Title: In pursuit of restoring human dignity in post-Soviet Ukraine: Ukrainian Catholic University Leaders’ approach to educating engaged democratic citizens

Abstract: After gaining independence in 1991, Ukraine’s transition to a functioning democracy remains slow. The country’s higher education system has become a major arena for corrupt practices. This paper reports the findings in a study of Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU), a university with a distinctly transformational mission. The purpose of this study was to explore a Ukrainian university faculty and administrators’ approach to the moral and civic formation of undergraduate students. Because of the importance placed on ethical formation as an anti-corruption strategy by such internationally known anti-corruption organization as Transparency International, the study’s conceptual framework was informed by literature on moral and character education. The findings indicate that ethical and civic formation of undergraduate students is an aspect in and a result of the UCU leaders’ intentional application of Catholic Social Teaching, a philosophical framework that guides university’s vision and mission. At the same time, educational process and methodology employed by the UCU leaders include a number of approaches deemed successful in the character and moral education research literature.