

# CONCEPTUAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SYSTEMIC APPROACH AS A METHODOLOGY FOR ENSURING ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL REGULATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY RELATIONS IN UKRAINE

**Mykola Kropyvnitskiy**

Candidate of Juridical Sciences (PhD)

e-mail: [nick.kropivnitskyi@gmail.com](mailto:nick.kropivnitskyi@gmail.com), [orcid.org/0000-0003-0981-0774](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-0981-0774)

## Summary

In this article the author develops a conceptual and theoretical characteristic of the systemic approach as a methodological approach in ensuring administrative and legal regulation of social security relations in view of the fact that the main driving force of progress and social transformation of society is a person and the human and social capital of the state reproduced by him (the ability of its citizens to recreate political and social conditions of life in order to achieve a common goal that does not contradict the values, moral and ethical norms of society and the laws of the state) on the basis of a civilizational code that defines cultural determinants, as well as informal and formal values and norms shared by members of society. The political community and civil society of Ukraine supported the geopolitical vector of development towards the standards of the Euro-Atlantic civilizational community. The author believes that the «social mobilization» of broad segments of the population for the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine will transform the system of governance towards its meritocracy, which, in turn, will expand opportunities for developing a public-private partnership model using the principles of a «social quality of life» policy, in which socio-economic security, social cohesion and social inclusion are components of ensuring stability and development.

**Key words:** civilizational subjectivity, governance, institutional capacity, market, paternalism, post-war reconstruction, welfare state.

DOI <https://doi.org/10.23856/7019>

## 1. Introduction

Multi-aspect social progress as a system-forming consequence determined by the fundamental concept of globalization of social existence, determines the increasing priority of the need to transform the established approach to the organization and practical implementation of the system of state-power relations at all levels of its functioning. Building the institutional capacity of the state was one of the main points of the National Recovery Program of Ukraine, which was presented on July 4–5, 2022 at the conference on the recovery of Ukraine in Lugano (Switzerland). When it comes to the institutional capacity of the state, G. I. Zelenko notes, what is meant is the functions performed by state authorities and the result that the performance of these functions ensures (*Zelenko 2022, p. 38*). Social security and its administrative and legal regulation is a «social» pillar of the institutional capacity of the state and should be based on a systemic methodology adequate to modern challenges, given that in the process of cyclical and nonlinear social dynamics, each subsequent cycle of development of the social system should be characterized by social progress – an increase in the level of social organization of society, reflected in indicators of human and social capital. This is exactly how civilizational subjectivity emerges – such a quality of a country's social existence, when it becomes not an

object of influence of the «mighty ones of this world», but through the efforts of its scientific, artistic, religious and political elite constructs its own civilizational future, way of life, realizes its own (not externally imposed) values and formulates true national interests. In this case, four main principles should be taken into account that determine the social concept of the country's development, its social policy and the corresponding action programs: 1) the optimal combination of the requirements of liberalism and social guarantees; 2) optimization of the interaction of central and regional authorities in the implementation of social policy on the basis of determining their mutual responsibility; 3) optimization in time and space of measures within the framework of social policy; 4) increasing labor motivation (*Bandura 2016, p. 143–144*). Neoliberal trends are transforming the welfare state model, reconsidering the degree of responsibility of society, the market, and the state for social security. Therefore, for example, market mechanisms and social innovations of public organizations are becoming increasingly in demand in conditions of budget savings and orientation towards effective, high-quality management, including in the social sphere.

## 2. Materials and methods

The experience of legal development of democratic states in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century demonstrates that under the conditions of the formation of liberal civilizations in modern civil society, a fundamental readjustment of legal systems is taking place, because civil society under the conditions of liberal civilization needs a legal system centered not on ideological chimeras, but on a human-centric ideology articulated at the level of fundamental scientific research. Some problematic aspects of this study were the subject of scientific research of many Ukrainian scientists, such as I. Bandura, S. Kachula, M. Kelman, N. Khamitov, M. Kostytskyi, T. Pavlyuk, S. Pyrozhkov and others. The controversy surrounding the welfare state crisis has stimulated the emergence of a number of empirical studies that prove a positive relationship between the level of state social spending and economic growth (*Belletini & Ceroni 2000*). Scientists prove that the state should not shy away from fulfilling its social functions, but at the same time it should pursue a policy of social development, in particular social security, which, while focusing on poverty reduction, will not be financially burdensome for the state. We are talking about optimizing the social security system (*Kachula 2019, p. 61*).

At the same time, chaotization of institutional space, weakening of social control, formation of new enclaves of social order, emergence of unusual adaptive practices of individual and group self-defense, emergence of innovative forms of social interaction expand the problem field of research and cause interest in modern innovative interdisciplinary scientific research in the field of synergetics, the theory of bifurcations and catastrophes, the theory of fractals, the general theory of dissipative systems, Nonlinear science, etc.

Modern legal science is at the stage of rethinking conceptual and methodological paths and paradigms for understanding dynamic social reality. We rely on the application of a system of principles and approaches built on universal (worldview-philosophical), general and special scientific (legal and non-legal) methods, first of all, the logical-semantic method, the method of general scientific analysis, system-structural method, content analysis method in order to obtain the most reliable scientific results in the study.

**The purpose of this article** is to reveal the heuristic potential of the systemic approach as a methodological approach in ensuring administrative and legal regulation of social security relations in Ukraine through its conceptual and theoretical characterization.

### 3. Systemic methodological approach in ensuring administrative and legal regulation of social security relations

The basis for the emergence of social statehood (and not undemocratic authoritarian regimes disguised as social statehood, when the distinction between the concepts of a «social» and a «paternalistic» state is leveled) and a developed system of social legislation is only a market (or mixed market) economy, which allows ensuring the proper level of well-being of citizens and, through appropriate state economic policy, guaranteeing the distribution of material and financial resources in order to constantly increase the level of social security of citizens (*Skrypnyuk 2002, p. 505–510; Skrypnyuk 2005, p. 73*). At the same time, the market mechanism is socially unviable for numerous members of society who are limited (or completely unable) to guarantee their existence in the form of employment and therefore do not participate in the process of production and distribution of income (for example, children, the elderly, people with disabilities); in other words, the market, as a competitive mechanism for the efficient distribution of limited resources, does not include these categories of people in the orbit of its action on the grounds that they do not participate in market competition. Accordingly, the social function of the market is deliberately limited, which requires its expansion and supplementation at the macro-level – by the social activities of the state, at the micro-level – by the social activities of other economic entities (firms, enterprises, organizations), as well as various non-state non-profit organizations of the «third sector» (trade unions, foundations, public, religious, charitable organizations, etc.) (*Shportyuk 2023, p. 94*). From this follows the need to ensure administrative and legal regulation of social security relations and the systematic methodological approach to this process that is the guarantee of both its theoretical validity and practical effectiveness. The main goal of social security is the rational organization of socio-economic relations that contribute to the humane self-development and self-sufficiency of the individual (*Pavlyuk 2019, p. 278*). M. M. Ruzhensky reveals the political economy content of the category «social security» from the standpoint of the institutional paradigm as relations between society and socially vulnerable segments of society regarding their receipt of economic benefits (social benefits, compensations, privileges, tax deductions and credits) to ensure the social standards existing in the country through the activities of relevant institutions. In the process of radical reforming the Ukrainian social security model, the scientist notes, it is advisable to implement in socio-economic relations those approaches and mechanisms that provide high efficiency and have been tested in world post-industrial countries (*Ruzhenskyi 2016, pp. 10, 160*).

Methodology arose and developed as an aspect of philosophical understanding of the world, aimed at critical understanding of philosophical and scientific methods of cognition, encompassing mainly a set of ideas about the philosophical foundations of scientific and cognitive activity; later, the concept of «methodology» began to correspond to an internally differentiated and specialized field of knowledge (*Shevchuk 2016, p. 35–36*). The twentieth century expanded the semantic and instrumental content of the methodology of scientific knowledge, which in fact constitutes a theory of scientific knowledge that explores cognitive processes, and its subject is a person who has mastered historically developed forms of cognitive activity (*Kelman 2019, p. 40*). Methodology integrates categories, principles, norms, values, paradigms, theories and methods into a certain holistic system that has differentiation by types of activity and unites them into integrity. M. V. Kostytskyi defines methodology as a holistic doctrine, a worldview theory that reflects reality or a significant fragment of it, with a developed conceptual and categorical apparatus that, when applied according to the rules of formal or dialectical logic, contributes to the growth of knowledge about a specific object of knowledge;

a certain worldview based on a scientific theory or concept, through the prism of which the existence of the world, natural and social phenomena are understood. (*Kostytskyi 2012, p. 17; Kostytskyi 2016, p. 18*).

In modern practice of social management, systemicity has several aspects of application, among which the most important are: 1) systemic understanding of the object of social management; 2) systemic understanding of the subject of social management; 3) systemic understanding of management as a social phenomenon; 4) use of the systemic method in managing society and its numerous subsystems (*Tulenkov 2023, p. 46–47*). The determining (integral) role in the hierarchy of socially responsible subjects of social security at the macro-level belongs to the state with its inherent set of functions and responsibilities (represented by its legislative and executive bodies) on the institutionalization of relations in the social security sphere and compliance with social rights, guarantees and standards, the creation of transparent and socially fair legal norms and an effective control system to ensure a socially acceptable level of social security. The absence of both regulatory influence of the state on the market component of socio-economic relations and active participation in ensuring the functioning and development of the social security system in a market economy can lead to the implementation of hypertrophied principles of social Darwinism. Ukraine is constitutionally positioned as a social state with socially oriented development, the main essence of which is that market mechanisms provide income to citizens as a result of economic activity, while the state provides assistance to those segments of the population that are deprived of such an opportunity.

The concept of «system», used to denote the world order (structure), appears already in the Hellenistic era in the philosophy of Stoicism; after Descartes laid the foundations of a mechanistic vision of the world, Kant, Schelling and Hegel developed a vision of systematicity (the problematic field of which arose in the bosom of theoretical and methodological reflection on social processes) as a universal property of the existence of objects, phenomena, and processes of objective reality (*Ustych 2013, pp. 187, 190*). A system (if it is not modeled as completely closed) is an ordered set of elements that maintains its integrity due to the superiority (expected or confirmed) of internal connections over external ones (*Radzyvill 2010, p. 98*).

Historically, systemic and methodological knowledge represents various ideas of the whole as an indissoluble unity of parts, characterized by varying degrees of theoretical maturity and conceptual formality, and systemic ideas about society, as a rule, coexisted in a syncretic form with systemic views on nature and human thinking (*Ustych 2013, p. 187*). In the multi-level structure of methodological knowledge, one of the most significant methodological approaches is the systemic one, the essence of which is that it directs the researcher to a systemic vision of reality, to an understanding of the world from the position of a systemic structure and assumes that any object of reality can be represented as a relatively independent system that has a certain structure and its own laws of functioning and development.

Actually, overcoming the crisis in scientific knowledge at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> and beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries is associated, in particular, with the formation of a systemic approach as one of the methodological directions of modern science, the theoretical basis of which was formed as a result of the combination of the general theory of systems and the foundations of cybernetics (determining the structural composition of the system and the nature of its functioning due to the special nature of the system's relationship with the external environment, as well as general management principles). A systemic approach is a set of theoretical and logical-epistemological tools intended for the study of complexly organized systems, their design, creation and management, which can be implemented under the condition of a detailed study of connections at the subsystem and elemental levels (*Potravka 2021, pp. 82, 84*). The systemic approach requires

a conditional «state of equilibrium» (static, dynamic, or evolutionary) between the object and subject of research, primarily to determine the constants (invariants) of the phenomenon under study (*Radzyvyll 2010, p. 98*). The system approach involves compliance with the basic laws of the system, namely: 1) composition, i.e. coordination of a common and separate goal; 2) proportionality – internal proportionality must be combined with external proportionality, i.e. the appropriate level of development of elements of the external environment; 3) consideration of the «bottleneck», where special attention is paid to the weakest element of the system; 4) ontogenesis; 5) integration – directing the system to a high level of organization and obtaining a synergistic effect; 6) awareness; 7) stability, which imposes requirements on the construction of the system (static state) and its functioning (dynamic state) (*Holod 2010, p. 48*).

Structurally, the methodology of scientific knowledge contains two substantively distinct elements: ontological, which constitutes a system of means of finding and systematizing new knowledge; epistemological, that is, the doctrine of this system (*Shevchuk 2016, p. 37*). The epistemological aspect of the philosophy of the systemic approach combines the problems of forming the principles of constructing and interpreting the conceptual and categorical apparatus of system research. Considering the specifics of the systemic approach, which depends on a certain field of science or practice, its algorithm remains unchanged and involves the following sequence of actions: 1) a certain phenomenon under study is isolated from the environment and analyzed as a holistic system; 2) the constituent elements of its structure and the connections between them are determined; 3) the connection of this system with the supersystem and with adjacent systems is analyzed; 4) the purpose and functions of this system are clarified, as well as the possibilities of its further development. It helps researchers not only to identify various social objects at the macro- and micro-social levels in the context of the object-subject continuum that form a complex system of social relationships, but also to study the degree to which these systems satisfy various needs, interests, and value preferences of individuals and social groups (*Tulenkov 2023, pp. 43, 387, 459*).

The basis of each systemic approach as the main principle of system research are three sources of social information regarding the patterns and trends of future behavior of systemic entities: firstly, it is an analysis and assessment of the future state of a certain system object based on the study of previous experience through the analogy of already known or similar objects; secondly, it is a conditional continuation in the future of the recorded patterns or trends in the development of a system object based on the extrapolation method; thirdly, it is a modeling of the future state of a system object based on the expected change in the relevant conditions or scientifically substantiated prospects for its development (*Beh 2021, p. 82–83*).

Y. M. Bazhal emphasizes the importance of shaping the socio-economic policy of post-war transformation as a renewable process based on three holistic laws: 1) Academician Vernadsky's concepts regarding the objective development of the noosphere (noospheric development of scientific and technological activity (as a form of absorption of external energy flows) occurs objectively and irreversibly, like a geological process); 2) neo-Schumpeterian concept of objective change in socio-technological paradigms; 3) interdisciplinary conclusions of catastrophe theory as a science about the complexity and role of self-organization processes in overcoming economic crises (*Mokiy 2023, p. 77*).

The author of this article is convinced that the use of a systemic approach as a methodological approach in ensuring administrative and legal regulation of social security relations will contribute to the establishment of two civilizational principles of the development of the subjectivity of Ukraine: the first is the principle of an open innovative society (Ukraine is developing a market society, geared towards the free creative self-realization of citizens in



the economy, politics, science and art, which is limited only by laws and serves as the basis for the development of the country as a whole); the second is the principle of the welfare state (means guaranteeing every citizen a decent minimum means of subsistence (basic income), if he temporarily did not fit into the market innovation process, provision of decent medical care, quality education, proper living conditions and the action of «social elevators» for any citizen of Ukraine), which largely reflect liberal and paternalistic approaches to the organization of society and its development (Pyrozhev & Khamitov 2020, p. 11–12).

#### 4. Conclusions

Centralization, unification of approaches and paternalism inherited from the Soviet system do not contribute to meeting the diverse social needs of Ukrainian citizens. Ukraine's European integration aspirations mean the need for an active social policy aimed at achieving European standards, after all, under modern EU conditions, on the one hand, the member state guarantees the development of human competencies for the needs of the economy, and on the other hand, the existing developed civil society institutions support the social policy of state institutions on the ground. Currently, a model of regular state influence on the sphere of socio-economic relations, which is inadequate for a socially oriented economy, has been formed in Ukraine, which is characterized by fragmentation, imbalance, and the presence of elements of spontaneity. One of the key ideologists of the Scandinavian model of the «welfare state» G. Myrdal (Myrdal, 1960), criticizing the consequences of an uncontrolled free market, introduces the concept of «circular cumulative causality», when the convergence of economic and social factors can reinforce negative trends and a «poverty trap» is formed: poverty can lead to a decrease in the level of education, which further narrows employment opportunities and, as a result, hereditary poverty arises (Krysovati 2025, p. 22). Under the conditions of globalization, which is sometimes seen as a process of «erasing borders» and «disappearance of the state» (or its replacement by other actors), the role of the state in the economy is not decreasing, but, on the contrary, increasing due to the modernization and internationalization of its functions, and the state and the market do not oppose each other, but interact, strengthening their potentials. The social recovery of Ukraine involves the digitalization of the system of providing social services, ensuring barrier-free access to services for all social groups, strengthening the targeting and verification of recipients of social assistance, developing a second level of pension insurance, systematizing various types of social payments, developing effective mechanisms for compensation for all categories of the population affected by the war, and creating opportunities for the reintegration of veterans into peaceful life. In the context of the European integration of Ukraine, it should be stated that the existing historical Europe should serve not so much as a social ideal and a normative factor but a regulatory socio-cultural idea of liberal democracy.

#### References

1. Bandura, I. S (2016). *Formuvannia derzhavnoi sotsialnoi polityky v Ukraini [Formation of state social policy in Ukraine]* (Diss. ... Cand of Legal Science). Kyiv [in Ukrainian].
2. Beh, V. P. & Tulenkov, M. V. (2021). *Teoriia system i systemnyi analiz v upravlinni: pidruchnyk [Theory of systems and system analysis in management: textbook]*. Interservis [in Ukrainian].
3. Belletini, G. & Ceroni, C. (2000). *Social Security Expenditure and Economic Growth: an Empirical Assessment. Research in Economics (3)* [in English].

4. Holod, B. I. & Zborovska, O. M. (2010) *Systemnyi pidkhiid – osnova suchasnoho upravlinnia diialnistiu promyslovykh pidpriemstv* [The system approach is the basis of modern management of industrial enterprises]. *Akademichnyi ohliad* [Academic review], (1), 48–54 [in Ukrainian].
5. Kachula, S. V. (2019) *Derzhavna finansova polityka sotsialnoho rozvytku: monohrafiia* [State financial policy of social development: monograph]. Kyiv [in Ukrainian].
6. Kelman, M. S. & Kelman, L. M. & Romanska, I. V. (2019) *Osmyslennia metodolohii piznannia naukovykh teorii u pravoznavstvi* [Understanding the methodology of knowledge of scientific theories in law]. *Filosofski ta metodolohichni problemy prava* [Philosophical and methodological problems of law], (1), 32–42 [in Ukrainian].
7. Kostytskiy, M. V. (2012). *Pro dialektyku yak metodolohiiu yurydychnoi nauky* [On dialectics as a methodology of legal science]. *Filosofski ta metodolohichni problemy prava* [Philosophical and methodological problems of law], (1), 3–17 [in Ukrainian].
8. Kostytskiy, M. V. (2016) *Normatyvizm yak metodolohiia yurysprudentsii* [Normativism as a methodology of jurisprudence]. *Filosofski ta metodolohichni problemy prava* [Philosophical and methodological problems of law], (1), 18–29 [in Ukrainian].
9. Krysovatyi A. I. & Bulavynets, O. V. (2025). *Teoretychnyi dyskurs sotsialnykh transfertiv* [Theoretical discourse of social transfers]. *Investytsii: praktyka ta dosvid* [Investments: practice and experience], (5), 19–26 [in Ukrainian].
10. Mokiy, A. I. & Nebrat, V. V. & Korol, M. M. & Fleychuk, M. I. (2023) *Transformatsiini protsesy v Ukraini v povoiennnyi period: mizhdystsyplinarni otsinky* [Transformational processes in Ukraine in the post-war period: interdisciplinary assessments]. *Ekonomika Ukrainy* [Economy of Ukraine], (1), 74–88 [in Ukrainian].
11. Myrdal, G (1960). *Beyond the Welfare State: Economic Planning and Its International Implications*. 4 ed. New Haven: Yale University Press [in English].
12. Pavlyuk, T. I (2019). *Sotsialnyi zakhyst naselennia Ukrainy* [Social protection of the population of Ukraine]. *Pryazovskyi ekonomichnyi visnyk* [Azov Economic Bulletin], (6), 277–281 [in Ukrainian].
13. Potravka, L. O. (2021). *Systemnyi pidkhiid do problem doslidzhennia upravlynskykh aspektiv transformatsii natsionalnoi ekonomiky Ukrainy* [A systematic approach to the problems of studying the managerial aspects of the transformations of the national economy of Ukraine]. *Tavriiskyi naukovi visnyk. Serii: publichne upravlinnia ta administruvannia* [Tavria Scientific Bulletin. Series: Public Management and Administration], (2), 81–87 [in Ukrainian].
14. Pyrozhekov, S. I., Khamitov, N. V. (2020). *Chy ye Ukraina tsyvilizatsiinym sub'iektom istorii ta suchasnosti?* [Is Ukraine a civilizational subject of history and modernity?] *Visnyk NAN Ukrainy* [Bulletin of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine], (7), 3–15 [in Ukrainian].
15. Radzyvyl, O. A. (2010) *Dynamika sotsialnykh system yak vyklyk systemam rehuliuвання suspilnykh vidnosyn* [The dynamics of social systems as a challenge to systems of regulation of social relations]. *Naukovi visnyk Instytutu mizhnarodnykh vidnosyn NAU. Serii: ekonomika, pravo, politolohiia, turizm* [Scientific Bulletin of the Institute of International Relations of the National Academy of Sciences. Series: Economics, Law, Political Science, Tourism], (1), 97–104 [in Ukrainian].
16. Ruzhenskiy, M. M. (2016). *Transformatsiia instytutiv sotsialnoho zakhystu naselennia v tranzitivnii ekonomitsi* [Transformation of social protection institutions in a transitional economy] (Diss... Dr. of Econ. Science). Kyiv [in Ukrainian].
17. Shevchuk, R. M (2016). *Metodolohiia naukovoho piznannia: vid yavyshecha do sutnosti* [Methodology of scientific knowledge: from phenomenon to essence]. *Filosofski ta*

*metodolohichni problemy prava [Philosophical and methodological problems of law], (1), 31–44 [in Ukrainian].*

18. Shportyuk, N. L. (2023). *Priorytetni napriamy derzhavnoi sotsialnoi polityky ta perspektyvy yii podalshoho rozvytku [Priority areas of state social policy and prospects for its further development]. Investytsii: praktyka ta dosvid [Investments: practice and experience], (2), 93–98 [in Ukrainian].*

19. Skrypnyk, O. V. (2002). *Sotsialna, pravova derzhava v Ukraini: problemy teorii i praktyky [Social, legal state in Ukraine: problems of theory and practice]. [in Ukrainian].*

20. Skrypnyuk, O. (2005) *Sotsialni funktsii Konstytutsii ta yikh zabezpechennia v Ukraini [Social functions of the Constitution and their implementation in Ukraine]. Visnyk Akademii pravovykh nauk Ukrainy [Bulletin of the Academy of Legal Sciences of Ukraine], (4), 68–79.*

21. Tulenkov, M. V. & Lobanova A. S. & Yaremchuk S. S. (2023). *Systemnyi analiz u sotsiologii: pidruchnyk [System analysis in sociology: a textbook]. [in Ukrainian].*

22. Ustych, S. I. (2013) *Henealohiia systemnoi metodolohii doslidzhennia suspilstva [Genealogy of the systematic methodology of social research]. Naukove piznannia: metodolohiia ta tekhnolohiia [Scientific knowledge: methodology and technology], (1), 186–191 [in Ukrainian].*

23. Zelenko, H. I. (2022) *Natsionalne vidrozhennia v Ukraini v poivoiennyi period. Stenohrama dopovidi na zasidanni NAN Ukrainy 31 serpnia 2022 roku [National Revival in Ukraine in the Post-War Period. Transcript of the Report at the Meeting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine on August 31, 2022]. Visnyk NAN Ukrainy [Bulletin of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine], (10), 35–41[in Ukrainian].*