

УДК 340.1

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17721/3041-1912.2024/2-5/11>

Tetiana DERUN, PhD in of Science in Public Administration  
 ORCID ID: 0000-0001-9089-2206  
 e-mail: DerunTatiana@knu.ua  
 Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Kyiv, Ukraine

## STRUCTURE, FORMATION AND CAUSES OF CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

**Background.** Civil society is an environment where a modern person satisfies his needs legally, develops his individuality, comes to an awareness of the value of group actions and social solidarity; that is, these are the living conditions of people in which their individual interests are realized and where there is no place for subordination.

**Methods.** The research methods used are modern general and special methods of scientific research, including, in particular: analysis was used to process scientific and analytical sources; inductive and deductive - to analyze and summarize information on the subject of the study; forecasting and synthesis methods were used to formulate conclusions and recommendations based on the results of the study.

**Results.** It is noted that the forms of associations that make up the structure of civil society and characterize the diversity of its social practices reflect the broadest palette of economic, legal, family, cultural and other needs and interests of people (social groups), are created exclusively with the aim of satisfying or fulfilling their diverse interests. It is justified that the goal of civil society is to achieve freedom as a condition and way of self-existence of a person as an active and full member of the community. It turned out that the result of the functioning of civil society is, on the one hand, the development and complication of various social relations and ties (economic, social, spiritual and cultural, information, political and legal, etc.), and on the other hand, the improvement of a person himself, becoming him equal and responsible participant in this society, the development of creative and professional potential of the person.

**Conclusions.** It has been established that civil society has its core institutions, the task of which is to maintain and daily clarify the boundaries of civil society with the state through the expansion of social equality and freedom, restructuring and democratization of state institutions. It is determined that the conditions for the functioning of civil society are publicity and the associated wide awareness of citizens, the existence of constitutional guarantees for its existence and the development of relevant legislation. Civil society is considered as a natural space of social interaction, as a free, democratic, pluralistic, legal society, the purpose and center of which is a person (personality) with his private interests and aspirations, a system of relations in which human rights are the highest value.

**Keywords:** civil society, state, civil society institutions, social institutions, democratization.

### Background

Consolidation of democracy, irreversibility of democratic transformations, symmetrical and effective responses to threats to the country's security, progress in reforms of European integration – all this would be impossible in Ukraine without the development and strengthening of civil society, increasing the institutional capacity of non-governmental organizations, and the active introduction of volunteer initiatives. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of public organizations, their activities are aimed at solving various public problems, protecting the interests of various public groups. The volunteer movement, public initiatives on comprehensive support for reforms, countering corruption, assistance to the army and internally displaced persons are actively developing. New challenges to the development and security of Ukraine give rise to symmetrical public initiatives developed to change the situation on the basis of open communication, dialogue and responsible leadership. Therefore, the purpose of the article is to highlight the peculiarities of the formation of civil society, the factors of its development in today's conditions. In order to achieve the goal, it is necessary to investigate the positions of scientists regarding the formation and development of civil society and to determine opportunities for optimal functioning and interaction of civil society institutions. It is worth emphasizing that the relevance of studying the factors of the development of civil society is conditioned by the need for a theoretical understanding of the role and functional characteristics of its institutions, clarification of the interests and needs of citizens, balancing of state power and influence on the democratic development of Ukraine.

### Results

Indeed, civil society is a complex system that provides for the interaction of organized entities – people, groups, collectives, communities and their associations; and this interaction determines the unification of people according to social-group, organizational and settlement principles (Vasyliev, Vodnik, Volianska, 2013). In addition, the specificity of organizations that are part of the structure of civil society is that they are created not by the state, but by the citizens themselves, enterprises, corporations and exist autonomously from it, although in accordance with the requirements of the current legislation. But it is important that the primary and main subject of this community is still a free individual, not a citizen, because civil society is a non-political community of individuals.

All forms of associations that constitute the structure of civil society and characterize the diversity of its social practices reflect the broadest palette of economic, legal, family, cultural and other needs and interests of people (social groups), are created exceptionally with the aim of satisfying or fulfilling their diverse interests. Civil society is an environment where a modern person legally satisfies his needs, develops his individuality, comes to an awareness of the value of group actions and social solidarity; that is, these are the living conditions of people in which their particular interests are realized and where there is no place for subordination. It should also be noted that civil society is a sphere of free, autonomous activity in which individual and collective subjects operate, pursuing their private goals and interests, and the relationship between them is not mediated by public power. It is a society in

which everyone becomes equally free, with intrinsic and non-derogable rights.

However, some researchers note that civil society should not be interpreted as the antithesis of the state or insist on their absolute independence, because these are interconnected socio-legal phenomena, a kind of tandem, where the leading role belongs to civil society, which acts as a source of statehood. The state, in turn, has certain active influences on civil society, which should be correlated with the specifics of social ties, the level of their maturity and the nature of the culture of society (Opalko, 2018).

So, most modern interpretations of the essence of civil society allow us to argue that this is a human community that is formed and developed in democratic states and is represented by a combination of non-state relations (economic, social, political, ethnic, spiritual and cultural, confessional, legal, information, organizational, etc.) and a network of non-state structures voluntarily created in different spheres of life – formations, organizations, unions, associations, clubs, centers, foundations, etc. Considering civil society as a certain self-regulating social system and the main component of which is "people – relationships," it is appropriate to distinguish its following characteristics: purpose, principles and results.

The purpose of civil society is to achieve freedom – the conditions and way of self-existence of a person as an active and full member of a community, "the one among equals," capable of formulating value guidelines and exercising its diverse interests according to the norms and rules established in society. As for the civil society of modern Ukraine, its purpose is to protect the unalienable rights and liberties of the person, to ensure its intrinsic and social needs and interests, which correlates accordingly with the constitutionally proclaimed main purpose of an independent democratic Ukrainian state (Hural, 2013).

As for the formation of civil society in our country at present, the President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) Oliver Röpke noted that "even before the start of this war, we had a lot of contacts with civilian organizations in Ukraine. I was amazed at how dynamic and alive your civil society is, with all these open debates and discussions. It is very important that even the war did not make fundamental changes to this. I know that in a state of emergency, you have many restrictions that are not always fully perceived by public organizations or labour organizations. But it is important that this dialogue exists, and it is it that is the basis of sustainability and social unity in Ukraine" (Living Civil..., 2023)

The most significant principles of civil society have developed historically and are formulated by scientists as its common ideas: firstly, economic freedom, a variety of forms of ownership and market relations; secondly, explicit recognition and protection of intrinsic human and civil rights, which implies equal protection of the law; thirdly, openness and self-regulation; fourthly, the development of democracy as a political ideal and mechanism for the functioning of this system; fifthly, the existence (development) of a legal state based on the idea of the rule of law, the principles of separation and interaction of branches of government and non-interference of the state in privacy.

At last, the result of the functioning of civil society is, on the one hand, the development and complication of various social relations and ties – economic, social, spiritual and cultural, information, political and legal (on the border with

the "field" of the state), etc., and on the other – improving the person himself, becoming his equal and responsible participant in this community, developing the creative and professional potential of a person who is ready to fulfill his duties and respect the rights of others.

The modern democratic, legal state ideally tries to satisfy the interests and aspirations of its citizens as much as possible, but their diversity in society is so differentiated that the state cannot get full information on them practically. It follows that one of the most important tasks of some civil society institutions is to inform the state about the specific needs and interests of people, which can be met only by the forces and at the expense of the state itself (Fundamentals of Democracy, 2002).

It should be emphasized that civil society has its core institutions, namely:

1. Voluntary associations outside the state and economy, church, cultural associations, sports clubs and debating communities, academies, citizens' societies, organizations on gender, sex, race, professions, labour organizations and political parties (in the exercise of power, political parties remain a link between power institutions and civil society);
2. Independent media serving public needs and interests that set and publicize public opinion; public opinion as a social institution;
3. Elections and referendums as a means of forming and expressing the will of public opinion and protecting group interests;
4. Components of the judicial and law enforcement system dependent on the public (jury trials, people's guard, etc.) (Fundamentals of Democracy, 2002).

The task of these institutions is to maintain and daily clarify the boundaries of civil society with the state through two processes: expanding social equality and freedom, restructuring and democratization of state institutions.

It is about finding consensus between different, national, social, political forces regarding the main values that are basic for the development of democracy. Without such agreement, there can be no question of social stability and successful implementation of structural reforms.

It is important not only to note the need and role of civil society in the implementation of the principles of democracy, but also to reveal its effective capabilities, because the main function of civil society is to satisfy the material, social and spiritual needs of individuals in the maximum extent. First of all, this is manifested in ensuring social freedom, democratic public administration, the existence of a public sphere of political activity and public political discussions. A free citizen is the basis of civil society and social freedom creates an opportunity for self-realization of a person in it.

An important condition for the functioning of civil society is publicity and the associated wide awareness of citizens, which makes it possible to assess objectively the political and economic situation, see social problems and take the necessary measures to solve them. Finally, a significant condition for the successful functioning of civil society is the existence of constitutional guarantees for its existence and the development of relevant legislation (Civil Society, 2018).

Currently each democratic country has many public organizations within the structure of civil society. Public organizations are essentially voluntary formations, formalized amateur (non-governmental), non-profitable

associations of citizens aimed at realizing various common interests and protecting collective rights. They protect a person from state pressure, consolidate society around acute problems, creating grounds for social integration; they can be formed both on the basis of general social integrating interests, and in respect of specific problems of the region, city or on the basis of the unification of individual professional groups (for example, unions of entrepreneurs, lawyers, scientists; guild of actors of cinema, theater). These are also national and cultural organizations, charitable foundations, public associations aimed at preserving the ecology and the environment, restoring monuments of great cultural significance, human rights groups (against the censure of innocent, political repression), etc. (Pukhkal, 2013).

It should be noted that the socio-political sphere of civil society includes a variety of socio-political organizations and movements that reveal themselves in certain forms of citizen activity (rallies, meetings, demonstrations, strikes, pickets); public self-government bodies at the place of residence or in labor collectives; non-state (so-called free) media. Organizations and associations of the socio-political sphere of civil society are created and operate, like its subjects, on the basis of public initiative.

After all, one of the most pressing issues is the interaction of the state and civil society. It arises together with the emergence of civil society itself. Obviously, civil society and a democratic state constantly meet each other halfway: this is how the function of public dialogue with the state happens. Statehood itself is impossible without its natural basis – a civil society that forms and legitimizes the entire political system. Social integration involves cohesion, unification, consolidation of social entities and forces into a single whole in order to achieve common goals – protecting human rights and freedoms, strengthening statehood, overcoming the crisis, restoring stability, etc. However, an analysis of the current political situation, public discussions of scientists and politicians shows that the state and public institutions supposedly converge – to unite Ukrainian society, but the understanding of the mechanisms of social integration and internal interaction in them is different.

Civil society defines relevant interests and appeals to the state with its demands, requests and initiatives requiring state support (primarily financial, legal and political). The state can move towards society in various forms: the study of public initiatives (their maintenance or disapproval), the legal regulation of the actions of public associations, the allocation of material funds for the development of the activity of organizations, funds, subsidies to maintain socially vulnerable groups of the population, etc. To do this, the system of government structures has special bodies for cooperation with civil society organizations, the directions and forms of activity of which are diverse: registration of these organizations, assistance (consultations, financing), creation of favorable conditions for functioning, etc. (Inclusive Democracy, 2015).

Civil society is one of the powerful levers in the system of checks and balances for the desire of state power for absolute domination. To fulfill this mission, the community of a democratic country has a lot of means: active participation in election campaigns and referendums, the corresponding formation of public opinion (in particular, through independent media), the organization of "resistance campaigns, disobedience" to introduce certain

unpopular events by the state, etc. So, any society is directly interested in the quantitative and qualitative growth of public initiative, the branching of these structures at the national, regional and local levels, the expansion of "spheres of coverage" by public activity, since this is a real mechanism of real, and not artificial social control over the activities of the state, political establishment, "elite power" (Pukhkal, 2010).

Civil society, being formed and organized independently, still needs state support in the future. Therefore, its representatives actively participate in the work of state bodies, especially at the stage of preparing socio-political decisions, and organizations or associations actively interact with the state in different ways.

The state, in turn, is also objectively interested in harmonious interaction with civil society. This is explained by the following: – civil society is a source of legitimacy of the political force that is in power; – contacts with public organizations become a large-scale source of information for the state about social processes, the structure of interests, the mood of people and the nature of attitude towards the dominant elite; – among civil society organizations there are many providing financial assistance to the state itself (associations of banks, unions of entrepreneurs, businessmen, etc.); man-made disasters) civil society, as a rule, becomes a powerful force supporting the state.

So, civil society is a natural space of social interaction, structurally consisting of different institutions – public associations and movements, public communication; a form of unity of a wide range of non-state entities directing their actions to "remove" the state and strengthen public influence. This is a free, democratic, pluralistic, legal society, the purpose and center of which is a person (personality) with his private interests and aspirations, a system of relations in which human rights are the highest value.

### Discussion and Conclusions

Civil society is an environment where a modern person legally satisfies his needs, develops his individuality, comes to an awareness of the value of group actions and social solidarity; it is a sphere of free, autonomous activity, in which individual and collective actors operate, pursuing their private goals and interests, and the relationship between them is not mediated by public power; this is a society in which everyone becomes equally free, possessing intrinsic and non-derogable rights.

The successful development of society and the country depends on the completeness of the implementation of the rights and freedoms of every person. In response to the free choice of life path, will, energy, responsible actions, people create civil society as a certain system of all complex and diverse social relations: political, economic, legal, confessional, cultural, ethnic, etc. The recognition, observance and protection of human rights and freedoms is the main purpose and important tool of a democratic rule of law state, striving to ensure the welfare, dignity, security of society, the country's high competitiveness in the world community, state, public institutions and local self-government bodies. An important indicator of the activities of civil society institutions is the degree of development of public initiative and self-government. The optimization of the functioning and interaction of civil society institutions should ensure the implementation of the public initiative of the population by: the awareness of citizens that the only

source and supreme bearer of power is the people, that the power of the state, its sovereignty is derived from the sovereignty of the people and should serve it, and officials act to meet the needs of the people, and not vice versa. The implementation of these measures is aimed at the formation of free and responsible citizens, the rule of law state and the social movement, which will contribute to Ukraine to become a full partner in the world community with effective economic relations, high educational, cultural and spiritual potential.

#### References

Vasyl'iev, H. Yu., Vodnik, V. D. & Volians'ka, O. V. (2013). Civil society: political and socio-legal development problems, *Pravo*, Kharkiv [in Ukrainian].

Iiko Kucheriv «Democratic Initiatives» foundation (2018). Civil society in 2018: new tasks and challenges. <https://dif.org.ua/article/gromadyanske-suspilstvo-v-ukraini-riven-rozvitu-aktivnosti-blagodiynosti/> (Accessed 30 Aug 2023).

Hural', P. F. (2013). Civil society and the state in Ukraine: interaction and development. *Chasopys Kyiv'skoho universytetu prava*, 3, 13–16 [in Ukrainian].

Stavniyshchuk, M. I., Kulyk, V. O. & Mudrak, L. M. (2015). Participatory democracy in Ukraine. The state of implementation of the state policy of promoting the development of civil society, HO "Za demokratii cherez pravo", Kyiv [in Ukrainian].

Ukrinform (2023). A vibrant civil society is the basis of Ukraine's stability. <https://www.ukrinform.ua/rubric-society/3742835-zive-gromadanske-suspilstvo-e-osnovou-styjnosti-ukraini-prezident-eesc.html> (Accessed 30 Aug 2023).

Kalinichenko, M. (2012). Social management in the context of self-regulation of the country's social organism, *Prosvita*, Zaporizhzhia [in Ukrainian].

Opal'ko, Yu. V. (2018). Prospects for improving the constitutional foundations of civil society in the process of reforming the Constitution of Ukraine, NISS. <http://old2.niss.gov.ua/articles/1147/> (Accessed 30 Aug 2023).

Bessonova, M., Biriukov, O. & Bondaruk, S. (2002). *Basics of democracy*. Akad. ped. nauk Ukrayny, In-t vysch. osvity. Aj Bi, Kyiv, 19–50 [in Ukrainian].

Pukhkal, O. H. (2013). The role of public organizations in the formation and development of civil society in Ukraine, *Ekonomika ta derzhava*, 4, 91–93 [in Ukrainian].

Pukhkal, O. H. (2010). *Modernization of state administration in the context of the development of civil society in Ukraine*, Vyadvn.-polihraf. Tsentr "Kyiv. Un-t" [in Ukrainian].

Отримано редакцію журналу / Received: 06.03.24  
Прорецензовано / Revised: 03.04.24  
Схвалено до друку / Accepted: 17.03.24

Тетяна ДЕРУН, канд. наук з держ. упр., доц.

ORCID ID: 0000-0001-9089-2206

e-mail: DerunTatiana@knu.ua

Київський національний університет імені Тараса Шевченка, Київ, Україна

## СТРУКТУРА, ФОРМУВАННЯ ТА ФАКТОРИ РОЗВИТКУ ГРОМАДЯНСЬКОГО СУСПІЛЬСТВА

**Вступ.** Громадянське суспільство є тим середовищем, в якому сучасна людина законним шляхом задовольняє свої потреби, розвиває свою індивідуальність, приходить до усвідомлення цінності групових акцій і суспільної солідарності; тобто це умови життя людей, в яких відбувається реалізація їх партікулярних інтересів і де немає місця субординації.

**Методи.** Методами дослідження є сучасні загальні та спеціальні методи наукового пізнання, серед яких зокрема: аналіз було використано для опрацювання наукових та аналітичних джерел; індуктивний та дедуктивний – для аналізу й узагальнення інформації з тематики дослідження; прогнозування та синтезу застосовувались в ході формулювання висновків та рекомендацій за підсумками дослідження.

**Результати.** Зазначено, що форми об'єднань, що складають структуру громадянського суспільства і характеризують багатоманітність його соціальних практик, відображають найширшу палітру господарських, правових, сімейних, культурних та інших потреб інтересів людей (соціальних груп), створюються єдино з метою задоволення чи реалізації їх різноманітних інтересів. Обґрутовано, що мета громадянського суспільства полягає в досягненні свободи як умови і способу самоіснування людини як активаціоного та повноправного члена спітвовариства. З'ясовано, що результатом функціонування громадянського суспільства є, з одного боку, розвиток та ускладнення різноманітних суспільних відносин і зв'язків (економічних, соціальних, духовно-культурних, інформаційних, політичних і правових тощо), а з другого – вдосконалення самої людини, становлення її рівноправним і відповідальним учасником цього спітвовариства, розвиток творчого і професійного потенціалу особистості. Встановлено, що громадянське суспільство має своє ядро інститутів, завдання яких полягає у підтримці та щоденному уточненні меж громадянського суспільства з державою через розширення соціальної рівності та свободи, реструктуризації і демократизації інститутів держави.

**Висновки.** Визначено, що умовами функціонування громадянського суспільства є гласність і пов'язана з нею широка поінформованість громадян, наявність конституційних гарантій щодо його існування і розроблення відповідного законодавства. Громадянське суспільство розглядається як природний простір соціальної взаємодії, як вільне, демократичне, плюралістичне, правове суспільство, метою і центром якого постає людина (особистість) з її приватними інтересами і сподіваннями, система відносин, в якій найвищою цінністю є права людини.

**Ключові слова:** громадянське суспільство, держава, інститути громадянського суспільства, соціальні інститути, демократизація.

Автор заявляє про відсутність конфлікту інтересів. Спонсори не брали участі в розробленні дослідження; у зборі, аналізі чи інтерпретації даних; у написанні рукопису; в рішенні про публікацію результатів.

The author declare no conflicts of interest. The funders had no role in the design of the study; in the collection, analyses or interpretation of data; in the writing of the manuscript; in the decision to publish the results.