

Concept of the common security system for conflict-divided Abkhazian community

The concept of a “security community” was formulated by Karl Deutsch back in 1957, in *Political Community and the North Atlantic Area: International Organization in the Light of Historical Experience* and meant by this concept a community in which there is real confidence that members of this community will not sort things out among themselves through violence, but will resolve their disputes in some other way (Deutsch, 1957: 1-244). The main idea of his work is that mutual trust and the presence of common identities are the main factors in the emergence of confidence in the peaceful development of relations between states.

Further, various aspects of the “security community” are analyzed in the works of Bellamy A. (*Security Communities and their Neighbors*, 2004), Tusicisny A. (*Security Communities and Their Values: Taking Masses Seriously*, 2007), Valters C., Rabinowitz G., and Denney L. (*Security in post-conflict contexts: What counts as progress and what drives it ?*, 2014), Ditrych O. (*Security community: A future for a troubled concept?*, 2014).

The thesis of the awareness and perception of “common threats” is also vividly presented in the theory of forming alliances and common defense policy. As a rule, alliances are presented as a type of international organization or a form of management, the purpose of which is to unite the capabilities of members in a way that suits their interests (Fedder, 1968: 65-86).

In the case of the Abkhazian crisis, the concept of a “security community” was first proposed by Rusetsky, A., & Dorokhina, O. (2020) in the work “Abkhazian crisis: from the Concept of Awareness of Common Threats to the Building of an” Abkhazian Security Community “*Grani*, 23 (3), 118-134.). In contrast to the approach of Karl Deutsch and his followers, the paper argues that not only states are the subjects of the process of building the Abkhazian security community but also non-state actors (regional and municipal authorities, universities, business corporations, and civil society institutions, unrecognized states, de facto authorities, as well as communities (Rusetsky, 2004 (*Secessionists and Unionists: from inter-community dialogue to a common national idea*)). In modern political realities, in order to achieve results, all real players must be presented in negotiations. They should not be squeezed out of the processes, since in this case, each of them becomes a bearer of threats to the peace process.

The research group of the project proposes the development of the concept of the “security community” by Karl Deutsch, namely the theoretical substantiation and development of the “Matrix of Threats” - as a basic component of the alternative approach “the Concept of Awareness of the System of Common Threats”, when preference is given not to the formula of cooperation between the parties to the conflict to protect against a “third party”, but the consolidation of multilateral efforts aimed at defining a system of common threats, their prevention or minimization of harmful effects.