

Natalia Belitser

### The «Svoboda» All-Ukrainian Union and its Electorate, 2012-13

**Resume.** *Unexpected success of the VO “Svoboda” (“Freedom”, VOS) turned out the main sensation of the parliamentary elections-2012 in Ukraine; poorly understandable was also the fact of voting for VOS of the most educated and Europe-oriented part of Ukrainian electorate. In a political discourse, this phenomenon is often assessed as a negative one. According to criticisms of its opponents, appearance in the Verkhovna Rada of the party that has been considered a “marginal political force representing radical West-Ukrainian ultranationalists” signifies rising xenophobia and intolerance of the Ukrainian society that endangers democracy and prospects of realizing a course towards European integration.*

*This paper addresses possible reasons and consequences of the electoral success of VOS in 2012, also further evolution of this political force as a parliamentary party. Besides analysis of the available sources of information including the data of sociological surveys, it presents the results of an expert opinion poll conducted after the elections, and fragments of interviews with party activists and MPs from the “Svoboda” faction.*

**Key words:** All-Ukrainian Union “Svoboda”, electors, opposition, protest mood, European integration, nationalism, xenophobia.

The entire text of this article is in Russian.