

# Youth activity in Non-governmental Organizations as a mean of forming social capital in Ukraine

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*This article explores how young people, being involved in NGOs, promote the formation of social capital. Youth is being involved in the activities of public organizations can show their most active social activity, and contributing to the formation of social capital society, social organization and their personal social capital which community members can use to create their future life strategies.*

Key words – social capital, NGOs, public organizations, youth, social activity, life strategies.

## I. Introduction

In developed countries, public organizations are considered as centers of accumulation, forming and realization of social capital and personal factor plays a great importance in this process. Youth is being involved in the activities of public organizations can show their most active social activity, and contributing to the formation of social capital society, social organization and their personal social capital which community members can use to create their future life strategies.

## II. Page Setup

In Ukrainian science public organizations mainly are considered in terms of their clear reference to the external environment (relationships with government agencies and issues of youth policy and the role of public organization in building civil society), but not rational personality factor which creates cooperation between people and social capital is ignored.

In the scientific research of theory of social capital most researchers distinguish two ways of analyses. The first approach interprets the social capital as the quality of the behavior of the individual, while the second approach is based on the fact that social capital is a condition of group behavior. The line of individual social capital was developed by P. Bourdieu, W. Baker, M. Granovetter and others. The theory of group social capital is represented by the concepts of R. Putnam, N. Lin, F. Fukuyama, M. Schiff.

In the context of "social capital" at individual level W. Baker and A. Portes define "social capital" as the limited resources which actors receive on the basis of their membership in a particular social organization and use them based on their interests. P. Bourdieu defined social capital as a set of actual or potential resources associated with membership in the group. For P. Bourdieu, the volume of social capital, which has given agent, depends on the size of the network connections that he can

effectively mobilize and on the volume of capital that, in turn, owns all of those associated with it. M. Granovetter notes that social capital is any manifestation of informal social organization that acts as a productive resource for individual or group.

Another group of researchers investigated social capital on the group level. Development of this theory of social capital was due to the contribution of American researcher R. Putnam. According to R. Putnam and on the basis of his researches social capital consists of active relationships between people who trust and share values between members of the networks and communities and enable and facilitate joint actions. Social networks are the backbone of this theory, a structural element of the reproduction of social capital. F. Fukuyama emphasizes on mechanisms of reproduction of social capital as religion, tradition or historical habit. Accordingly, social capital is norms, in formal norms or values that make possible collective action in groups of people. Researcher J. Coleman emphasizes that the individual, being involved in the network receives potential resources for future strategy development and support of the network and investment in it. Such scientists as M. Paldam and M. Schiff under social capital determine the relationship between the people in the group which is based on trust and joint activities, mobilize additional resources.

On the basis of on the proposed approaches, we believe it is important to highlight that social capital is not only involvement in a network, and it is activity, experience, current and potential resources that an individual acquires and simultaneously forms being involved to a certain structure. The important quality of social capital is its resources and reproducibility.

Features of forming of social capital in Ukraine are actual problems for researching, but attention of researchers is more concentrated the theoretical analysis of the subject. In Ukraine

In Ukraine works by A. Kolodiy, A. Rogozhin, Y. Saienko, V. Stepanenko, V. Chepak are devoted to the topic of social capital. A. Bova, O. Demkiv, M. Lesechko were involved in problems of its measurement. However, most works of Ukrainian scientists developed a theory because of lack of research methods, and because the issue of public organization on the background of the political situation in Ukraine is not considered relevant issue. Only A. Bova made an attempt of empirical measurement of social capital based on monitoring surveys of the Institute of Sociology of NAS of Ukraine, but it did not become systematic. This is primarily due to the fact that Ukraine has not developed methodologies studies of social capital on which could be based on and used for further study of this phenomenon, especially in different areas of society. In Ukraine, there is no complex theoretical and practical researches and comparative analysis of the social capital in youth organizations.

In 2010 in Ukraine were registered 63 thousand public organizations (official data of the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine) and the quantity of public organizations actively started to increase after the Orange Revolution. Although, now active only 3-4 thousand public organizations are

attempt, but it shows great potential for social activity and very low rates of real activity.

But we should not only consider the presence of active public organizations as a condition for successful development of social capital. Statistics shows that although Ukraine recorded a large number of public organizations, but the capacity of these organizations quickly fades away. According to the research of the Foundation "Creative Center TCK" "Status and trends of NGOs in Ukraine for 2002-2010", which was conducted with support of USAID, many organizations having run out of donors' help formally stop to carry out activity.

For this reason, in the research of social capital of public organizations it's necessary to take into account the informal factors that contribute to organization activity and focus on the human factor - members of public organizations. The basis for the research should be the following indicators: participation motivation, goals, interests, experience, knowledge and skills which members of these organizations receive being involved to public activity.

Although the work by R. Putnam «Bowling Alone: America's Declining Social Capital» said about the decline of civic activism in America, we believe this question needs to be researched from the perspective of the individual factors. In the current transformation period there is a reorganization of the social movement, emphasis and main objectives on which the formation of public associations are based. In particular, charity, volunteering movements, social networks are becoming more active and the potential of young people for uniting to common social activity never diminishes.

Analysis of youth organizations is important in terms of the place that the youth has in the social structure.

1. Youth is a large publicly-demographic group;

2 Youth is the main carrier of intellectual and physical potential of their nation. They have the ability to work in any area of human existence;

3. Young people have social and professional perspective. They are capable, quicker than other social groups, of acquiring new knowledge, professions and specialties needed in terms of restructuring, crisis and instability.

Ukrainian history shows us many examples of youth social movements which contributed to the consolidation and unification of our nation, and certain social changes. The most noticeable among them are the "Battle of Kruty" where 300 students from Kiev were fighting for Ukrainian statehood, "Revolution on granite" was organized by organization "Student Brotherhood", "Ukraine without Kuchma" in which a large number of participants' public organizations protest against the

government, a lot of different community members protested during the Orange Revolution, and more. However, there are other non-political events of representatives of youth organizations that promote the formation of Ukrainian culture, traditions, confidence in the state.

## Conclusion

The need to enhance social activities of public organizations in Ukraine demands comprehensive case study and monitoring of public organizations in Ukraine and how they contribute to the formation of social capital in Ukraine. The emphasis is made on members of public organizations who are the foundation of the organization.

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