

LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT

DOI <https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-26-005-6-13>

IMPORTANT TRENDS AND PROBLEMS OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN UKRAINE

Kalnysh Yu. G.

*Doctor of Science in Public Administration, Professor,
Professor at the Department of Sociology
Oles Honchar Dnipro National University
Dnipro, Ukraine*

Modern society with its characteristic high rate of socio-cultural change poses a number of new problems to theoretical and empirical sociology. In particular, the sociology of management faces new theoretical and practical challenges. In this regard, the sociological rethinking of the role of social governance, including self-government as one of its forms, is becoming increasingly important. Self-government is developing today in almost all spheres of society. It is inextricably linked with the processes of renewal, modernization of social life and is one of the necessary forms of management, conscious and systematically transforming influence on the community of people in order to improve and develop society.

Analysis of forms and practices of municipal government in developed European countries of the XXI century, attempts to determine the scope of its activities, patterns and principles of its operation, to delineate the powers and competence of state power, on the one hand, and local communities, on the other, were reflected in foreign works. scientists [1 – 3 and others]. Within the framework of modern Ukrainian public administration science, the problems of municipal administration have also become the object of study of many scholars [5 – 9 and others]. Critical analysis of the scientific achievements of foreign and domestic researchers allows us to

identify a number of specific features inherent in the current social status of municipal government, especially:

1. Theoretical analysis of Western concepts of institutional local government allows us to identify two approaches to understanding its structure and functions. In the first (basic) approach, the municipal government forms an independent institution, formed by the territorial community, and has a network, non-hierarchical nature. In the second approach (state theory of self-government), municipal authorities are representatives of the central government and are included in a single hierarchy of power structures.

2. Self-government of a territorial community is the primary practice of social regulation and can be based on both formal (institutional) governance and informal (social) power of local elites. Sociological generalization of historical forms of municipal government allows us to identify two ideal types of formal (institutional) power at the local level: distributive-democratic and centrist-authoritarian.

3. Modernization of self-government processes of territorial communities is associated with the strengthening of informal (social) power of local elites and the transition from a centrist to a distributive type of institutional self-government. Such transformations are catalyzed by the informatization of the social environment of local communities. Modernization of municipal management in the conditions of informatization of the social environment of local communities provides development, qualitative improvement, radical strengthening by means of modern information-technological means of cognitive social structures and processes.

4. Social activity of the population becomes one of the key factors of socially effective activity of the institute of self-government of territorial communities and directly influences the decision of socially significant tasks in municipal formations. The degree of activity of the population is an indicator of the effectiveness of municipal government, the success of social regulation, the formation of social capital of local communities.

5. The accumulation of social capital of local communities is a specific function of their territorial self-government. There are two types of social capital – cognitive and structural. Cognitive type includes trust, mutual responsibility, solidarity – the most important values inherent in

members of the local community. The structural social capital of local communities combines the composition and practice of local level institutions, which are tools for their development.

According to domestic practitioners of municipal administration: «Socio-economic modernization of the regions of Ukraine is impossible without the implementation of measures aimed at ensuring sustainable urban development. After all, almost 70% of Ukraine's population lives in cities ... Urban population is usually characterized by a higher level of civic activity , therefore, the conditions and quality of life of the urban population can be seen as one of the powerful factors influencing the level of social tension and confidence in the state and its policies. problems that significantly affect the quality and safety of life of people in the cities of Ukraine. The main ones are the following «[11], which is confirmed by the generalization of the results of our own expert study (Table 1)¹:

Table 1

Modern problems of urban development in Ukraine²

Problem	Assessment
low level of social infrastructure improvement	5
inability to provide quality utilities	5
environmental pollution	5
inability to ensure an adequate level of law and order	5
unsatisfactory condition of housing and communal services	4
obsolete transport communications (roads, sidewalks, bridges)	4
imperfection of the regulatory framework for decentralization	4
low social activity of the population	4
accumulation of garbage and household waste	3
operation of industrial enterprises within the city	3
lack of administrative powers of municipalities	3

¹ Interviewed by a survey of 100 local government officials of Ukraine (September 2020).

² The assessment was carried out on a scale from «5 – most relevant» to «0 – not relevant at all».

1. The state of housing and communal services of cities is improper, the volumes of capital investments in the development of housing and communal services are insufficient. The dominance of natural monopolies in the field of housing and communal services has led to the fact that utilities, for the most part, are unable to provide consumers with quality services in the field of housing.

2. There is a low level of urban development, the situation with the collection and disposal (disposal) of solid waste remains unsatisfactory. One of the challenges to ensure urban development is the urgent problem of ensuring the environmental safety of the population.

3. A chronic problem for the cities of Ukraine remains the functioning of industrial enterprises, «industrial zones» located within cities. This has a significant impact on the deterioration of the environmental situation, but local governments do not have enough leverage to address this issue.

4. Diversification of the city's economy remains weak (especially in small towns), lack of a significant number of new jobs. Insufficiently developed service sector. The social infrastructure of cities is outdated. The rate of investment remains quite low. All this complicates the situation on the labor market, causes labor migration from the surrounding areas to large cities. In recent years, labor migration to the European Union has been significant.

5. The incompleteness of the reform of decentralization and territorial organization of power in Ukraine does not allow the municipal authorities to form the necessary administrative and financial resources for urban development.

Finally, it should be noted that the effectiveness of municipal government is largely determined by the quality of their staff, its ability and willingness to solve problems of municipal government in terms of reforming the local government as an independent level of government, constantly changing and becoming more complicated. Currently in Ukraine there is a shortage of qualified and competent staff of municipal authorities. Instead, the formation of a highly professional and competent staff of the municipal service with appropriate human resources, optimizing the management of its development is a fundamentally important condition for the

successful implementation of decentralization reform and addressing local issues.

References:

1. *Brenner, Neil*. The Urban Question as a Scale Question: Reflections on Henri Lefebvre, Urban Theory and the Politics of Scale. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. 24 (2). 2000. P. 361–378

2. *Stoker, Gerry*. The Comparative Study Of Local Governance: Towards A Global Approach. *Politica y Sociedad*. 47 (3) 2010. P. 207–218.

3. *Goldsmith, Michael J., Page, Edward C*. Changing Government Relations in Europe: From Localism to Intergovernmentalism. Routledge, 2010. 304 p.

4. *Баймуратов М.* Феноменологія муніципальних прав людини. Місцеве самоврядування та регіональний розвиток в Україні. 2013. 1. С. 52–56.

5. *Ворона П. В.* Місцеве самоврядування України в контексті розвитку представницької влади : монографія. Полтава : РВВ ПУЕТ, 2012. 341 с.

6. *Козюра І.* Інституційний розвиток місцевого самоврядування в Україні в умовах державно-управлінських реформ. Київ : НАДУ, 2013. 52 с.

7. *Саханенко С.* Політичне управління містом в умовах самоврядування : монографія. Одеса: Вид-во ОФ УАДУ, 2001. 380 с.

8. *Шаров Ю.* Стратегічне планування в муніципальному менеджменті: концептуальні аспекти : монографія. Коїв : Вид-во УАДУ, 2001. 302 с.

9. *Deyneka, Yuriy*. The development of the cities in Ukraine: the modern state, problems and prospects. URL : http://elartu.tntu.edu.ua/bitstream/lib/26084/2/FMZKP_2018v1_Deyneka_Y-The_development_of_the_cities_1415.pdf.