

CIVIL SOCIETY AS A DRIVING FORCE OF POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION OF UKRAINE: CONCEPTUAL APPROACHES, REGULATORY AND LEGAL ASPECTS

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INTRODUCTION

The post-war reconstruction of Ukraine is an extremely complex and multifaceted process that encompasses social, economic, political and cultural aspects of the country's development. In the context of modern challenges caused by a large-scale war that caused significant destruction to the infrastructure, economy and social life, the role of civil society is of particular importance. It is the active participation of public organizations, volunteer movements, professional communities and initiative groups that contributes to the formation of a new paradigm of state reconstruction based on the principles of democracy, inclusiveness and sustainability.

Civil society is not only a mechanism for self-organization of the population, but also an important subject of influence on the processes of restoration, modernization and reform of state institutions. Due to its ability to quickly mobilize resources, respond to the urgent needs of society and monitor the actions of the authorities, civil initiatives ensure the effective use of national and international resources, contributing to the transparency and accountability of reconstruction processes.

The study aims to consider conceptual approaches to understanding civil society as a driving force in the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine, as well as to analyze the regulatory and legal aspects that determine its activities in this context. The study covers issues of legal regulation of the activities of public associations, their interaction with state authorities, international partners and the business environment, as well as mechanisms for involving citizens in decision-making processes. Significant attention will be paid to the analysis of the world experience of rebuilding countries that have experienced military conflicts and the possibilities of its adaptation to Ukrainian realities. The study examines strategic directions for the development of civil society in the post-war period, in particular its role in the formation of new management practices, decentralization, ensuring social cohesion and sustainable development of territorial communities.

Therefore, the relevance of the study is due to the need for a thorough analysis of the role of civil society in the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine, the formation of effective mechanisms for its participation in the processes of

reconstruction and ensuring the democratic development of the state. The results of the study can become the basis for developing recommendations for improving state policy in the field of interaction with civil society and increasing its institutional capacity in the post-war period.

1. Conceptual approaches to the implementation of post-war reconstruction

The war in Ukraine caused significant destruction of infrastructure, economic losses and social upheavals, which makes the issue of post-war reconstruction of the state relevant. Despite numerous studies in the field of post-conflict reconstruction, there is no single conceptual definition of the term «post-war reconstruction», which complicates the development of effective state policy. Today, war reconstruction is a complex and multifaceted process that encompasses the restoration of infrastructure, socio-economic development and reintegration of communities. Theoretical approaches to this issue are diverse: some focus on physical reconstruction, others on social aspects, such as restoring trust and strengthening civil society.

Among the world's scholars who study the issue of post-war reconstruction, it is worth mentioning J. Geddes, who studies the influence of institutions on the processes of reconstruction. R. Putnam's studies on social capital and its role in post-war reconstruction are also important.

Among domestic scientists, one can single out the works of O. Hrytsenko and N. Bogdanova, in which the features of military recovery in Ukraine are analyzed. The above-mentioned issues are also fragmentarily studied in the multidisciplinary scientific works of I. Baydak, I. Kresin, O. Kurilet, I. Lukashuk, O. Martyniuk, M. Myhal, N. Pokrovska, V. Smirnova, N. Stepanenko. Among other scientists who deal with issues of post-war recovery, one can also mention Y. Yurkiv and T. Yampolska, who analyze the experience of Germany after World War II and the impact on the reform of economic growth, which makes it possible to better understand how different strategies can contribute to recovery in modern conditions.

However, today there is a lack of research that would, taking into account Ukrainian realities, comprehensively investigate the conceptual basis for understanding the concept of «post-war recovery» and in which an analysis of theoretical approaches to the implementation of post-war recovery processes is carried out.

Post-conflict reconstruction is a complex and multifaceted process that encompasses a wide range of economic, social, political and infrastructural aspects. Its successful implementation requires a comprehensive approach that takes into account both internal and external factors of influence. Rebuilding a country after an armed conflict involves not only the reconstruction of destroyed buildings and critical infrastructure, but also the

restoration of state institutions, ensuring social justice, addressing the problems of internally displaced persons, reconciliation between different groups of the population and the creation of prerequisites for sustainable development. Successful post-conflict reconstruction is a guarantee of long-term stability, the development of democratic processes and an increase in the standard of living of the population.

Today, researchers understand the definition of «post-war recovery» in different ways (return of the state to its previous state after the war¹; reconstruction of the destroyed economy²; reconstruction of the destroyed infrastructure³; a set of measures aimed at restoring absolutely all spheres of the state that were destroyed or damaged as a result of the war⁴, etc.). A number of scientists and practitioners offer different theoretical approaches to the analysis and implementation of recovery processes, including neoliberal, state-centric, hybrid, and socially-oriented.

The neoliberal approach assumes minimal state intervention in the recovery process, focusing on market mechanisms, attracting private capital and international investors. Its supporters believe that the free market will effectively redistribute resources, stimulating economic growth, but critics note that without proper state control and regulation, social inequality may deepen and risks of corruption may arise.

The state-centric approach, on the contrary, assumes a key role in the recovery, which carries out strategic planning, implements large-scale infrastructure projects and regulates economic processes. Examples of such an approach are the post-war reconstruction of Western Europe under the Marshall Plan or the post-war reconstruction of Japan. The main advantage of this approach is the possibility of centralized management of resources, but the risk is the bureaucratization of processes and inefficient use of funds⁵.

The hybrid approach combines elements of market and state regulation, providing for the active participation of international organizations, civil society and private business. This model is widely used in modern international recovery programs, for example, in the post-war development of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

¹ Академічний тлумачний словник. URL: <https://sum.in.ua/>.

² Гісем О.В. Україна в першому повоєнному десятилітті. URL: <https://www.slideshare.net/yakingimnazia/1011-x-2007-152>.

³ Покровська Н.М. Концептуальні засади післявоєнного відновлення України. URL: <https://journals.snu.edu.ua/index.php/VisnikSNU/article/view/570>.

⁴ Степаненко Н.В., Курілець О.О. Сутність, поняття і зміст повоєнного відновлення держави: теоретико-правовий аспект. *Legal Bulletin*. 2023. С. 34–41. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31732/2708-339X-2023-10-34-41>.

⁵ Мигаль М. В. Моделі відновлення після руйнації: світові кейси для України. URL: <https://iaa.org.ua/articles/modeli-vidnovlennya-pislya-rujnacziyi-svitovi-kejsy-dlya-ukrayiny/>.

The community-based approach pays special attention to reconciliation, integration of veterans, support for vulnerable groups, preservation of cultural heritage and ensuring equal access to resources. An important element of this approach is the development of local communities, creation of jobs and increasing the level of trust in state institutions.

The experience of different countries shows that the success of post-war recovery depends on several key factors, including institutional capacity, international financial support, social cohesion, legal reform and the fight against corruption, as well as the use of modern technologies and digital solutions. Effective state institutions are able to ensure coordination of all processes and control over the spending of funds, international financial assistance plays a critical role in the initial stages of recovery, and the consolidation of society helps to avoid social conflicts and restore trust between citizens. Reforming the legal system and combating corruption are key to transparency in recovery processes and fair distribution of resources. The use of digital technologies in recovery processes can accelerate them and make them more effective.

In general, post-war recovery is a complex and long-term process that requires taking into account a wide range of economic, social and political factors, as well as interaction between state, private and international actors. The choice of the optimal approach depends on the specific conditions of the country, its economic situation, the level of institutional development and social consolidation. Therefore, we propose to highlight the key theoretical approaches-strategies to understanding post-war recovery (economic, social, institutional, security), which can be applied in modern conditions, in particular in the context of the recovery of Ukraine.

The economic approach involves the restoration and modernization of the country's economic system through a number of measures aimed at ensuring sustainable development. The main aspects of this approach are:

- infrastructure reconstruction – reconstruction of transport, energy, housing and industrial facilities that were destroyed as a result of the war, which involves both physical construction and modernization based on modern technologies;

- financial and credit policy – attracting investments, international loans and grants to stimulate economic growth, where cooperation with international financial institutions (IMF, World Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development) plays a significant role;

- development of entrepreneurship and industry – creating conditions for the development of small and medium-sized businesses, restoring production capacities, in particular in strategic sectors (metallurgy, energy, agricultural sector, IT industry);

- labor market reform – creation of new jobs, retraining of the population, return of labor migrants and their integration into the country’s economy, etc.;
- innovative economy and digitalization – introduction of modern technologies in production, development of digital platforms, expansion of e-government and stimulation of startups;
- green economy – environmentally oriented recovery, which involves the use of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency, ecological modernization of industry and rational use of natural resources.

According to economic theory, successful recovery requires an integrated approach that combines state planning, attraction of private capital and international support. The theoretical foundations of this approach are based on models of economic growth, the concept of post-conflict reconstruction and modern research on «green recovery».

In addition to traditional economic instruments, strategic planning of post-war recovery is of great importance, which involves the creation of long-term economic development programs – stimulation of national production, reduction of dependence on imports and development of high-tech industries. No less important is the introduction of mechanisms of public-private partnership, which allows attracting investments in key areas of the economy.

It is also necessary to take into account the regional dimension of recovery. Decentralization and the involvement of local communities in the process of economic reconstruction will contribute to the faster restoration of the country’s economic potential. Special attention should be paid to the regions most affected by military actions, providing them with preferences and investment incentives.

The economic approach also requires strengthening anti-corruption policies and improving the business climate, which are key factors for attracting international and national investors. Transparency of procedures, reduction of administrative barriers and simplification of the regulatory environment will allow for more efficient use of financial resources aimed at recovery.

In modern conditions, it is important to adapt economic models of post-war recovery to the realities of globalization and digital transformation. The use of artificial intelligence, big data (Big Data) and automation will contribute to faster analysis of economic trends and making effective management decisions. Thus, the economic approach to post-war recovery in Ukraine is a multidimensional process that combines traditional tools with innovative approaches to ensure the sustainable development of the country.

Social stability is an integral element of post-war recovery. This approach focuses on the restoration of social capital, ensuring human rights, reintegration of displaced persons, restoration of social institutions, etc. Social

reintegration and social cohesion – are extremely important for understanding the processes of post-war reconstruction.

Therefore, the main components of the social approach are:

- reintegration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees – creating conditions for the return of citizens, their social adaptation, providing them with housing, jobs and access to social services;

- restoration of social institutions – reform of education, healthcare, social protection, which will contribute to stability and trust in the state;

- psychological rehabilitation and support – creation of psychological assistance programs for citizens, veterans, children and other affected population groups;

- social cohesion – stimulating interaction between communities, overcoming social divisions, building trust between different population groups;

- human capital development – educational and professional programs that will contribute to improving the qualifications of citizens and their adaptation to changes in the labor market;

- gender equality and inclusion – ensuring equal opportunities for all citizens regardless of gender, age, physical abilities or social status;

- support for veterans and families of the deceased – creating state and public initiatives for the social and economic support of war veterans;

- development of local communities – involving citizens in decision-making at the local level, decentralization of power and development of local self-government;

- social innovations – using the latest technologies and approaches to improve social services, in particular the development of digital platforms and services.

For the effective implementation of the social approach, close cooperation between state institutions, civil society and international partners is necessary. The use of digital technologies to improve citizens' access to social services, in particular through the development of e-government and online services, also plays an important role.

Ensuring social stability will contribute to long-term peace and harmonious development of society, which is critical for the successful post-war reconstruction of Ukraine. As noted, social cohesion and citizen involvement in reconstruction processes are key factors for ensuring sustainable development and avoiding future conflicts.

An important condition for social stability is also ensuring transparency and accountability of government bodies. Public participation in decision-making processes and monitoring the effectiveness of reconstruction measures will contribute to trust in state institutions and reduce social tension.

E-governance tools can play a key role in increasing transparency and accessibility of social programs.

Thus, the social approach to post-war reconstruction of Ukraine is multidimensional and requires comprehensive efforts from the state, civil society and international partners to ensure sustainable peace and the well-being of citizens.

In turn, state institutions play a central role in shaping post-war reconstruction policies. The institutional approach considers recovery as a transformation of state mechanisms, the development of democracy and the rule of law. In this context, the concepts of «effective governance» and risk management theory are important.

The main components of the institutional approach are considered to be:

- public administration reform – modernization of management structures, optimization of bureaucratic procedures, increasing the efficiency of state bodies;

- decentralization – transfer of powers to the local level for more efficient decision-making and efficient use of resources;

- rule of law and the fight against corruption – creation of transparent control mechanisms, strengthening the independence of the judiciary, strengthening institutions responsible for anti-corruption policy;

- increasing accountability and transparency of government – ensuring openness in decision-making, using e-government to monitor public spending and the activities of officials;

- effective risk management – creation of mechanisms for identifying potential threats and developing crisis response strategies;

- development of civil society – promoting active participation of citizens in decision-making processes, supporting public organizations and independent media;

- international cooperation and European integration – adapting legislation to European standards, implementing best global practices in the field of public administration;

- digitalization of public administration – automating administrative processes, creating unified state registers, and expanding electronic services for citizens.

In addition, it is necessary to take into account crisis aspects, in particular the adaptation of state mechanisms to the conditions of war and post-war times. The institutional capacity of the state must ensure a prompt response to challenges related to security, economic reconstruction and social adaptation of the population. It is also important to create mechanisms for monitoring and assessing the effectiveness of the implemented reforms, which involves independent analytical centers, cooperation with international experts, regular

reports to society. Continuous feedback and consideration of the needs of citizens will ensure a more adaptive and effective recovery policy.

Thus, the institutional approach to post-war recovery involves a comprehensive transformation of public administration aimed at strengthening democratic institutions, the rule of law, transparency and efficiency of governance. It is a key factor in the sustainable development and integration of Ukraine into the international system of democratic states. The success of this process depends on the coordinated actions of the government, civil society and international partners, which will not only allow the country to recover, but also create a solid foundation for its future development.

The security aspect of Ukraine's post-war reconstruction involves demining territories, reform of the security and defense sector, and international cooperation in the security sector. The main components of the security approach should be considered:

- demining territories – creation of effective humanitarian demining programs, introduction of modern technologies for detecting mines and explosives, training the local population on mine safety;

- reform of the security and defense sector – modernization of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, reform of law enforcement agencies, improvement of personnel training, and strengthening of interaction between various security structures;

- strengthening of cybersecurity – creation of comprehensive mechanisms for protecting critical infrastructure, implementation of monitoring and response systems for cyber threats, international cooperation in the field of cyber defense;

- international military and strategic cooperation – involvement of international partners in rebuilding the security system, integration into collective security structures, intensification of cooperation with NATO, OSCE, and the EU;

- control over the illicit circulation of weapons – strengthening measures to prevent the spread of illicit weapons and ammunition, creating transparent mechanisms for controlling the movement of military materials;

- development of reintegration programs for veterans and military personnel – providing psychological assistance, professional retraining and social adaptation of military personnel in peaceful life;

- humanitarian security and protection of civilians – ensuring access to critical resources (water, electricity, medical care), protecting vulnerable groups, creating crisis assistance centers;

- threat analytics and forecasting – developing mechanisms for early conflict prevention, risk assessment and strategic planning based on data analysis;

– supporting law and order in the post-conflict period – restoring trust in law enforcement agencies, strengthening patrol service and involving public initiatives in maintaining law and order;

– long-term defense capabilities strategies – strengthening military capabilities, expanding international training programs, developing Ukraine’s defense industry;

– creation of a crisis response system – formation of a unified national strategy for responding to emergencies, including natural and man-made disasters, military threats and terrorist acts;

– development of a national system of strategic reserves – accumulation of material resources, such as fuel, food and medicines, to ensure the country’s resilience in the event of new crisis situations.

As we can see, the security aspect plays one of the key roles in creating a stable environment for socio-economic recovery. Strategic planning, adaptation of international experience and involvement of modern technologies will contribute to increasing the level of national security and ensuring long-term peace in Ukraine.

Thus, the security approach to the post-war recovery of Ukraine is an integral part of the comprehensive reconstruction process, covering the physical, economic and social security of the population. Its successful implementation requires active cooperation between the state, international partners and civil society. In addition, the development of a sustainable security and crisis response system will allow Ukraine to effectively prevent future threats and ensure the stable development of the state in the long term.

Based on the analysis of various approaches, we propose to introduce into scientific and practical circulation the following interpretation of the definition of «post-war recovery» – it is a multidimensional process of transformation of the state, covering economic reconstruction, social reintegration, institutional development and ensuring security, aimed at sustainable development and improving the well-being of the population. The outlined process involves coordination of state policy, civil society participation, and international support for the effective implementation of recovery measures and involves not only the physical reconstruction of infrastructure, but also the modernization of economic, social, and governance mechanisms necessary to ensure the long-term development of the country.

2. Regulatory and legal frameworks for public participation in post-war reconstruction of Ukraine

The post-war reconstruction of Ukraine requires a comprehensive approach, where public participation is an important element of democratic governance. The legal framework regulating the involvement of citizens and

civil society institutions in reconstruction processes requires detailed analysis and assessment of effectiveness.

It is important to ensure transparency, openness and inclusiveness of decision-making, which will contribute to the formation of trust between the state and society. Public participation in reconstruction processes should be based on clear legal mechanisms that guarantee equal access of all stakeholders to the formation and implementation of reconstruction policies. For the effective implementation of mechanisms for involvement, it is necessary to take into account both international experience and national characteristics, which will allow adapting best practices to the Ukrainian context. The creation of effective communication tools between the authorities and civil society will contribute to increasing the level of civic activity and social responsibility.

The development and implementation of relevant strategies and programs should take into account the interests of various social groups, including internally displaced persons, veterans, business representatives and local communities. Public control and monitoring of recovery processes will help prevent corruption risks, ensure efficient use of resources and promote more balanced development of regions. It is important not only to create conditions for citizen participation, but also to ensure their effective implementation through educational and information campaigns that will increase the level of legal awareness and activity of the population.

Thus, recovery processes require an effective model of public participation that will contribute to sustainable development, consolidation of society and strengthening of democratic principles of governance in Ukraine.

Given the importance of the issue and the urgency of the post-war reconstruction of the state, we consider it necessary to recommend the use of a comprehensive approach to public involvement in reconstruction processes, which combines, in our opinion, the following key methods:

- legal analysis – involves the study of international and national legislation regulating public participation in reconstruction processes, in particular, an assessment of the compliance of legal norms with international standards and principles of democratic governance;

- comparative analysis – allows us to evaluate the practices of public participation in post-war reconstruction in other countries, identify effective models of cooperation between the state and society, and adapt best practices to the national context;

- sociological methods – in particular, surveys, focus groups and expert interviews aimed at identifying the real level of effectiveness of legal mechanisms for public participation, as well as identifying the main challenges and barriers to their implementation;

– content analysis of regulations, recovery strategies, and public engagement programs allows us to assess the compliance of legal and policy documents with the real needs of society, as well as to explore trends in the formation of public participation mechanisms.

Let us consider each of the proposed methods in more detail.

The method of legal analysis is based on the analysis of constitutional norms, laws, by-laws, international treaties and declarations that determine the rights of citizens to participate in the formation and implementation of recovery policies. Particular attention is paid to the regulatory and legal support of public participation mechanisms, such as public consultations, public hearings, participation in decision-making and monitoring the implementation of recovery programs. The practice of applying current legislation is analyzed, including court decisions and law enforcement activities of government bodies.

In addition, within the framework of this method, legal gaps and conflicts in the regulation of public participation are identified, potential areas for improving the regulatory framework are identified, and recommendations are developed to increase its effectiveness. The level of implementation of international standards into national legislation is studied, in particular the principles of openness, transparency, accountability and inclusiveness of recovery processes.

Thanks to the legal method, it is possible to analyze the institutional aspects of ensuring public participation, in particular, the powers and functions of state authorities and local governments in the field of public involvement in recovery processes. The normatively defined procedure for interaction between authorities and society is also studied, including mechanisms for appealing decisions that limit public participation.

A separate direction can be identified as research into the legal principles of participation of civil society organizations, expert communities, trade unions and other institutions in the development and implementation of recovery policies. In addition, the practice of involving these entities in decision-making processes, their role in monitoring the implementation of state programs and mechanisms for influencing the adjustment of recovery policies in accordance with public needs are analyzed. The issue of ensuring legal guarantees for vulnerable groups of the population in the context of their participation in recovery processes is also considered. In particular, the effectiveness of legislative mechanisms aimed at taking into account the interests of internally displaced persons, veterans, persons with disabilities and other social groups is assessed. An important component of this analysis is the study of mechanisms for legal protection of citizens from discrimination

and restrictions on their rights to participate in decision-making on reconstruction.

We also consider it appropriate to study the practice of interaction of state bodies with international organizations and donors in the process of forming the regulatory framework for public participation. After all, it is thanks to the legal method that the analysis of the compliance of national legislation with the requirements and recommendations of international structures, such as the UN, the European Union, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and others is carried out. Particular attention is paid to the legal aspects of financing civil society initiatives in the field of reconstruction, including mechanisms for transparent distribution of funds, accountability and prevention of corruption risks.

It should be noted that the legal analysis also includes the study of legal instruments that ensure the digitalization of public participation. The legislative support for the implementation of electronic petitions, online consultations, digital platforms for collecting public opinion and other innovative mechanisms of communication between the authorities and society is analyzed. An important aspect is the study and implementation of legal protection of personal data of citizens participating in digital initiatives, as well as ensuring equal access to digital tools for all social groups.

The legal method allows not only to formally assess the compliance of legislation with international standards, but also to identify real barriers that hinder effective public participation and develop scientifically based proposals for improving regulatory and legal regulation in this area, and a comprehensive approach to legal analysis provides a comprehensive understanding of existing challenges and contributes to the development of effective mechanisms that will contribute to increasing the level of citizen involvement in the processes of restoration and democratization of governance.

As noted, we consider comparative analysis to be an important component of a comprehensive approach. The application of this method involves studying the historical experience of different countries that have faced the consequences of armed conflicts, natural disasters or economic crises, and analyzing their recovery strategies. Particular attention is paid to how these countries ensured public involvement in the decision-making process, what mechanisms and tools were used for the participation of citizens, public organizations, local communities and business.

It is through the analysis of international experience and the study of the specifics of multi-level governance models, when responsibility for recovery is distributed between central authorities, local governments, international donors and civil society, that it becomes possible to design/adjust effective recovery processes in Ukraine. Thanks to the outlined method, the

effectiveness of the participatory approach in the formation of recovery policies is investigated, when citizens are directly involved in the planning, implementation and monitoring of reconstruction programs⁶.

Separately, it is worth noting the study of legislative initiatives and legal mechanisms that contributed to the effective involvement of the public in such countries (for example, Germany after World War II; countries of the Balkan region after the military conflicts of the 1990s; modern experience of post-conflict recovery in Iraq and Afghanistan, etc.). The system analysis method makes it possible to analyze how different states regulated the process of public control over reconstruction, what guarantees of transparency and accountability were implemented, what tools ensured the inclusiveness of the process and a non-discriminatory approach to different population groups.

Another important aspect of the comparative analysis is the assessment of the role of international organizations and financial institutions in supporting the processes of public participation in reconstruction. In this case, cases are considered in which the United Nations, the World Bank, the European Union and other structures facilitated or, conversely, complicated public influence on reconstruction processes.

Thanks to the comparative analysis, a special emphasis is placed on the economic aspects of public involvement. The experience of other countries in creating financial mechanisms to support public initiatives is analyzed, in particular through grant programs, public budgets, crowdfunding platforms and public-private partnerships. The legal and administrative models of financial management of public organizations that play an active role in reconstruction are studied. Approaches to minimizing corruption risks and ensuring transparency in the use of funds within public initiatives are also considered.

An important aspect is the study of communication strategies that different countries have used to involve the public in the reconstruction processes⁷. The role of the mass media, social networks, public hearings and educational campaigns in forming an active civic position and raising public awareness of the mechanisms of influence on the reconstruction processes is analyzed. Best practices for building an effective dialogue between the authorities and citizens are studied, including the use of modern digital technologies, such as artificial intelligence, big data analysis and interactive platforms. The study also covers the issue of involving different social groups in the reconstruction processes. The international experience in integrating women, youth,

⁶ План повоєнного відновлення України. URL: <https://recovery.gov.ua>.

⁷ Гончарук Н., Чердниченко А. Модернізація публічного управління в Україні в умовах війни та в поствоєнний період у контексті європейських цінностей. *Аспекти публічного управління*. 2022. № 10(6). С. 46–54.

veterans, representatives of national minorities and other vulnerable categories of the population into these processes is studied. The legislative and institutional mechanisms that facilitated or, conversely, limited equal access of citizens to decision-making processes in post-war countries are assessed. Another important direction is the analysis of approaches to monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of public participation in post-war reconstruction. Models for assessing the effectiveness of civic initiatives used in different countries, methods of data collection and analysis, and approaches to developing recommendations for improving civic participation mechanisms are considered. Special attention is paid to the issues of measuring the impact of civic initiatives on the overall recovery process, in particular through quantitative and qualitative indicators of civic participation.

The issue of digital technologies and their impact on participatory mechanisms is also examined. The experience of implementing online platforms for collecting public opinion, electronic consultations, interactive maps of restoration projects, as well as the use of blockchain technologies to ensure transparency in financing and implementing restoration initiatives is analyzed. Special attention is paid to the factor of social cohesion and trust between the state and civil society. The key conditions under which civic participation mechanisms work effectively are identified, as well as barriers that may hinder the implementation of international experience in other countries.

Based on the comparative analysis, conclusions are drawn on the most effective models of public engagement in recovery processes, and adaptation strategies are proposed that can be applied in the national context. An important task is not only to transfer successful experience, but also to adapt it taking into account the specifics of the legal system, the level of political culture and socio-economic conditions of the country. The results of the comparative analysis allow us to formulate practical recommendations for improving the national model of public engagement in recovery processes, which includes proposals for improving the legislative framework, implementing institutional reforms, expanding digital tools for participation and developing mechanisms for ensuring social inclusion in recovery processes⁸. The comparative method not only contributes to understanding successful practices of public engagement in recovery, but also allows us to critically assess the possibilities of their implementation, taking into account the specifics of the political, social and economic context of the country.

Thus, the comparative method allows us not only to assess the effectiveness of different approaches to public participation, but also to formulate scientifically based recommendations for the implementation of

⁸ Мигаль М. В. Моделі відновлення після руйнації: світові кейси для України. URL: <https://iaa.org.ua/articles/modeli-vidnovlennya-pislya-rujnacziyi-svitovi-kejsy-dlya-ukrayiny/>.

innovative mechanisms for involving citizens in recovery processes. It promotes the development of strategies that are based on best global practices, but at the same time take into account the unique challenges and needs of society in the context of post-war reconstruction.

Sociological methods allow us to study the level of civic activity, the awareness of the population about their rights and mechanisms for participation in recovery processes, as well as to assess the trust of citizens in the institutions that ensure this process.

Surveys are a key method of collecting quantitative data, which helps to obtain representative results on the attitude of the population to the legal mechanisms of public participation. They can cover a wide range of issues, in particular, the level of trust in authorities, the readiness of citizens to actively participate in recovery processes, the experience of previous interaction with state institutions and barriers that limit involvement in decision-making. Surveys can be conducted at the national, regional and local levels, which allows us to take into account the specifics of individual territories that can significantly affect the level of civic activity.

Focus group studies are an important qualitative method that allows us to better understand the motivations, expectations and problems that citizens face in the process of interacting with the authorities. They help to explore subjective factors that influence the involvement of the population in the recovery processes, including the level of political activity, trust in legal mechanisms, availability of information and assessment of the effectiveness of already implemented initiatives. Focus groups can be formed according to different criteria – age, professional, territorial or social – which allows taking into account the specifics of different population groups and identifying their needs in the field of public participation.

Expert interviews are aimed at obtaining an in-depth analysis of the issues from specialists with experience in the field of public administration, law, sociology, economics, as well as representatives of international organizations working on recovery issues. This method allows to identify problems that may remain unnoticed in mass surveys, but significantly affect the effectiveness of public participation. Expert assessments help to formulate scientifically based proposals for improving the regulatory framework, creating new participation tools and increasing the level of trust between the authorities and civil society.

Analysis of secondary data is an important addition to empirical sociological methods. It involves studying official statistics, the results of previous sociological research, reports of international organizations, analytical materials of non-governmental organizations, which allows comparing different sources of information and obtaining a more

comprehensive understanding of the situation⁹. Studying the dynamics of public participation in recovery processes allows assessing the effectiveness of implemented reforms, as well as identifying trends in citizens' attitudes towards engagement mechanisms.

Sociological research is also aimed at identifying factors that facilitate or hinder the active involvement of citizens in recovery processes. Among such factors, one can distinguish: political factors (level of democratization of society, political stability, availability of mechanisms of public control and accountability of authorities); socio-economic components (access to resources, level of employment, social stratification of the population, economic incentives for public participation in recovery processes); technological factors (level of digital literacy, access to the Internet, availability of electronic platforms for citizens' participation in decision-making); cultural and psychological aspects (level of civic awareness, readiness of the population for collective action, level of motivation and trust in state institutions).

An important aspect is also the study of the effectiveness of communication strategies used to involve the public – the role of the media, social networks, public hearings and educational campaigns in forming an active civic position and raising public awareness of their rights is studied. The impact of different communication formats on citizen engagement is assessed, in particular the effectiveness of traditional channels (television, print media) compared to digital platforms (online consultations, interactive maps, mobile applications).

Sociological methods also allow us to assess the level of inclusiveness of the public participation process – in particular, it is found out to what extent legal mechanisms contribute to the involvement of vulnerable groups of the population – internally displaced persons, veterans, persons with disabilities, youth, women and national minorities – in the recovery processes; it is analyzed what barriers prevent these categories of the population from effectively exercising their rights to participate in decision-making.

The results of sociological research are important for developing practical recommendations for improving legal mechanisms for public participation. They allow us not only to assess the formal compliance of legislation with democratic standards, but also to understand the real needs and expectations of citizens, as well as to identify gaps between the theoretical basis and the practical implementation of engagement mechanisms. Based on the data obtained, measures can be proposed to increase the level of public activity, improve communication between the authorities and society, and create a more inclusive legal environment.

⁹ Гончаренко В.В. Вектори посилення громадського впливу на публічне управління у повоєнному відновленні України. *Наукові інновації та передові технології*. 2024. № 7(35). С. 114–122.

Thus, sociological methods provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of legal mechanisms on real public participation; allow you to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the current system of public involvement and formulate scientifically based proposals for its improvement. In combination with other methodological approaches, sociological analysis contributes to increasing the effectiveness of state policy in the field of public participation in the restoration and development of strategies that meet the needs of modern society.

Content analysis of regulatory acts, restoration strategies and public involvement programs allows you to assess the compliance of legal and political documents with the real needs of society, as well as to explore trends in the formation of public participation mechanisms.

This research method is aimed at in-depth study of the content of official documents in order to identify key provisions that determine the role of the public in recovery processes. Content analysis involves systematization, categorization and quantitative or qualitative assessment of information contained in laws, government resolutions, strategies, state and municipal programs, reports of government bodies, international recommendations, as well as in public statements of officials.

One of the key aspects of the analysis is the study of the level of regulatory consolidation of the principles of openness, transparency, accountability and inclusiveness in the recovery process. It is assessed how detailed the procedures for public involvement are regulated, what mechanisms are provided for public control and monitoring of recovery processes, and whether the interests of different population groups, including vulnerable categories of citizens, are taken into account in regulatory acts.

The content analysis method also allows to identify gaps in the current legislation that may limit the effective participation of the public in the decision-making process (for example, the lack of clear criteria for conducting public consultations, insufficient regulation of feedback mechanisms between the authorities and citizens, or the lack of legal norms that guarantee the implementation of public proposals in political and administrative decisions, etc.).

In addition to analyzing the formal content of documents, it is important to study their context and implementation, which involves analyzing the practice of applying regulatory acts, assessing their effectiveness based on available data, as well as identifying discrepancies between the declared goals of the documents and their actual implementation. For example, if the strategy provides for broad public involvement in recovery, but in practice the participation mechanisms remain declarative, this indicates the need to finalize the regulatory framework or introduce additional incentives for citizen participation.

Another important direction of content analysis is the study of the relationship between national legislation and the country's international obligations in the field of public participation. International documents, such

as UN resolutions, Council of Europe recommendations, and European Union regulations that define standards for public participation in democratic governance, are analyzed. Comparing these standards with current legislation allows us to assess the degree of compliance of national legal norms with international principles and identify the need for their adaptation.

In addition, content analysis includes a study of the information environment in which public participation strategies are formed – in particular, media materials, analytical reports of public organizations, official communication materials of government bodies that cover public engagement issues are studied, which allows us to determine how transparent the communication processes between the authorities and citizens are, whether key documents regulating the recovery are accessible to the public, and how ready the authorities are to respond to public opinion.

Content analysis also allows us to identify changes in legal and political rhetoric regarding public participation over a certain period. Studying the dynamics of the development of regulatory acts and strategic documents helps to understand how the state's approach to public participation is changing and whether it is flexible enough to adapt to new challenges and needs of society.

The results of content analysis are the basis for formulating recommendations for improving the regulatory framework for public participation. They allow us to determine which aspects of legal regulation require further development, which international practices can be adapted to the national context, and which tools can be used to increase the effectiveness of interaction between authorities and society.

Thus, content analysis is a powerful tool for assessing the effectiveness of regulatory acts, strategies, and programs for public engagement. The method allows us not only to identify problems in legal regulation, but also to identify ways to solve them, which will contribute to the creation of a more transparent, open, and inclusive system for managing recovery processes.

A comprehensive combination of the outlined methods contributes to a comprehensive analysis of the regulatory framework for public participation in recovery processes, identifying gaps in current legislation, and developing recommendations for its improvement.

In particular, legal analysis allows us to assess the compliance of legal norms with international standards, identify legislative barriers, and possible ways to overcome them; provides an understanding of the extent to which the legal framework facilitates or, conversely, hinders public involvement in the decision-making process; the study of regulatory legal acts and the practice of their application helps to identify shortcomings in the current legislation, determine the need for new legal mechanisms and develop proposals for improving the legal regulation of public participation.

Comparative analysis makes it possible to study the experience of other countries in the field of public participation in recovery processes, assess the effectiveness of different models of interaction between the state and society,

and adapt best practices to the national context. The study of legislative initiatives, institutional mechanisms and strategic approaches in countries that have gone through the path of post-war recovery allows us to identify key factors for the successful involvement of citizens in these processes, which, in turn, contributes to the formation of substantiated recommendations for Ukraine, taking into account its legal, socio-economic and political specifics.

Sociological methods complement legal and comparative analysis with empirical data obtained directly from citizens, experts and government representatives. Surveys, focus groups and expert interviews allow us to assess the level of awareness of the population about their rights to participate in recovery processes, to investigate citizens' attitudes towards existing legal mechanisms and to identify the main barriers that hinder effective public activity. Analysis of the obtained sociological data helps to determine the degree of public trust in the authorities, to assess the real effectiveness of public initiatives and to develop measures to increase the level of citizen participation in recovery processes.

Content analysis of regulations, recovery strategies and public engagement programs allows us to assess the compliance of legal and political documents with the real needs of society, as well as to identify trends in the development of public participation mechanisms. Studying the content of official documents, reports of international organizations, state programs and communication materials allows us to identify the level of openness of the authorities, determine the real implementation of the declared principles of transparency and public participation, as well as assess the effectiveness of strategies for involving citizens in decision-making.

The combination of the studied methods, in our opinion, provides a comprehensive and substantiated approach to studying the regulatory and legal foundations of public participation in recovery processes. Legal and comparative analysis make it possible to assess legal regulation and international experience, sociological methods allow us to obtain empirical data on the real situation, and content analysis helps to identify trends and contradictions in the legal and political sphere.

The integrated use of the outlined methods provides a comprehensive study of the issues and allows us to develop effective mechanisms for involving the public in recovery processes. The findings of the study will contribute to increasing the level of democratization of decision-making, creating inclusive conditions for the participation of all social groups, and forming a more effective, transparent, and accountable model of governance during the recovery period.

CONCLUSIONS

The post-war reconstruction of Ukraine is a complex and multidimensional process that requires an integrated approach, taking into account economic, social, institutional and security aspects. The analysis of

theoretical approaches to reconstruction has allowed us to identify the main strategies that can be applied to ensure the sustainable development of the country after the war. Restoration includes not only the reconstruction of infrastructure, but also the modernization of the economic system, ensuring social cohesion, developing state institutions and guaranteeing security. None of the theoretical approaches (economic, social, institutional or security) can independently ensure effective restoration, the best results are achieved through a combination of elements of different strategies.

The restoration of the economy involves the modernization of production, the development of entrepreneurship, attracting investment, reforming the labor market and the introduction of digital technologies. An important aspect is ensuring the transparency of economic processes and the fight against corruption. Social stability is a key condition for successful recovery, which includes the integration of internally displaced persons, support for veterans, development of education and health sectors, ensuring equality and inclusiveness. Public administration reform, decentralization, ensuring the rule of law, digitalization of public services and development of civil society will contribute to the transparency and effectiveness of recovery.

Demining territories, reforming the security sector, combating illegal arms trafficking, developing strategic defense capabilities and ensuring cybersecurity are key areas of the security strategy. Active participation of citizens in recovery processes, control over state decisions and ensuring transparency are important factors of democratic governance. Civil society plays a key role in monitoring reconstruction, building social capital, supporting vulnerable groups and building trust between the authorities and society. To this end, it is necessary to develop clear legal mechanisms for public participation.

The analysis of the regulatory framework indicates the need to improve legislation to empower civil society, involve citizens in decision-making, and exercise effective public oversight. Creating legal mechanisms that will facilitate the active involvement of civil society organizations, volunteer initiatives, and local communities in reconstruction is a critically important task. Analysis of practices in other countries proves that successful recovery models are based on a combination of state control, public participation, international support, and decentralized governance.

The use of modern technologies, such as artificial intelligence, big data analysis, and blockchain, can significantly increase the effectiveness of recovery and promote transparency in management processes. Therefore, the successful post-war recovery of Ukraine requires a holistic strategy that combines economic, social, institutional, and security approaches. It is important to establish an effective dialogue between the state, civil society, and international partners to achieve sustainable development and long-term stability. The development of civil society as a driving force of post-war reconstruction should become a priority area of state policy, ensuring

sustainable democratization, social cohesion, and effective management of reconstruction processes.

SUMMARY

The post-war reconstruction of Ukraine is a complex and multidimensional process that encompasses economic, social, institutional, and security aspects of the state's development. Civil society plays a special role in this process, contributing to the formation of democratic, inclusive, and sustainable mechanisms for reconstruction. The study analyzes conceptual approaches to understanding post-war reconstruction, considering economic, social, institutional, and security strategies. Considerable attention is paid to the regulatory and legal framework for citizen participation in reconstruction processes, including legal mechanisms, international experience, and sociological aspects of citizen activism. Using methods of legal analysis, comparative research, sociological surveys, and content analysis, the study determines the effectiveness of legal mechanisms for involving the public in reconstruction processes. The issues of transparency, government accountability, and the role of digital technologies in ensuring public participation are highlighted. Key challenges and barriers that may limit the effectiveness of public initiatives are identified, and recommendations are developed for improving state policy in the field of interaction with civil society. The results obtained will contribute to increasing the level of civic participation, democratizing decision-making, and creating an effective governance model in the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine.

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