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## UKRAINIAN THINK TANKS IN WORLD RANKINGS

**Introduction.** “Think Tanks” (TT) are non-governmental research organizations, which are the main subjects of modern independent analytics, with significant influence on politicians and the political system. Ukraine has a wide range of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Among them are “think tanks”. Of course, our analytical institutions are not as advanced as American, British and other leading organizations in the world. Ukrainian “think tanks” are not the main and influential actors in the international arena and are far from playing the leading role in the world. Despite that the presence of Ukrainian “think tanks” in world rankings shows that our “think tanks” are developing and can become one of the world’s best research organizations.

**Review of the recent publications.** A lot of prominent Ukrainian researches-analysts and scientists like Shershnova N. [4], Luchyk A. [2], Fedorchuk O. [3] and others paid great attention to this issue. We analyzed and made some conclusions with the help of world ranking “Global Go to Think Tank Index Report” [6; 7; 8].

**Objectives of the paper.** The aim of our research is to analyze the range of public organizations in Ukraine, some of them are “think tanks”. These institutions are becoming more and more popular and are appearing in world rankings. Our research will reveal the peculiarities of recognition of Ukrainian analytical structures on the international arena.

**Results of the research.** “Think tanks” are organizations that may become policymakers in the future, because even politicians need “think tanks” help. They are considered the “fifth power”, as the role of analytical institutions in the modern political life of countries is becoming more and more important.

Even though if Ukraine has a wide range of NGOs and one of the worthy representatives are the “think tanks”, they are not as advanced as the American, British and other leading organizations in the world. Mainly, it is caused by a small number of highly qualified Ukrainian analysts, and not very favorable conditions for the development of this field of research. Despite this, the political science of Ukraine, with the help of the important segments like higher educational institutions, various academic institutes and, of course, non-governmental “think tanks”, is reaching considerable heights [3: 158].

According to the Internet-project “Network of think tanks of Ukraine” [1], there were about 117 “think tanks” in 2018. Among them, the most famous were Razumkov Center (Centre of economic and political research), Institute of Economic Research and Policy Consulting, Ukrainian Center of Independent Political Research, International Center of Policy Studies and the Democratic Initiatives Foundation.

The city with the largest number of these organizations is Kyiv which has almost 67 centers. Lviv occupies the second place – 32 centres, followed by Donetsk and Kharkiv. There are also higher education institutions of Ukrainian “think tanks” such as Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University and others. Each Ukrainian “think tank” works in its own specific field and has economic, political, or universal competence.

The functions of our “think tanks” are to investigate a certain political problem, to analyze its nature, and to seek ways to overcome it. Ukrainian NGOs serve as the bridge between the government and the society. So, another important function is to make the work of the centers clear and open to public discussion, though it is too early to speak about their participation in policy implementation, or policymaking. Although Ukrainian TT are subjects of a such phenomenon as state or public policy, they do not have such influence and powers [4].

Each year, the scientists of University of Pennsylvania, together with analysts, politicians, journalists, and “think tanks”, make the so-called “Global Go to Think Tanks Index” [6; 7; 8], which assesses, surveys, and classifies the world’s leading “think tanks” from different categories. Over the past three years, Ukrainian “think tanks” have been steadily strengthening their ranking.

In 2015, Ukrainian “TTs” appeared in the “2015 Global Go To Think Tanks Index” [6] ranking, in particular:

- Razumkov Center;
- International Center of Policy Studies;

- Kyiv National Economic University named after Vadim Hetman;
- Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation;
- Dnipro Center of Sociological Researches;
- Institute of World Policy;
- The Institute of Economic Researches and Policy Consulting;
- Ukrainian Center of Political and Economic Researches;
- Center of Educational Policy.

Razumkov Center [5], which is the fifth in the category of the best “think tanks” in Europe, as well as 42<sup>nd</sup> among 137 non-US centers and 60<sup>th</sup> among 175 US centers, it became a leader among the Ukrainian analytical institutions.

In 2016, the situation remained almost unchangeable. The abovementioned Ukrainian “think tanks” occupied the same position (from 15<sup>th</sup> up to 22<sup>nd</sup>) in the list of the best “think tanks” of Central and Eastern Europe. However, world rankings included new Ukrainian “think tanks”, such as the Ukrainian Center of Independent Policy Researches with 54<sup>th</sup> position in the Best Advocacy Campaign category, National Institute of Strategic Studies and Institute of Economic Forecasting [7: 102].

A successful tendency of 2017 was demonstrated by Razumkov Center, Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation and Dnipro Center of Sociological Researches which went up one position higher. The new “TT” was included into the rating – the Ukrainian Center for European Policy, which was ranked 47<sup>th</sup> in category “the Best New Brain Centers 2017” [8: 131].

Analyzing the position of the Ukrainian analytical institutes in the “Global Go to Think Tanks Index”, we see that Razumkov Center is the leader among the non-governmental analytical organizations of Ukraine and it has taken the first positions in the category “Best think tanks in Central and Eastern Europe” for several years.

Thus, the presence of Ukrainian institutions in world rankings shows that our non-governmental institutions are moving in the right direction and are gradually realizing their potential not only domestically but also on the international arena.

**Conclusion.** Undoubtedly, the Ukrainian “think tanks” are a relatively new phenomenon in Ukraine’s political system, but we have identified the best “think tanks” in the world known as the “Global Go to Think Tanks Index”, in particular Razumkov Center, International Center of Policy Studies, Kyiv National Economic University named after Vadim Hetman, Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation, Dnipro Center of Sociological Researches, Institute of World Policy, Institute of Economic Researches and Policy Consulting, Ukrainian Center of Political and Economic Researches, Center of Educational Policy and Center of Educational Researches.

For several years, these institutes have been ranked in the ratings, and Razumkov Center is recognized as the best in Ukraine, as it is the 4<sup>th</sup> in the list of the best “think tanks” in Central and Eastern Europe.

To conclude, Ukraine has really analytical establishments and their place in world rankings proves that we have lots of brains ready to change our country.

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