

## Comparative research in sociology

### *What will be studied?*

- Comparative method of research of cultures, countries and regions.
- Different types of comparative studies: comparison of many cases, comparison of several cases and case studies in a comparative perspective.
- Methodological problems of achieving data equivalence in comparative studies.
- Historical and sociological comparisons: essence and examples of application (customs and values, types of societies, democracy and inequality).
- Cross-sectional and longitudinal strategy (design) of the study.
- Examples of classical comparative research: theoretical and methodological substantiation, hypotheses, results and conclusions. Ukraine against the background of other societies: similar and different.

### *Why is it interesting / necessary to study?*

Recently, there has been a trend in the social sciences towards an increasingly widespread application of the comparative approach, which makes it possible to obtain knowledge that is more reliable and suitable for broad generalizations. In the context of globalization and increasing interdependence among nations, the need to understand what makes them similar and what – different, becomes not just a manifestation of natural human curiosity, but also vital knowledge. Within the proposed discipline, students will have the opportunity to understand how a comparative study is planned and conducted, what results can be obtained, how it helps to identify similarities and differences, what are its capabilities and limitations. Consideration of specific comparative studies on a variety of topics will demonstrate how interesting and fruitful this area of research is. Students will learn what unites Ukrainians with other countries and cultures, what values and life attitudes we share with representatives of European countries. Comparative studies have revealed such patterns of public life, which are common to many countries and at the same time do not lie on the surface, are latent.

### *What can you learn (learning outcomes)?*

Knowledge of theoretical and methodological principles of organization and conduct of comparative research; main results of international comparative studies with the participation of Ukraine, including the European Social Survey, ESS; World Values Survey, WVS; International Social Survey Programme, ISSP; practical skills in the use of comparative indicators, indices and ratings, as well as in building intercultural communication.

### *How to use the acquired knowledge and skills (competencies)?*

Students will expand their scientific worldview, will be able to understand intercultural and interethnic differences and to more harmoniously build relationships with representatives of other nations. These competencies will be useful both in everyday life and in professional activities. In particular, in the conditions of increasing openness of our society and growing mobility, contacts with people of other cultures become more frequent and intense, but do not automatically become more coordinated. Working and studying in international teams requires greater tolerance, understanding of the way of life, culture, traditions and values of the Other. At the same time, acquaintance with scientifically based data and analytical models will help to debunk artificially created or inflated differences, which often result in xenophobia, conflict, or even war and genocide.