



## Transformation of Modern Party Systems on the Example of Advanced Practices

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### **Abstract**

In the current information age, the rapid development of technology is creating new changes in the political sphere, as in any other field. In particular, changes and innovations are observed in the activities of political parties. Also, the growing aspiration for democracy, based on civil society, is accelerating the transformation of party systems. The article discusses the transformation of the party system on the example of advanced foreign experience. At the same time, in the theory of modern political science, attention is paid to the approaches of scholars who have deeply studied the transformation of party systems.

**Keywords:** *Party; Party Systems; Transformation; Modern Technology; Civil Society; Political System; Party Theory; Political Institution; Democracy*

### **Introduction**

The study of the transformation of political party systems on the example of advanced foreign experience serves to more fully reveal the characteristics of the change of party systems. The concept of transformation of party systems in modern political science and its features have been scientifically studied by the world's leading political scientists and are characterized by a variety of factors influencing the transformation of party systems.

The change in the political system is often seen in modern political science as a move towards the pinnacle of a democracy based on civil society. The political system and party systems change in parallel with each other in most cases. These two concepts are closely related to the political sciences.

### **Materials**

In modern political science, the transformation of party systems is seen as one of the important steps towards the establishment of parties as institutions of civil society, the full expression of the political will of the population.

Party system and their characteristics, the factors that lead to change P. Mayr, R. Dalton, J. Sartori, R. Inglehart, S. ; Rokkan, M. Shamir, S. Lipset, K. Scientists like Janda have studied.

The best practices of the transformation of modern party systems are illustrated by the example of the European Union in an article by Katerina Triyma, Kostantin Karaman, Vladislav Parlik, and Maria Svetlakovna entitled “Transformation of Political Parties in EU Member States”. It focuses on the factors influencing the transformation of parties in the European Union, listing internal and external factors separately.

The article lists the factors that contribute to the process of change of political parties, such as globalization, deterioration of the environmental situation, economic crisis, migration crisis. They also highlighted the slowdown of party activities in the EU and integration as one of the main reasons for this process.

An organization with integrated and developed common interests, like Europe, the structure has never been observed in the world experience. While in the recent past this large and political system boasted a single, large-scale potential structure, the weak points of the structure began to emerge when the global financial crisis began. The growing influx of migrants (refugees) suffering from political instability, hunger, and unemployment in Europe has led to a migration crisis. At the same time, the issue of Brexit has frustrated the positive conclusions for European political structures.

In such a complex situation, the process of transformation of European parties accelerated. Adaptation to the political system and environment, meeting the requirements of the information age has become a key issue facing political parties.

In his scientific research, Y. Shashkov analyzed the transformation of Russia's party systems and concluded. According to him, the Russian political environment has created unique opportunities for the development of parties after the post-Soviet system. The process of party transformation has not been the same in all parties. He compares the multi-party system typical of the post-Soviet countries to a new form of the party system. Although the pursuit of a new form of democracy is multi-party, in practice it is led by a single ruling party.

Successful examples of the formation and development of party systems in comparison with the post-Soviet countries are the post-communist countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the Baltics. Although the scientific interest in political parties and party systems in the post-Soviet countries has not diminished, there were some methodological problems related to the conceptual interpretation of changes in the party system in these countries (Shvirkov: 2012, p. 85).

Also, P. Mayr is one of the scholars who has made an in-depth analysis of the transformation of European political parties. Thus the electoral base of a party will change as the society itself changes, either as a result of socio-economic change or demographic change. The policies of the party will also be subject to modification with time, in response to changing needs, changing demands, and changing constraints. It is also very likely that the governing role of parties will change, as the parties themselves respond to shifts in the electoral balance or new strategic opportunities (Peter Mair: 2002, p. 49).

## **Methods**

The article uses the methods of political analysis, the study of the views of political scientists who have researched in the field of transformation of party systems. In our study, we also used methods of functional, systematic, historical approach and methodology of comparative analysis.

In the study of political parties, the method of an institutional approach is usually used in the science of political science. That is, the institutional approach studies the state, parties, various organizations, and associations, other institutions that carry out political activity (Odiqoriev: 2008, p. 27).

## Results

As an organization, the European Union is unique in the world in terms of scale. His political administration is one of the most advanced in the world. We have therefore turned to more European experience in the study of the transformation of party systems.

According to G. Weinstein's (2018) estimates, since the beginning of the 21st century, 69 new parties have been created in Western Europe, more than 40 of them have taken part in 43 election campaigns at all levels. By the beginning of the new electoral cycle 2015-2019, within which elections of all levels were held in almost all EU countries, as well as elections to the European Parliament in May 2019, the quantitative growth of parties became one of the significant parameters of the characteristics of the modern party systems (Kateryna Tryma: 2020, p. 2224).

Hence, it follows from the above data that European countries have sufficient experience in terms of the functioning of parties and party systems. Also, because Europe is the most developed part of the world, the political consciousness of the population is high. This is evident in the fact that more and more demanding, critical views on the activities of political organizations, including parties, are well-formed.

Parallel to the process of fragmentation of political parties and the creation of new ones, usually of an anti-systemic nature, the key vector of the transformation of party-political systems is the process of evolution of systemic (dominant or major) parties. This process is objective and is caused by the need to overcome the deep crisis in which they find themselves. Thus, according to P. Ignatsi (2010), political parties have long begun to lose their attractiveness (Ignatsi, 2010). At the beginning of the 21st century, in 15 EU countries, only 20% of the population assessed them positively (Ignatsi, 2010). Other Western researchers give a sharper assessment to parties, for example, R. Dalton (2010) emphasized the "purely negative" image of political parties in the public consciousness (Kateryna Tryma: 2020, p. 2227).

Nevertheless, in Western Europe, attitudes towards parties, in general, are much higher than in other developing countries of the world, and political activism is much higher. In Europe, a favorable environment for the emergence of parties and their free functioning was the impetus for the good formation of multipartyism. The development of modern information technology is leading to the emergence of a new types of parties. These processes began to be observed, especially in developed European countries. An example is "cyber parties" ("online parties", "virtual parties"). The term "cyber parties" was first used by Margetts.

Several terms are used concerning this type of party. These are "cyber parties", "online parties" (Morozova, 2015), "virtual", "Internet parties", as well as "network" parties. According to L. Smorgunov (2014), the signs of such parties are considered to be lack of membership, party channels of communication are network channels, internal and external ones are direct connections with voters, strong party competition for various preferences of voters, and their role in the political space is the position between the civil society and the state (Kateryna Tryma: 2020, p. 2226).

The introduction of information technology in the activities of political parties leads to the emergence of new forms of parties, as well as the transformation of existing political parties and party systems. Many factors are influencing the transformation of the party and party systems in general, and they are being updated as the world changes.

Katerina Triyma, Kostantin Karaman, Vladislav Parlik and Maria Svetlakova, in an article entitled "Transformation of Political Parties in EU Member States", divided these factors into internal and external factors. They express the following views on the impact of internal factors on the existing party systems in the European Union. Among the group of internal factors of partogenesis in the EU first of all necessary to highlight the integration process itself. Some researchers, assessing the impact of this structure on the party systems of the EU member states, use the concept of "Europeanization", which is understood as the process of unification of the legal framework within which political parties operate firstly (Kateryna Tryma: 2020, p. 2229).

The high level of political consciousness of the population in the European Union creates a demanding mood towards the parties, which in turn creates the need to be flexible, innovative, sustainable in meeting their needs.

The transformation process is occurring both under the influence of external actors and factors, the nature of which follows from the logic of the development of the European Union, national states, and party-political systems. This determines the too complicated, contradictory, and multidimensional nature of the modernization processes for party political systems at this stage of their development (Kateryna Tryma: 2020, p. 2224).

Among the external factors that determine the parameters of the current EU party systems, the dominant influence is exerted by the phenomenon of globalization as the main trend of world development and the development of the EU (Kateryna Tryma: 2020, p. 2228). In recent years, the recognition of the process of globalization in the political sciences as the main reason for the change in political party systems has become quite popular among scholars.

In addition, the external factors influencing the change of party systems in the EU include control over natural resources, coexistence against global threats, the migration crisis, and so on. While analyzing the process of transformation of Russian political parties, Y. Shashkov made the following points in his research. Political changes, especially with the import of institutions, raise the issue of the “survival” of these institutions, the coordination of their content, and development trends in donor and host countries. Although political parties in Russia emerged in the second half of the nineteenth century and were legally allowed in 1905, the modern Russian party system should be seen as an element of importing institutions (Shashkov: 2019, p. 189).

In modern Russia, attempts have been made to artificially create a party system over some time. We believe that one of the main problems of the Russian party system is the weak performance of parties other than the main ruling party in politics. The high level of government intervention in the process of change of the party system, the strong tendency to import the party system have created a peculiar political environment.

The modern phase of the organizational dynamics of the parties began in 2012 and was associated with a sharp decline in quantitative requirements for them. Although the main parties in Russia have not reduced their numbers, there is a tendency in their work to move from professionalism, from the recruitment of members to interact with public organizations, which is typical for the "new cadre" party model (Shashkov: 2019, p. 190).

## ***Discussion***

Whether in developed countries in general or in developing countries, the main goal of parties is to establish a more equitable government through the transfer of power, to ensure democracy through the establishment of civil society in modern societies.

Political parties are central actors in the organization of modern democracy. Indeed, ‘party government’ is practically synonymous with ‘parliamentary democracy’. European integration is shifting the boundaries of party-political action. Not only are parties the ‘principal gatekeepers within the European electoral arena, but most politicians taking part in European Union affairs are also party politicians. From this perspective, and in analogy to national politics, parties are involved in legitimizing the EU system of governance as they represent the prime linkage between institutions of government – the European Council, the Council of Ministers, and the European Parliament (EP) – and the electorate (Thomas Poguntke: 2007, p. 747).

Currently, the parties are also working to address global issues such as freedom of speech, human rights, and environmental violations.

To understand the changes taking place in the party systems of Europe, it is necessary to pay attention to the main trends in the development of political parties. Today, they are evolving under the influence of global factors. The main ones are the development and globalization of world economic relations, changes in the social class structure of society, the growth of information flows and their impact on public opinion, the growing role of civil society institutions. Interaction of parties with other institutions of civil society, new trends in relations between parties and the state, etc. (Katerina Mercotan: 2007, p. 147).

The interaction of parties with state and public organizations as a politicized institution of civil society is important. To better organize these relations and work with its electorate, the party must make full use of the opportunities of the developed information space, and the number of new professionals working in these areas in the European Union is growing.

J.E. Lane, S. Ersson distinguish five "dimensions" of party systems in Western Europe: factionalism - "changes in the number and strength of the components of party systems"; level of functional orientation (high proportion of ethnic and religious parties means low functional orientation, a high proportion of conservative, liberal and agrarian parties - high functional orientation); polarization (this index is affected by the polarization index and the share of communist parties) - "the correct change in the ideological distance between political parties"; the degree of radical orientation (on the one hand, is determined by the share of "working class" parties, on the other - "right-wing account"); the variability of the party system. A complex system of indicators is used to describe these measurements (Yakimenka: 2017, p. 9).

Levels of functional and radical orientations characterize the nature of political parties, factionalism, polarization, and variability - the state of relations between them (Lane: 1987). The transformation of party systems is characterized by the need to pay more attention to global issues in the activities of parties in developed countries, including the European Union.

An important condition for transformation is also the tendency to increase the fragmentation of party systems, expand the range of political alternatives of parties, increase the influence of new social movements and environmental parties (for example, "green") (Lyubina: 1997, p. 45).

As a result of global warming, desertification, melting glaciers, and environmental pollution, environmental parties are proliferating, and political parties are actively implementing projects such as the green economy and the smart city in their election programs.

The logic of the development of the European integration process, as well as external factors operating outside of it, created favorable preconditions for the development of the process associated with a change in the public consciousness of EU citizens, a change in their electoral sympathies and motivation during voting. The intensity of the development of this process accelerated after the events of 2008-2015, which convincingly showed that the European Union failed to solve several fundamental problems related to both the socio-economic development of countries, ensuring the security of their inhabitants and the formation of Pan-European identity (Kateryna Tryma: 2020, p. 2230).

We can observe the emergence of new parties as a new political force in society, the intensification of competition in the political arena, and thus the struggle for a comprehensive solution to the problems of the population.

In Western Europe, how the major mainstream parties responded to electoral threats from emerging niche parties determined whether these new entrants would succeed (Chandra: 2004).

In Russian society, political elites have retained the tradition of forming through political parties, in which membership in the ruling parties is seen as one of the factors ensuring the growth of cadres in positions. However, there are also positive aspects to this. The fact that the parties perform the function of hiring elites, even if they have their characteristics, allows them to solve another problem - the renewal of the elite (Shashkov: 2019, p. 193).

As in other countries, the ideological role of Russian parties has shifted to the media. According to A. A. Akhremenko, "if in the past the parties themselves served as the main channel of informing citizens about political issues and their electoral mobilization (through the party press and activists), today this task is more performed by the media" (Akhremenko: 2007, p. 85).

The transition of the ideological functions of the parties to the media is a process not only in the Russian party system but also in the Commonwealth of Independent States. In general, in the information age, the emergence of new means of propaganda increases the need to mobilize parties.

## **Conclusion**

The current process of globalization is accompanied by the global financial crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, the turmoil in some parts of the world, or the migration crisis caused by food and drinking water shortages in developed countries, especially in Europe. leads to. The diversity of external and internal factors influencing the transformation of party systems in developed western countries requires an increase in the rapid and effective flexibility of political parties about these factors. In the modern world, political party systems face global problems that cannot be ignored. To achieve their goals and win the elections, political parties must now prioritize environmental issues, food security, and rapid response to various diseases that can spread.

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Similarly, party strategies may activate particular cleavages that then shape the party system (e.g., Chandra 2004; Kalyvas 1996; Tavits and Letki 2014).

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