

Key Restrictive Factors of Cooperative Relations between Local Government and Non-Governmental Organizations in Ukraine

Anna Khimonenko

School of Public Administration, South China University of Technology, China

Abstract: The effectiveness of the interaction between non-governmental organizations and the state is critical in the formation of modern civil society in Ukraine. At the present stage of Ukraine's development, the most urgent tasks are the issues of public involvement in decision-making. The current state of interaction between non-governmental organizations and local authorities in Ukraine provides some opportunities, but the cooperation has certain restrictive factors that need to be solved. This paper suggests that the main restrictive factors of the cooperative relations between the local government and non-governmental organizations in Ukraine are incomplete establishment of mutual trust relations, lack of funding and lack of institutional cooperation mechanism. Above factors need to be resolved to provide the adequate public goods to the citizens and stable growth of civil society in Ukraine.

Key words: Local government, non-governmental organizations, cooperative relations, Ukraine

Date of Submission: 24-04-2021

Date of Acceptance: 08-05-2021

I. INTRODUCTION

As part of the Soviet Union, NGOs existed and functioned in Ukraine. However, most NGOs were controlled by the state and played a more mobilizing role than those that support and develop a civil society. Such a long period of calm in civil society has led to vigorous developments and activities of NGOs in various fields after Ukraine's independence. Concurrently, NGOs didn't obtain the required experience, mechanism and technology, no particular local and national government program for effective institutional forms of cooperation.

During the period of independence, the number of Ukrainian NGOs increased arithmetically every year. In 2019, the number of Ukrainian NGOs was 87,537. But at the same time, the interaction with local government is still very low and inefficient. This limits the effectiveness of the implementation of important public decisions and reduces the level of development of civil society.

Mutual Trust Relationship has not been Established

The precondition for the successful functioning of the system of any society is the trust of civil society institutions in the elected bodies of state power and vice versa - one of the most important factors for the existence of democracy. Trust connects NGOs with the political institutions of the state, increasing both the legitimacy of these institutions and their effectiveness. After all, the successful functioning of the liberal-democratic regime is impossible without a high level of mutual trust of non-governmental organizations in the institutions of state power.

According to the theoretical study, it was determined that the main generalized problem of cooperation between Ukrainian NGOs and local authorities was the lack of trust to each other. Despite previous agreements to implement certain decisions, the public authorities did not keep their promises. This means that the authorities do not believe that NGOs are fully equal partners who can participate in solving population problems to provide adequate public goods.

At the same time, representatives of non-governmental organizations have low qualifications for civil servants. This means that, in turn, NGOs do not consider public authorities to be qualified partners in solving community problems.

Therefore, this issue requires a comprehensive solution to the problem of mutual trust between NGOs and public authorities. This can be achieved through effective communication. In the process of building mutual trust between NGOs and public authorities, the following communication elements can be involved: the process of responding to the interests of different groups; the process of understanding the information contained in the legislative bill, the interpretation of the legislative bill, the process of formulating rules, channels for implementing these laws; creating internal information flow; emphasizing the study of human behaviour, rather than the study of management structures and working conditions. The two sides might think of a communicative

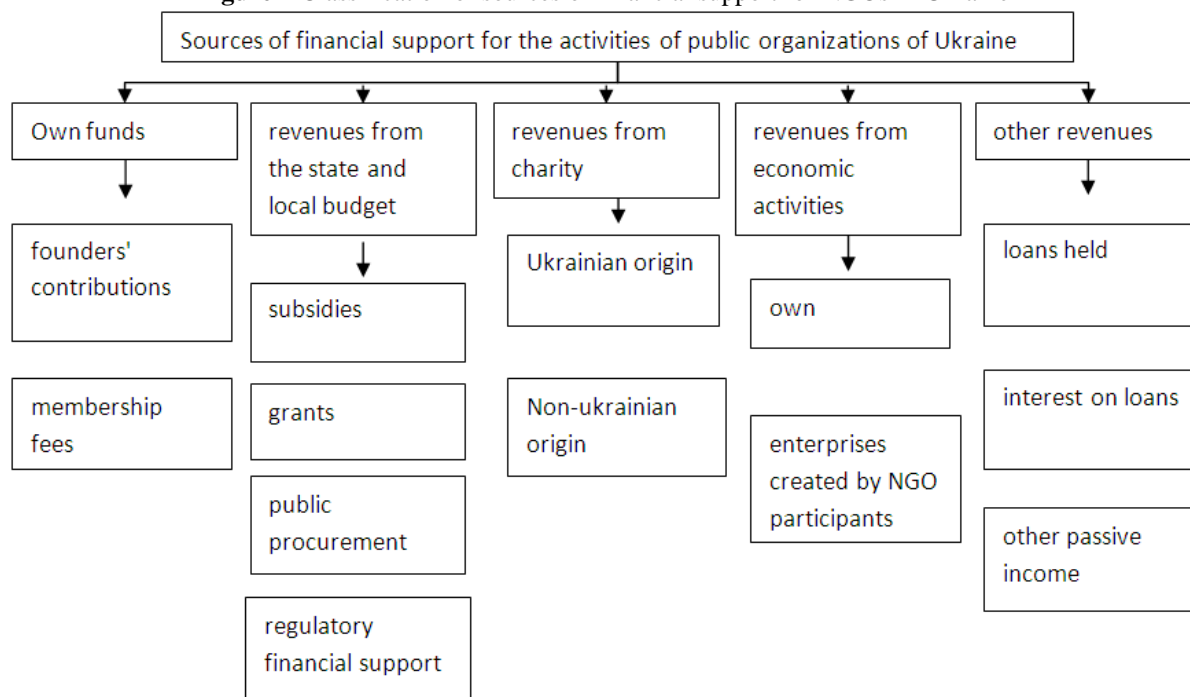
activity as a need for personal and interpersonal relationships that exist in formal bureaucratic relationships: communication, affirmation of self-esteem and personal integrity.

Lack of Funding of NGOs

Insufficient or lack of funding for NGOs from the local budget, limited local is the second problem of cooperation between NGOs and local authorities in Ukraine. At the same time, according to the Democratic Institute analysis, NGO representatives believe that increased funding can lead to effective cooperation in achieving common goals when working on projects with local authorities.

Regarding the classification of sources of financial support for NGOs in Ukraine, it can be presented as follows.

Figure 1 Classification of sources of financial support for NGOs in Ukraine



Only 5% of funding comes from the local and state budgets, which causes a lack of systematization in NGO funding and puts at the risk the ability to effectively achieve the organization's goals regularly.

There is also no proportionality of NGOs' fundings. Ideally, for the normal and independent functioning of an NGO, it should receive income from at least six different sources, each of which should account for at least 10% of all income. In Ukraine, the largest share of funding falls on charity. In particular, charity from international donors. A foreign source of NGO funding runs the risk of lobbying from outside interests. Therefore, it is necessary to shift the focus of NGO funding to internal sources, in particular the state and local budgets.

This is not typical for developed countries, as the share of funds received from the state budget and economic activity in the structure of their NGO revenues is much higher, and the share of funds received from philanthropists is smaller, even insignificant compared to other sources. This indicates that a certain model of NGO funding has been formed in Ukraine, which is not unique to other countries.

One of the funding problems is also the current legislation. It allows financing the activities of only those NGOs that meet these requirements (all-Ukrainian status, list of NGOs approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine). This is justified by the state financially supporting only the NGOs whose activities are necessary for the state and coincides with its interests. However, this situation is not only discriminatory against NGOs that do not have such status or do not fall under this list but also creates a basis for inefficient use of budget funds. Because in this case, the principle of subsidiarity of the budget system is not fulfilled, according to which the distribution of funds is carried out in such a way to bring the guaranteed services as close as possible to the direct consumer.

Lack of Institutional Cooperation Mechanisms

One of the factors of effective interaction is the creation of a multilevel system of relations between public authorities and NGOs. However, there are currently significant obstacles on this path. A full-fledged

regulatory framework has not yet been created, which would regulate the interaction of state power and NGOs, as well as regulate the granting of NGO rights as an institution for the social projects to implement the state decisions in civil society.

Back in the early 2000s, Ukraine passed several laws to increase participation of the society in state affairs, namely: decrees of the President of Ukraine "On additional measures to ensure openness in the activities of public authorities" of August 1, 2002, № 683; "On Ensuring Conditions for Wider Public Participation in the Formation and Implementation of State Policy" of July 31, 2004, № 854; "On Ensuring the Participation of Public Organizations in the Formation and Implementation of State Policy" of September 15, 2005, № 1276; Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On the Procedure for Disclosure on the Internet of Information on the Activities of Executive Bodies" of January 4, 2002, № 3; "On Measures to Further Ensure Openness in the Activities of Executive Bodies" of August 29, 2002, № 1302; "On Ensuring Public Participation in the Formation and Implementation of State Policy" of November 3, 2010, № 996. These documents emphasize the consideration of social opinion in the process of preparing and organizing the implementation of their decisions, maintaining a constant dialogue with all social groups; supporting the initiative of NGOs to create a system of permanent dialogue and interaction between civil society institutions and the public authorities and local governments. The basic requirements to the formation and realization of the state policy regarding consultations with NGOs were defined. However, these regulations do not contain specific mechanisms for interaction between government agencies and NGOs.

Although Ukraine has adopted some normative documents aimed at intensifying the cooperation of NGOs with the state and local governments, there is no single body that would ensure clear interaction between NGOs and the state, procedures for implementing joint decisions. Also, these regulations were adopted almost 20 years ago. They are currently outdated and do not meet the needs of today's society. In reality, these documents do not work, but remain "on paper." Therefore, the current legal framework needs a systematic update and a comprehensive approach that will provide clear procedures for involving NGOs in decision-making by state and local authorities, providing quality services to citizens and will be relevant to address current problems.

The institutional part of the relationship between NGOs and the government is still weak and inefficient, leading to chaotic interactions and low efficiency.

II. CONCLUSIONS

The relations between the Ukrainian state and NGOs cannot be called a bilateral relationship. It can be described as in a state of mutual mistrust. The nature of the interaction between these two parties is not institutionalized: there are no clear and specific institutions that would provide a regular controlled process of receiving feedback from civil society, finding common solutions to public problems and further implementation of these decisions in decision-making by the authorities and state policy development. Insufficient funding for NGOs from the national and local budgets blocks the deepening of the cooperation and opportunities for growth. Existing strategies for cooperation between NGOs in Ukraine and local authorities are not effective enough and need a new strategy in order to continue developing and growing modern civil society in Ukraine.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Konon N. The peculiarities of the Non- Governmental Organizations of Ukraine (on research of Creative Center Counterpart). 2014
- [2]. Tetiana Shapovalova. The role of monitoring and evaluation of social projects and programs in improving the quality of social services. 2020
- [3]. Egorova. Forms of interaction of non-profit organizations with the state. 2005
- [4]. Bazhinova. Interaction of public authorities with the public as a factor in the democratization of public administration. 2010
- [5]. Prymolenna L.M. Dialogic interaction of the authority between the third sector in Ukraine. 2008
- [6]. Iryna Gryshchenko. Foreign experience of management regional development. 2000
- [7]. Bazhinova. Mechanisms of government and public communication in the conditions of globalization. 2009
- [8]. Chernyshov A. N. Interactions of State and NGO: Possibility, Mechanisms, Problem and the Method of Their Solution. 2001
- [9]. Mychненко. Society and government: mechanisms of interaction. 1999
- [10]. Polya Katsamunsk. The concept of governance and public governance theories. 1995
- [11]. 杨建英. 近十年我国关于非政府组织问题的研究综述. 2008
- [12]. Usachenko. Cooperation of public authorities with civil society institutions 2009
- [13]. Ilyina. Socio-economic role of non-profit organizations in ensuring sustainable development of society. 2011

- [14]. Mazurka. Sklyarova. Non-state control of government activity: conditions and opportunities for Ukraine. 2019
- [15]. Bodrov. Non-Governmental Organizations as Indicator of Civil Society Development.2018

Anna Khimonenko. "Key Restrictive Factors of Cooperative Relations between Local Government and Non-Governmental Organizations in Ukraine." *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 26(05), 2021, pp. 24-27.