – Kyiv [63, с. 4].

In the Czech Republic, since 1997, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has introduced the Gratias Agit award, which honours compatriots and friends of the Czech Republic, bohemians, historians, artists, entrepreneurs, etc., who, along with their

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primary speciality and without any claim to remuneration, deepen the interest of the Czech Republic abroad. Among the citizens of Ukraine, O. Drbal (2001), N. Tumarets (2012), and M. Provaznikova (2013) received this award [64, с. 3].

Measures are being taken to improve the Czech language both in the Czech Republic and Ukraine. For example, four-week courses are held in the Czech Republic, attended by representatives of the Czech diaspora from different countries and continents. In addition to supporting Czech teachers working in Ukraine, the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Ukraine also helps organize the study of the Czech language by the diaspora in the Czech Republic. There is an annual government-funded Czech language program for 15 students. There is also a program for studying Czechs from the diaspora on an entire university course designed for 150 people, but only two places are allocated for Ukraine. Currently, there are courses at the Czech Cultural Center in Kyiv for anyone who wants to learn the Czech language.

Conclusions. Summarizing the results of the intercultural cooperation between the Czech Republic and Ukraine, such collaboration is quite effective and mutually beneficial at the bilateral level and within the framework of European cultural policy. It is based on bilateral and multilateral contractual basis. Cultural exchange, preservation of historical and cultural heritage, conducting joint research, cultural-political, charitable and humanitarian activities and mutual guarantee of the rights of Ukrainian and Czech national minorities are the key areas of collaborative activity. The primary forms of events are festivals, charity concerts, literary and artistic compositions, author's exhibitions, performances, openings, conferences, «round tables», the presentation of memorial tables, preservation of graves, aid campaigns and sports competitions, etc. It is worth noting that throughout the almost thirty-year history of Czech-Ukrainian relations, their cooperation in the cultural sphere had different intensities, determined by various political, economic, and military factors. However, the growing popularity and number of joint events and their visitors show an interest in cultural topics among different circles of the Ukrainian and Czech population. And

effective intercultural interaction is a prerequisite for effective and mutually beneficial cooperation in all areas and level.

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