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**MISTOZNAVSTVO (URBAN STUDIES):
ETHYMOLOGY OF THE TERM
AND ITS APPLICATION IN UKRAINE**

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Abstract. The article summarizes the results of a long-term research project, which was aimed at the development of the Ukrainian Center for City Historical Studies. It was embodied in many stages through the organization of a data bank, holding conferences, seminars, and workshops. The interdisciplinary comparative studies on the topic *Book on the Cities of Halychyna (East Galicia)* were undertaken in the course of the research.

Key words: *Mistoznavstvo/Urban Studies*, cities and towns, Halychyna (East Galicia), comparative studies, interdisciplinarity

1. Introduction

The process of urbanization of Ukraine is a logical continuation of the development process of cities in the West Europe as well as in the Central Europe and is, in comparison with them, a comparable process in magnitude and intensity (Petryshyn, 1999). In the long run, the direction of optimal urban development is traced from its creation and network formation in the period of Ukraine-Rus to the cities with the management system of administration confirmed by the Magdeburg Law, which became one of the important factors of the cultural and legal progress of Ukraine to the West Europe (Entsyklopediya Ukrayinoznavstva, 1994). The continuity of the city development process provided the authenticity and specific features of Ukrainian cities. In the 19th century, stagnation of the late medieval period and the formation of a new network of cities based on other urban-forming factors took place in ever tighter political, administrative and industrial forms. Since the end of the 20th century, the city-forming factors have begun to change again in Ukraine under the influence of geopolitical transformations (Petryshyn, 2016).

In Europe, since the 19th century, the application of the term *Urban Studies* which is considered as the part of the society history has been rapidly developing. It is worth mentioning that among the Ukrainian studies of the early 19th century the most important work is *Investigation of the Cities and the Petty-Bourgeoisie of Ukraine-Rus in the 16th–18th centuries* by M. Vladimyrskyi-Budanov, V. Antonovych, D. Bahaliy, P. Klymenko, and others. The Lviv School of Historians was developed at the Lviv University in the first half of the 20th century and its research work was dedicated to the investigation of urban development in Halychyna (Galicia). The most notable scholars of the School are: F. X. Liske, F. Papee, J. Ptašnik, M. Balaban, D. Zubrytskyi, and L. Charewiczowa.

However, in Ukrainian historiography of the 20th century, Urban Studies as a science has suffered tremendous changes because of various reasons. The huge damage caused by forceful Russification towards the socio-political life (struggle of social classes) resulted in the fact that the city was dominated by the financial and economic factors, and its spiritual culture and value was left in the shadow. The fundamental work of 26

volumes *The History of the Cities and Villages of the Ukrainian Soviet Social Republic* published in 1960s–1970s, concerns the concept of history in terms of social struggle and propaganda of the socialist lifestyle and presents the objective historical data about the life of cities. Although it is a comprehensive reference work, there is a need to have more ground and reliable sources for further study of a subject in consideration.

The study of cities in Europe as a systematic process was initiated in the 1930s by the German researcher E. Kayser, and subsequently developed in a number of regional schools. Among them, the most well-established are: the German school (Erich Kayser, Alphons Lhotsky, Heinz Stoob und Peter Johanek), the Austrian school (Wilhelm Rausch, Alfred Hoffmann, Othmar Pickl) and the Polish school (Michał Baliński and Tymoteusz Lipiński, Sadok Barącz, Maria Bogucka, Andrzej Wyrobisz, Aleksander Gieysztor, Stanisław Herbst, Maurycy Horn, Henryk Samsonowicz). The works are coordinated by special research institutions: the Institute for Comparative History of the University of Münster (Germany), the Commission for Social, Economic Research and Research of Cities of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Commission of the Cities of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Thus, at the first stage (until the 1970's), comprehensive databases were created to study the urban-forming process in these countries; at the next stage, a method of comparative research was formed, the main regularities of the urban-forming were determined, and a number of encyclopedic editions were published.

The urban studies of the West Ukrainian region as a base for urban development projects was developed at a professional level at the Faculty of Architecture of Lviv Polytechnic Institute in the 70's–80's. A number of diploma projects were executed at the Department of Urban Development under the direction of Prof. Andriy Rudnytskyi and Prof. Bohdan Posatskyi.

The attempt to generalize the description of historic cities of Ukraine was initiated in the 80's by the editor-in-chief of *the Collection of the Historical and Cultural Monuments of the Peoples of the USSR in the Ukrainian SSR* under the leadership of the Lviv Regional Organization of the Ukrainian Society of Historical and Cultural Monuments (Chairman Ihor Kudin). This work was descriptive, and due to universal criteria, it was blurred in the extensive descriptions of the cities and it was not published.

The investigation of the problems of City Historical Studies at the level of the requirements of modern European science began in Lviv in the second half of the 80-ies with a group of young scholars who set the goal of systematic and comprehensive research (Mykola Bevez, Bohdan Cherkes, Volodymyr Chornovus, Andriy Hrechylo, Serhiy Kravtsov, Yuriy Kryvoruchko, Alla Martynyuk-Medvedtska, Roman Mohytych, Halyna Petryshyn, Petro Rychkov, and others).

It was necessary to finish the era of the USSR with its politicized research methodology, so that it could methodologically rely on foreign experience and conduct research in the field of urban studies, which would be based on such principles as:

- cooperation of researchers of different fields to solve a common problem (in the field of history, architecture, urban studies, art studies, economics, demography, geography, heraldry, etc.);
- the research material has to be based on plausible data that equally covers the whole region/country (censuses of people, maps, statistics and source data);
- the objective assessment of events and facts without the author's interpretation.

2. Basic Theory Part

In 1994, during a scholarship stay at the Vienna University of Technology, the author was also able to start collaborating with scientists from the Austrian Academy of Sciences, the Commission on Economic, Social and Urban History (Prof. Othmar Pickl, Dr. Ernő Déak and Dr. Friderike Goldman). This group led the interdisciplinary project of *Book on the Cities of Austria*. In the process of numerous workshops and discussions, the idea arose to apply a technique developed by the Austrian Academy of Sciences and tested by the study of nearly 150 cities (total size of 16 volumes), also for the cities of Halychyna (Est Galicia), in particular for the territory which has been under the Austrian domination in 1772–1918, and today it is a part of Ukraine (Petryshyn, 1994).

For this purpose, in 1995, the interdisciplinary group of *Book on the Cities of Halychyna (East Galicia)* (the leader – Dr. H. Petryshyn) was created at the West Scientific Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the Ukrainian-Austrian Institute. The scientific research apparatus relied on the *Urban Studies* definitions (städtewesen) and the study methods of the Austrian school, which would allow to conduct a comparative analysis in future (Fig. 1).

In 1995–1999, a number of organizational events were held:

– the first Ukrainian-Austrian Scientific and Methodological Seminar *Book on the Cities of Halychyna (East Galicia)* was held in Lviv (October 23–24, 1995), at the State University “Lviv Polytechnic” in collaboration with the West Scientific Center of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Ya. Ivankiv, V. Demchenko), and the Ukrainian-Austrian Institute (E. Hofer). For its comprehensive analysis the survey which contained methodology and examples of city analysis was issued (Petryshyn, 1995). The programme of the seminar included the exchange of opinions of experts in various disciplines: historians (F. Steblj, M. Drak, M. Dolynska, W. Yahnishchak, H. Yaremych, O. Matsiuk), historians of architecture and urban development (A. Rudnytskyi, B. Posatsky, M. Bezv, Ch. Boyko, B. Cherkes, Yu. Kryvoruchko, T. Maksymyuk, H. Petryshyn, M. Pryyma, S. Tupis), geographers (Yu. Zinko, T. Zhezherun), heraldry (I. Svarnyk, A. Hrechlyo) and archivist (V. Savchuk). The scientific level of research and the prospects for future cooperation has received a favourable review from the Austrian scholars (O. Pickl, F. Goldmann, E. Déak, 1996);

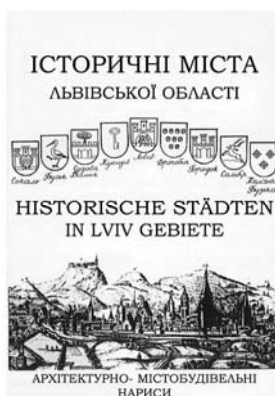
– the second Austrian-Ukrainian seminar *Städtebuch von Ostgalizien (The Book on the Cities of the East Halychyna)* was held in Leibnitz-Seggau, Austria (October 20–24, 1997). Its organizer was the Committee on Economic, Social and Urban History of the Austrian Academy of Sciences (headed by Prof. Othmar Pickl) in cooperation with the State University “Lviv Polytechnic”, the West Scientific Center of the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and the interdisciplinary group of *Book on the Cities of Halychyna (East Galicia)* project (Petryshyn, 2008) (Fig. 2).

– in 1998, with the support of the State University “Lviv Polytechnic” and the Lviv City Charitable Foundation “Science and Art”, with the aim to institute research, coordination, and advisory work, as well as its cultural activity, a group of researchers was formed. They apply modern methodological principles in the field of City Historical Studies, impartially interpret historical sources and facts, develop a new direction in Ukrainian science, i.e. City Historical Studies. As the result of their work, the Center for Ukrainian City Studies based on the interdisciplinary group *Book on the Cities of Halychyna (East Galicia)* was found (Petryshyn, 1999);

– in 1999, with the support of the International Renaissance Foundation, a scientific seminar of the long-term perspective *Comparative City Studies of the Central and East European Countries* was introduced;

– the third scientific workshop based on *Book on the Cities of Halychyna (East Galicia)* project was held in Lviv (March 3, 1999). There, the city studies of the town of Zolochiv were presented according to the developed scheme (H. Petryshyn), and the problem of the application of the methodology used by Austrian scholars for the study of the Ukrainian cities was discussed;

– the final scientific workshop based on *Book on the Cities of Halychyna (East Galicia)* project (August 26, 1999) approved the main methodological provisions for the urban studies of Ukrainian cities. Thus, the developed and popularized thoughts and principles of city studies have been manifested in the following publications of the seminar participants:



Historical Towns of Lviv Region: architectural and urban essays (prospectus of the publication), 1994



Survey for the study of the project “Book on the Cities of Halychyna (Galicia)”, 1995



Zolochiv (Book on the Cities of Halychyna (Galicia), Issue 1), 1999



Fig. 1. Scientific events and publications – the founders of the introduction of the term “Mistoznavstvo/Urban Studies” in the Ukrainian scientific arena

It should be also mentioned that the introduction of the methodology of *Mistoznavstvo/Urban Studies* into the educational process started at the December Annual Student Conference *Readings on the History of Architecture in Ukraine* (December, 1994) which was the most massive and popular phenomenon. The participants were the students of the seventh semester of the Faculty of Architecture of the State University "Lviv Polytechnic". The conference was held annually during 1994–1999 as a testing event on the subject *History of Architecture and Urban Development of Ukraine*. About 80–100 annual reports on the problem of city studies in chosen cities were presented, and the works based on study of some architectural and urban complexes were demonstrated.

Thus a productive network of specialists from various Ukrainian and foreign institutions, namely the State University "Lviv Polytechnic", the Institute of Ukrainian Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, the National University of Ivan Franko, Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine, Academy of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, Lviv Forestry University, Institute of Ukrainian Archeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Ukraine); Historical Commission of the Academy of Sciences of Austria, Gerder Institute (Marburg, Germany), Institute of Comparative City Studies (Münster, Germany) Architectural Faculty of Krakow Polytechnic (Poland), etc was created in the field of City Historical Studies. The scientists of the Ukrainian Centre for City Historical Studies had the opportunity to take internships in foreign institutions and participate in conferences.

As the outcome of the held work, a data bank on the topic *Book on the Cities of Halychyna (East Galicia)* was compiled. Accumulation, systematization and archiving of materials of the field was undertaken; archive, statistical, and bibliographic research using computer technologies was



Fig. 2. Ukrainian delegation at the Austrian-Ukrainian seminar "Book of the cities of Halychyna (East Galicia)", Austria, Seggau, October 1997. From left to right: Dr. Feodosiy Stebliy, Dr. Yuriy Kryvoruchko, arch. Andreas Weinzierl, Dr Sc., Prof. Yaroslav Isayevych, Dr Sc., Prof. Andriy Rudnytskyy, Dr. Halyna Petryshyn, arch. Khrystyna Boyko

implemented. The establishment of a library of professional literature on City Historical Studies was initiated as well.

These activities (not a full list is presented here) have forwarded a development of the Ukrainian science the *City Historical Studies* which applies modern methodology of world science. Introduction of the scientific school which is founded on its basis promotes to put Ukrainian city historical studies at the level of world standards, and bridge the knowledge gap between Ukrainian historical science and world science about Ukraine.

Activities of the Ukrainian Center for City Historical Studies contributed to the introduction of professional, unbiased scientific and cultural information about the culture and history of Ukrainian cities and towns which are the carriers of centuries-old and multinational culture. Its productive work helps to overcome negative stereotypes about Ukraine and bring it closer to the standards of European and world community.

Unfortunately, at the end of 1997, because of the retirement of Prof. O. Pickl, the Commission on Economic, Social and Urban History of the Austrian Academy of Sciences was disbanded, and the draft of the *Book on Cities of Austria* was not completed. Consequently, the Austrian part of the project was not interested to continue the cooperation in this field with other countries.

The implementation of ambitious goals requires a solid and a well-planned financing. However, grants applications were rarely approved, academic city studies were developed in an unfavourable period of time, and Ukraine struggled with persistent economic problems. So the

main portion of work was moved to the educational sector aiming to introduce new facts and sources of the history of the Ukrainian cities to a new generation of specialists.

In subsequent monographic publications, the term *Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies* was introduced, and some research papers defined its meaning and interpretation. The developed investigations of the interdisciplinary comparative studies of the Ukrainian Center for City Historical Studies (field studies, materials of the workshops *Comparative City Studies of the Countries of Central and East Europe*) were published in a joint monograph under the general editorship of H. Petryshyn. The monograph *Book of the Cities of Halychyna (East Galicia). Interdisciplinary research in the city-studies* contains thirty three papers submitted by the scientists of the Ukrainian Center for City Historical Studies who come from Ukraine, Austria, and Poland. Its size comprises eighteen copyright sheets, and it was accepted for publication by the Academic Board of the State University "Lviv Polytechnic" (September, 23, 1999) in the series "Architecture" of the Bulletin No. 379. Some chapters of the works, which clarified the not enough investigated areas of Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies, became especially demanded in the scientific field and initiated the in-depth studies, for example, architectural and urban development of cities after the Second World War (Cherkes, 1999).

The consistent development of "Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies" trend inside the Lviv Polytechnic National University has become possible thanks to the defended thesis works (PhD Degree in Architecture) of our postgraduates carried out in speciality 18.00.01 – "Theory of Architecture, Restoration of Architectural Monuments." They were carried out under the scientific supervision of the Professor of the Department of History and Artistic Foundations of Architecture (at present it is a Department of Design and Basics of Architecture) Dr H. Petryshyn – Olena Oleshko, 1999; Khrystyna Boyko, 2000; Svitlana Topilko, 2003; Nadiya Sosnova, 2003; Uliana Ivanochko, 2004; Ludmyla Hnes, 2005; Yuliya Idak, 2006. In the process of preparing a young generation of scholars, separate scientific studies were devoted to Lviv (Petryshyn, 2008). The practical implementation of urban development studies was conducted and tested in the works by Prof. M. Bevez (2004) and the Department of Architecture and Restoration at Lviv Polytechnic National University. A wide-scale research paper of comparative Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies was presented in the monograph by Prof. B. Cherkes. It considers architectural and planning patterns as a clue to discover national identity during the formation of public centres of metropolitan cities. Architectural means of various types to define the national identity in the cities of Kyiv, Moscow, Berlin and Warsaw were considered. The monograph was awarded the nomination *Book of the Year* in Ukraine (2008).

Subsequently, the methodological principles of architectural, urban-planning and "Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies" approach, based on the example of various objects, resulted in the elaboration and publication of a coursebook that was recommended by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine for all higher educational institutions in the field of Architecture (Petryshyn, 2006a). The mastering of German-language professional literature, the comparison of the meaning of terms and the introduction of new ones resulted in the publication of the Dictionary of Terms, also designed for students and scholars (Petryshyn, 2006b).

The next work by Dr. H. Petryshyn (2006) was published after her study in the Vienna Military Archives where the cataloging of city plans which are an extremely important source for the study of the history of the towns and villages of Halychyna (East Galicia) (von Mieg) was conducted. The publication received a favourable and widespread feedback due to the popularization of the hard-to-reach source at that time. Right after the publication, the book was scanned and without the author's permit was posted on the Internet site for the purpose of by-page sales. In the Google search system, one can trace hundreds of evidences of using this publication, and participants of various forums have exchanged their observations, passively promoting the popularization of the term *Urban Studies* (<http://forum.zamki-kreposti.com.ua>).

Since 2015, with the launching of the *mapire.com.eu* website, the Josephine Cartography (for East Galicia – "Map F. von Mieg") appeared in an easy-to-use electronic version accessed on Google maps. The book received a bibliographic significance.

The database information of the foundation of the towns in Halychyna (East Galicia) was used in the papers of the international grants by Ukrainian researchers such as M. Bevez and H. Petryshyn in collaboration

with the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences (Bo Larsson, 2002–2004, 2013). The numerous author's presentations and publications in European scientific institutions were highly important as they contributed to the popularization of the city-studies investigations about Halychyna (East Galicia) and Ukraine (Petryshyn, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2006). In parallel and according to the methodology of the “Mistoznavstvo/Urban Studies”, there were researches concerning settlements of the German settlers in Galicia from the end of the 18th century, who created excellent examples of urban building art (Petryshyn, 1996).



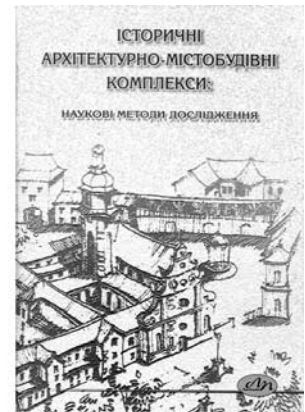
Deutsche Siedlungen in Ostgalizien, ed. H. Petryshyn (Works of Ukrainian Centre for City Historical Studies, Issue 1), 1996



Book on Cities of Halychyna (Galicia): interdisciplinary research in the city studies edited by H. Petryshyn (Works of Ukrainian Centre for City Historical Studies, Issue 2), 1999



Deutsch-ukrainischer Terminologie-Leitfaden zur Geschichte der Architektur und Stadtplanung ed. H. Petryshyn (Works of Ukrainian Centre for City Historical Studies, Issue 3), 2006



Historical Architectural and Urban Complexes. Scientific methods of research ed. H. Petryshyn (Works of Ukrainian Centre for City Historical Studies, Issue 4), 2006



Petryshyn H., “Map of F. von Mieg” (1779-1782) as a Source for City Studies of Halychyna (Galicia) / (Works of Ukrainian Centre for City Historical Studies, Issue 5), 2006



Idak Yu., Compositional Aspects of the Formation of the Front of Quarterly Building of Lviv (the end of XVIII – early 20th centuries) / (Works of Ukrainian Centre for Historical City-studies; Issue 7), 2011



Topylko S., Towns and Small Towns of Galicia during the Renaissance period (second half of the 16th–17th centuries): urban-related aspects (Works of Ukrainian Centre for City Historical Studies, Issue 6), 2015



Scientific conference “Mistoznavstvo/city-studies: formation of a scientific field”, 2017

Fig. 3. The first books which introduced the term “Mistoznavstvo/Urban Studies” in the Ukrainian scientific arena

Looking back into the past, it can be argued that the Student's December Scientific Conferences, which for several years promoted the field, played a crucial role in the formation of a city-studies school (Fig. 4). A considerable part of young Doctors of Sciences of the Institute of Architecture at Lviv Polytechnic National

University belongs to the cohort of our followers. As the follow-up of the Urban Studies tradition, the monograph by Yu. Idak (2011) on the development of the urban substance of Lviv and the monograph by S. Topylko (2015) on the formation of cities and towns in Halychyna (East Galicia) during the Renaissance epoch were published. The publication of the above mentioned works constitutes the scientific heritage of the Ukrainian Centre for City Historical Studies (Petryshyn, 2017) (Fig. 3).

An International Conference *Creative Urbanism* (May 27–29, 2013) celebrated the centenary of urban education at Lviv Polytechnic National University and the publication of a scientific monograph is the result of research in the field of urban planning theory, including the Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies (Cherkes, Petryshyn, 2014).



Fig. 4. Prof. H. Petryshyn with the undergraduates of the Department of History of Architecture of Ukraine, 2001

The modern application of the term *Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies* has appeared to have a broad interpretation. It is traditionally understood as 1) a comprehensive method of city studies in their development phase; 2) the study of the city as a material, social and spiritual object; 3) historic urbanization.

The term *Urban Studies* has the tradition of the multiple usages. 1) It is found in an official scientific field in academic and educational institutions, for example, the project *Historical Urbanistics: the Theory of Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies and the Methodology of Chronology* of the Department of Historical Regionalistics at the Institute of History of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (source: <https://uk.wikipedia.org>). 2) The research work of the Department of Economic and Legal Problems of the Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies of the Institute of Economics and Law (source: www.iepd.kiev.ua) is also worth mentioning here. In the field of research projects, scientific articles, and monographs, we can find the following thoughts, “A wide range of theoretical and methodological problems of modern *Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies* is violated – from the definition of the concept “misto(city)” and the criteria of typology of cities to tracing the evolution of urban tradition in domestic terrains” (Vermenych, 2011), or “The spreading of comparative *Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies* beyond the scope of the narrative interpretation and its inclusion on the interdisciplinary basis into the context of interactions of the globalized world” (source: <http://ukrskr.com.ua>). 3) In the coursebooks on historical subjects, e.g. by O. Kovalenko, we can find a course of lectures *Historical Urbanistics*. Section 1.3. of the book is entitled *Terminological Tools of Domestic Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies*, and Section 1.4. – *Object-Subject Domain of Historical Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies* (source: elcat.pnpu.edu.ua). 4) The term has entered the pages of Wikipedia, for example, “The tradition of comparative Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies with the trace of cyclical fluctuations in urban development was initiated by M. Weber (source: <https://uk.wikipedia.org>). 5) It has become slang and appeared in the blogosphere, so the term *Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies* is understood as familiarization with the city, for example, “Travel always changes something inside us. It does not matter if it is a trip abroad or a trip inside the native country. I had an opportunity to live in Poltava ... “ (source: <http://kurs.if.ua/>). 6) It is used in the texts of regional and local

events, contributes to the educational process of teenagers, and coordinates students' activity, for example, "Student excursion bureau was opened in Zhytomyr State Technical University. There is an experience of having excursions within the frame of the school of *Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies*. And as a logical necessity of our activity, the opening of the student excursion bureau was announced (source: <http://pedpresa.ua/>).

3. Conclusions

A long-term research project is aimed at developing the activities of the Ukrainian Center for City Historical Studies (UCCHS) the main tasks of which are to organise a data bank of cities of Ukraine, hold conferences and workshops, carry out interdisciplinary comparative studies of "Book on the Cities of Halychyna (East Galicia)" project, and promote among Ukrainian and foreign specialists and the general public new professional knowledge in the field of historical *Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies*. It will help to cover some unknown areas and significant gaps in Ukrainian historical Culturology, Urban Studies, History, and Regional Studies. A proper understanding of the unique nature of Ukrainian lands, cities and people will foster Ukrainian progress into the European and world community.

Born in Lviv Polytechnic National University while carrying out the research project *Book on the Cities of Halychyna (East Galicia)* in 1995, the term *Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies* has had the positive scientific development as was introduced in the favourable times of Ukrainian society. Self-identification of Ukrainians requires an intensive study of the history of cities and urban culture in various forms. If we compare the Ukrainian term *Mistožnavstvo/Urban Studies* with its corresponding prototerm – the German *städtewesen* and Russian *gradovedenie* –, we notice that it is much more widely used, has greater invariance of applications and interpretations. If to take into account the Google search system, it is observed the increasing number of the term matches; while its German and Russian prototypes are applied only in the fields of academic science.

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МІСТОЗНАВСТВО: ЕТИМОЛОГІЯ ТЕРМІНА ТА ЙОГО ЗАСТОСУВАННЯ В УКРАЇНІ

Анотація: Повинна була закінчитися епоха СРСР із заполітизованою методологією досліджень, щоб можна було методологічно опертися на закордонний досвід і виконувати дослідження у галузі містознавства, яке б опиралося на такі засади як:

- поєднання дослідників-спеціалістів різних галузей для вирішення спільної проблеми (з галузі історії, архітектури, урбаністики, мистецтвознавства, економіки, демографії, географії, геральдики тощо)
- дослідницький матеріал базується на вірогідних даних, які однаково висвітлюють увесь регіон/країну (переписи населення, мапи, статистичні та джерельні дані)
- не використовується суб'єктивна оцінка подій і стану речей та відсутня авторська інтерпретація фактів.

У 1995 р. при Західному науковому центрі НАН України та Українсько-австрійському інституті була створена міждисциплінарна група “Книга міст Галичини” (керівник – доц., к. арх. Петришин Г. П.). Науковий апарат досліджень опирався на містознавчі дефініції (*städtewesen*) та методи дослідження австрійської школи (Австрійська академія наук, комісія економічної, соціальної та міської історії, керівник – проф. Отмар Пікль), які б дозволили у перспективі виконувати порівняльний аналіз.

У 1995–1999 рр. було проведено ряд організаційних заходів та українсько-австрійських науково-методичних семінарів з циклу “Книга міст Галичини”. Таким чином утворилася комунікативна мережа фахівців у галузі історичного містознавства. Ці заходи дозволили сформулювати на ґрунті сучасної методології світової науки новий напрямок в українській науці “Історичне містознавство” та створити наукову школу, яка прагнула поставити українське історичне містознавство на рівень світових стандартів, заповнити суттєву програму в українській історичній науці та світовій науці матеріалами про Україну. Діяльність Українського Центру історичного містознавства посприяла введенню до європейського та світового простору фахової і неупередженої наукової та культурологічної інформації та знань про культуру та історію українських міст та містечок як носіїв багатомірової та багатонаціональної культури.

Сьогодні термін “містознавство” утвердився:

- як офіційний науковий напрям в академічних та освітніх установах,
- у тематиці дослідницьких проєктів, наукових статей, монографій,
- у підручниках історичного спрямування,
- увійшов на сторінки вікіпедії,
- став сленговим та фігурою у блогосфері, розуміється як ознайомлення з містом,
- використовується у регіональних та локальних заходах, сприяє виховному процесу підлітків та скеровує активність студентів.

Народжений у Львівській політехніці у науково-дослідному проєкті “Книга міст Галичини” у 1995 р., термін “містознавство” своєчасно потрапив на добрий ґрунт української науки у сприятливий час розвитку українського суспільства. Самоідентифікація українців вимагала посиленого дослідження історії міст та міської культури у різних формах. Якщо порівняти український термін “містознавство” із його сусідніми прототермінами-аналогами – німецьким “*städtewesen*” та російським “*градоведением*”, він є набагато ширше застосовуваним, має більшу інваріантність застосувань та трактувань, а, судячи по пошуковій гугл системі, стрімко поширюється. Тоді як його німецький та російський прототипи залишилися в сферах академічної науки.

Ключові слова: містознавство, міста і містечка, Галичина, порівняльні дослідження, міждисциплінарність