

**RURAL COMMUNITIES AS INSTITUTIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY**

The democratization of public administration, which includes the reorganization of the territorial organization of public authorities, is closely linked with the process of strengthening the role of local government in civil society. The problem of local government as an institution of civil society was considered by O. Batanov, A. Zamotaev, G. Smith, B. Mamonov, A. Petrishin, V. Rechitskiy, H. Ruda, V. Selivanov, Y. Todyka and others. However, they only touched some items concerning the place of rural communities in the local government as an institution of civil society. Unfortunately, there is no single vision on the place of rural communities in the system of social relations in the national scientific thought or the legislation of Ukraine. There is no clear understanding of what social role and functions in the system of government and public relations it performs. And the most important thing is it necessary to consider rural communities as the individual institution of civil society. Today, the current administrative-territorial organization of government in Ukraine shows the absolute dominance of the center over the regions in the denial of any independent entities such as municipalities. And it happens at a time when after the declaration of independence, it has received some incentive for the development.

The chosen topic is relevant because of the lack of complex researches of the phenomenon of rural communities as an institution of civil society. Interest to the problem of rural communities is justified due to the increased role of regional factors in the management process, taking in the consideration that the area is the basis for the consolidation of social actors with political structures, the place where the diverse interests (private, collective, industrial, governmental) encounter.

It is no coincidence, that last years, more and more support scientists believe that local government is one of the main institution that can powerfully influence the formation of civil society, and has a wide range of organizational forms of public involvement in the management of public affairs. Residents of a certain territory are the main and active subject of municipal authorities. And these authorities with a set of important human aspirations are the most important factor in the formation and reproduction of civil society [1, p. 198].

The idea of G. Koval is right in this context. He considers the rural communities at the constitutional level as the primary entity of local government, says that at the local level, the legal nature of its members is constantly changing. They don't function as citizens of the state but as villagers, so he considers rural communities to be the «independent type of social communities that are involved in a wide orbit of constitutional and legal relations» [2].

Fixing constitutionally the status of the local community level as the primary entity of local government, allows creating active rural communities, which can become the key to democratization, strengthening of the independence of the people from the tyranny of government. It is important to create appropriate powerful institutions that would really, not formally, be accountable to and controlled by community. That is, the local community must resist those negative processes of authoritarianism and corruption either at the national and local levels, which easily find a suitable background.

As it is mentioned by B. Mamonova, building of a civil society that is now made in our country is impossible without the formation of an active social position of the population. It is necessary to change it from a simple set of residents to a community that has similar interests, can combine resources to achieve a common goal to develop the local community [3, p. 15].

Power of the community depends on the activity of its members. At the level of rural communities the most effective (visual) implementation of the principle of democracy is possible.

The analysis of texts conducted by specialists (English and French) of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, considering the ambiguity of the used terms, suggest that the term «local self-government» should be translated as: «Local self-government denotes the right and the real capacity of local communities to regulate and manage the significant part of civil society affairs, acting within the law under his responsibility and in the interests of the local population» [4, p. 17].

A. Karas is also quite right. He believes that the issue of civil society can't be limited neither by NGOs nor relationship between organizations outside state control or economic and market areas, or social structures that arise during the self-government. Civil society is much more complex phenomenon that exists in the procedural condition, changes and is associated with discourse, intellectual and cultural filters and practitioners [5].

The position of O. Frytskiy is also worth attention. He believes that civil society encompasses moral, legal, economic and political relationship [6, p. 100].

## ГОСУДАРСТВЕННОЕ УПРАВЛЕНИЕ

Thus, it can be said that the structural components of civil society are subjects of legal, economic, political, social, religious, spiritual and other relations, local community and its agencies are the subjects of which. It gives reason to believe that local (urban or rural) community is the specific institutions of civil society [7, p. 122].

N. Ryda agrees this point of view. She analyzes features of the local community and points out that there exists in the modern civil society of Ukraine an independent subject of a certain community of people separated from each member of the society and the people, which is the entire population of the state [8, p. 236].

I. Tyrchinov finds common ideas in all the definitions. The community is understood as a set of individuals who live together within a certain area, they have certain ties and relations, common interests, rights and powers to tackle common problems [9].

Population in local government as a totality of residents of the respective rural communities in a real self-government has new qualities not inherent to the usual population (demographic) sense. Population, which provides local self-government, in fact is at the highest rung of the social development. At the same time it is necessary to study self-government [10, p. 113].

Based on the above, we can make the following conclusions:

- local government is the right of citizens of Ukraine, united in local communities, to regulate a significant portion of civil society affairs, acting within the law and under their responsibility in their interests;
- local government is the right and the real ability of authorities, formed, controlled and accountable to local communities, organized and operated on the basis of democratic principles, interact, change social relations to express their common interests;
- local self-government is the way and legal form of national sovereignty, which is the source of power of rural communities (they relate to each other as a whole and parts);
- mechanism of local government is a set of rules of law, authorities and institutions that with the help of appropriate methods, techniques and ways of influence ensure the implementation of rural communities in the social relations of civil society at the local level.

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