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Ukrainian volunteer movement and development of civil society (2014 – February 2022)

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Abstract. The volunteer movement, which was formed after the Revolution of Dignity, played a significant role in the transformation of socio-political processes in Ukraine, as well as in the repulsion of Russian aggression since 2014 and social protection of the population, in particular internally displaced persons, as well as its importance in the formation of civil society in Ukraine is insufficiently studied. The purpose of the work was to highlight the role of the volunteer movement in the formation of civil society in Ukraine, starting with the Revolution of Dignity, when radical changes took place in various spheres of life in Ukrainian society, and before the beginning of the full-scale invasion of the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine. The following methods of scientific knowledge were used in the work: theoretical analysis, synthesis, historical method, as well as analysis of scientific publications. It was established that by the end of 2013, the volunteer movement, despite some support from the state, including its legislative regulation, developed rather slowly, as did the institution of civil society in Ukraine. It was found that the events of the Euromaidan and the Revolution of Dignity led to transformational processes in the socio-political and socio-economic life of the country, finally forming the institution of civil society and had a decisive influence on the rise of the volunteer movement in Ukraine. The process of mass creation of public associations, including charitable and volunteer organizations, was investigated. The participation of representatives of the volunteer movement in comprehensive support of the participants of the anti-terrorist operation and the civilian population, in particular internally displaced persons, environmental protection, charitable activities and educational work was summarized. The practical value of the work lies in the fact that the author comprehensively investigated the role of the volunteer movement in the establishment and development of civil society in Ukraine, and its results can be used by public associations in the organization of volunteer work

Keywords: anti-terrorist operation; charitable activity; internally displaced persons; volunteer organizations; civil society; public associations; Revolution of Dignity

Introduction

The volunteer movement in Ukraine in the modern sense was established with the country's independence. However, the activities of volunteers in the first two decades of Ukraine's modern history were mainly

limited to providing assistance to socially vulnerable groups, environmental protection, and implementing various educational projects. The Euromaidan and Revolution of Dignity events, and especially the war in eastern

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Ukraine, have taken the development of the volunteer movement to a new level, bringing together millions of people and becoming one of the most important factors in the formation of civil society in Ukraine. It was in the post-Maidan period that the volunteer movement in Ukraine took shape in its current form. The Ukrainian public and government are aware of the significant assistance provided by volunteers in the fight against the full-scale Russian military invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022. It was the public and state interest that led to the need for a scientific study of the volunteer movement in Ukraine in 2014-2021. At that time, volunteers not only provided substantial assistance to Ukrainian soldiers and civilians, they became an integral part of Ukraine's resistance to Russian aggression, contributed to socio-political and socio-economic transformations in our country, and united Ukrainian society around the ideas of democracy and Ukraine's European choice.

The study is timely because of the importance of the assistance provided by volunteers to the Armed Forces of Ukraine in 2014-2021 and to civilians during the second period of the Russian-Ukrainian war, which began in February 2022, as the Ukrainian army was virtually destroyed by the previous regime of V. Yanukovych in 2014, lacking the most basic necessities, including household items, and state institutions were unable to provide the army with full supplies. Instead, the comprehensiveness of the study of the volunteer movement in Ukraine in 2014-2022 was due to the need to improve the forms and methods of work of volunteer organisations, which they have been carrying out since the beginning of Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine.

Finally, the relevance of the chosen research topic is also due to the fact that it was the volunteer movement that played a decisive role in the victory of the Revolution of Dignity, the final formation of the democratic vector of the country's development, and the defence of the Motherland in the most critical period of its history, when in the spring of 2014 the fate of our country and its European choice was decided, when it was thanks to volunteers whose activities were supported by millions of Ukrainians that the Ukrainian army received all the necessary equipment and stopped Russian aggression, and the forced migrants were able to resettle in the eastern regions of Ukraine. In addition, volunteers actively participated in the processes of state-building, socio-economic and socio-political transformations in our country. Thanks to volunteers, Ukraine survived as a state in 2014 and 2022.

The volunteer movement problem in Ukraine in the context of civil society development has always attracted the attention of many scholars, politicians, public and cultural figures, and journalists. For example, O. Bakovetska (2020), considering the formation of the volunteer movement in Ukraine at the beginning of the 21st century, analysed the reasons for the intensification of volunteer activity, linking them to the

Revolution of Dignity and the outbreak of hostilities in eastern Ukraine, and, based on statistical data, identified priority areas of activity of volunteer and charitable organisations. A similar opinion was shared by O. Nagornyuk (2020), who believes that the end of 2013 – beginning of 2014 was the culmination of the rise of the volunteer movement in Ukraine, which became the driving force behind social transformations in our country. The process of establishing volunteer organisations in Ukraine was examined on the example of Odesa Region. Various aspects of volunteer activity, primarily assistance to the military and internally displaced persons, as well as legal regulation of the establishment of volunteer organisations, were discussed in a recently published collective manual edited by V. Vashkovich *et al.* (2022). However, the role of volunteerism in the development of civil society in Ukraine was not covered in this study. Researcher O. Golovko (2023) in an article focused on the main stages of the volunteer movement development in Ukraine since 1991, believing that in the period from the end of 2013 to 2016, the volunteer movement became part of civil society, while the main reason for the intensification of volunteer activity in Ukraine was the Russian armed aggression that began in 2014. The volunteer movement as a component of civil society was considered in the article by L. Zhuzha (2019) through the prism of civil society functions, taking into account the factor of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO), which had a decisive impact on the rise of volunteer activity in Ukraine. The author also emphasised the fact that the volunteer movement as a component of civil society has taken over some of the functions of the state, especially in providing for combatants, thus turning the civil society institution into a partner of the state. Finally, the Analytical Report (National Institute for Strategic Studies, 2021) dedicated to the development of civil society in Ukraine in 1991-2011, prepared by the team of authors of the National Institute for Strategic Studies, examined certain aspects of the development of the volunteer movement, in particular, the problems of legal regulation of volunteer and charitable activities. At the same time, the authors of the publication did not highlight the main areas of volunteer activity. Thus, the issue of development of the volunteer movement in Ukraine and its impact on the formation of civil society is currently insufficiently studied. Therefore, the purpose of this article was to analyse the experience of volunteer organisations in Ukraine during the first period of the Russian-Ukrainian war and their impact on the development of civil society. This study was based on the identification of the main aspects of both the volunteer movement and the development of civil society and the cause-and-effect relationship between the rise of the volunteer movement and the formation of civil society and the formation of a modern national outlook aimed at national and European choice.



■ Literature Review

The issue of the impact of the volunteer movement on the formation of civil society in Ukraine has attracted the attention of many national researchers. Among them, it is worth highlighting the works of D.M. Gorelov & O.A. Kornievskiy (2015), especially the analytical report issued by the National Institute for Strategic Studies in 2015. Analysing the foreign experience of volunteer movement development and the specifics of its application in Ukraine, the authors of the analytical report considered the volunteer movement in Ukraine through the prism of countering external aggression, and also assessed the legal support of volunteer activity in Ukraine.

The general aspects of the volunteer movement development and its impact on social transformations in Ukraine in the post-Maidan period have been reflected in the works of many researchers. Thus, the publication of V. Bolotova *et al.* (2018), was devoted to the development of the volunteer movement in Ukraine as a type of social activity, revealed the main directions and forms of volunteer activity, analysed the process of the volunteer movement's growth in Ukraine in the context of hostilities in the East of Ukraine, and the role of volunteers in supporting socially vulnerable groups (disabled people, the elderly, children, orphans, etc.). The materials of this publication are based on a sociological survey conducted among Kharkiv residents to identify their volunteer activity. The researcher O. Golovko (2023) focused on the historical and legal aspects of the formation and development of the volunteer movement in Ukraine, identified the main stages of development of this social phenomenon, while, according to the author, with the stabilisation of the internal and external situation in Ukraine during 2017-2021, there was a decrease in the interest of citizens in volunteering. The article by L. Zhuzha (2019) examined the development of civil society in Ukraine under the influence of the anti-terrorist operation, the role of volunteers in supporting the military, with the main focus on the functions of civil society, the basic of which, according to the author, were social, economic and military functions. According to M. Matyash (2017), one of the most important consequences of the Revolution of Dignity was the emergence of the volunteer movement. This publication highlighted the development of the volunteer movement in the world and in Ukraine, and the author concluded that until the end of 2013, the volunteer movement in Ukraine, compared to other countries, was developing rather poorly (as of 2010, no more than 5% of the population was engaged in volunteer work in our country), but the events of Euromaidan and the Revolution of Dignity led to an increase in volunteer activity. The occupation of Crimea by Russian federation and the outbreak of hostilities in the East of Ukraine have brought the development of the volunteer movement in Ukraine as a component of civil

society to a new level. Instead, the researcher G. Zhekalo (2015) in an article emphasised that since 2014, the volunteer movement in Ukraine has become one of the most important forms of self-organisation of the population, which was manifested first in providing all the necessary supplies to tent camps, and later in repelling Russian aggression, including through the organisation and support of volunteer battalions.

The political direction of the volunteer movement as an institution of civil society was the subject of a study by M. Kudrya (2018). The author analysed the volunteer movement as a factor of self-organisation of society, noting that it was volunteer activity that contributed to the transformation of civil society in Ukraine, which was based on volunteering. After the events of Euromaidan and the Revolution of Dignity, the volunteer movement gradually turned into an influential foundation of Ukrainian society, spreading the Ukrainian national idea and Ukraine's European choice and fighting against Ukrainophobic propaganda, and 2014, according to the author, was the year of birth of Ukrainian volunteering.

The study of the general principles and main problems of the development of the volunteer movement in the post-Maidan period was devoted to the publications by O. Pankova *et al.* (2016). In particular, the collective work examined the main problems of the development of the volunteer movement in Ukraine in 2014-2015 and ways to overcome them, as well as the peculiarities of attracting the necessary social resources for volunteering. In turn, the article by A. Matyichyk (2016) focused on the development of the volunteer movement in Ukraine in 2014-2015, which, according to the author, acquired signs of institutionalisation during this period. G. Melnychuk (2018), emphasising the role of the volunteer movement in strengthening civil society, drew attention to the activities of volunteer organisations in the context of an effective tool for influencing the authorities and their interaction with state bodies.

Finally, foreign experience in the development of volunteering as a component of civil society was considered in the work of M. Strepko (2018). Using the example of Germany, the author examined the development of volunteerism in foreign countries as an institution of civil society, noting that, unlike Ukraine, where the main driving force of volunteer organisations was young people, in Germany a significant part of the volunteer movement was made up of people of retirement age.

At the same time, it should be noted that the events of the Revolution of Dignity and the initial stage of the ATO occupied the central place in most publications on the development of the volunteer movement in the context of the transformation of Ukrainian society, while the activities of volunteer organisations and the role of the volunteer movement in the formation of civil society before the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia are insufficiently studied.

Materials and Methods

The materials used in the study consist of the legal acts Law of Ukraine No. 3236-VI (2011), Law of Ukraine No. 5073-VI (2012), Law of Ukraine No. 4572-VI (2012), as well as analytical studies (Kornievskyi, 2015), publications in online media, as well as analysis and systematisation of materials from the public websites of the then known volunteer organisations "Come Back Alive", "Phoenix Wings", "Army SOS", "Peoples Project", "Home Front", and published scientific works described in the previous section, which became the basis for this study, made it possible to determine the place of volunteers and the volunteer movement in the history of Ukraine as a component of civil society and the role of volunteers in the current Russian-Ukrainian war.

The interdisciplinary approach used in the study, based on the involvement of various scientific disciplines such as political science and sociology, allowed for a deeper and more comprehensive analysis of the volunteer movement in Ukraine in the period of 2014-2020. The comparative historical method allowed for a comparison of the dynamics of the development of volunteer and charitable organisations in the historical context at the initial stage of the formation of civil society. In collecting materials for the study, the heuristic method was used, which involves a systematic search for new data and publications of domestic research by leading scholars, contributing to a deeper understanding and analysis of the issues and the need for scientific research of the volunteer movement and its impact on the development of civil society. To help the reader understand the volunteer movement in Ukraine as a European phenomenon, the author used the method of historical retrospective to reveal the origins of the volunteer movement in Europe and Ukraine. The study also highlighted the circumstances of the formation of the volunteer movement in Ukraine in 1991-2013, as well as the activities of the first volunteer organisations in the country. Using the sociological method, a social and age profile of participation in these organisations by representatives of different social strata and age groups was also conducted. Using the problematic and chronological research methods, the author established the circumstances of the intensification of the volunteer movement in Ukraine in 2013-2016, examined the legal regulation of volunteer organisations, determined the content and nature of their activities, and revealed the forms and methods of work of volunteer organisations, showed their relations with public authorities and local self-government bodies, and identified the reasons for the decline in the activity of Ukrainian volunteers in 2016-2019. In turn, using the analytical method, the study found out how well-known volunteers became advisers to ministers and members of parliament, and also found out their desire to apply their experience in public service. Using the comparative and statistical methods, the article compared statistical data on the number of volunteers in the leading

countries of modern Europe and Ukraine, which made it possible to compare the quantitative component of the volunteer movement, gender and age profile, as well as to trace the cause and effect of the number of people involved in the volunteer movement and their impact on the development of civil society.

The use of such methods of historical research as analytical, chronological, sociological and historical retrospective allowed the author to highlight the development of the volunteer movement in Ukraine in 2014-2021 both comprehensively and in its individual components, namely, volunteer organisations, activities of famous volunteers, legislative support and the relationship of volunteers with the state authorities as a continuous process of scientific knowledge of the development of civil society during this period. Nevertheless, the applied principle of historicism allowed the author to establish the historical truth based on facts, determining the place of factors influencing the historical process in the formation of the volunteer movement in 2014-2021.

Results and Discussion

The volunteer movement in Ukraine was established after the country gained its independence. Representatives of a small number of Ukrainian and international volunteer organisations provided comprehensive social assistance to the population, worked in the fields of education, science, culture, environmental protection, etc. At the same time, in the early 2000s, there was a legislative regulation of volunteer activity. A number of legal acts were adopted that enshrined the status of a volunteer at the state level, including the following, Law of Ukraine No. 3236-VI "On Volunteering" (2011). After the adoption of this law, a number of legal acts were amended to treat volunteers as equal subjects of civil relations. Also, the Law of Ukraine No. 4572-VI "On Public Associations" (2012), the Law of Ukraine No. 5073-VI "On Charitable Activities and Charitable Organisations" (2012) and other legal acts were adopted.

At the same time, by the end of 2013, the volunteer movement in Ukraine, despite some legislative support from the state, was not particularly active, new civil society organisations were being established rather slowly, and civil society itself, which was still in its infancy, faced all sorts of obstacles from the V. Yanukovich regime, which was increasingly inclined towards authoritarianism. The 2012 elections to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, when pro-government candidates, especially those from the Party of Regions of Ukraine, won a majority, particularly in single-member constituencies, due to significant fraud, only confirmed this trend. The government's abandonment of the European integration course and the economic and political rapprochement of the V. Yanukovich regime with Russia, on the one hand, led to mass protests in late 2013, and on the other hand, played a crucial role in the further development of

the volunteer movement and the establishment of the foundations of civil society in Ukraine.

It was the events of Euromaidan and the Revolution of Dignity that sparked the rise of volunteerism and civic engagement in Ukraine, with millions of people across the country protesting against the authoritarianism and pro-Russian policies of V. Yanukovich. The beating of students by Berkut on the night of 29-30 November 2013 shook the whole country. The Euromaidan, which later grew into the Revolution of Dignity, eventually led to the fall of the then-president's criminal regime. In turn, volunteers played a major role in supporting the Maidan, providing its participants with everything they needed such as hot meals, warm clothes, medicines, etc. And during the events of 18-20 February 2014, thanks to the efforts of volunteers, the evacuation of wounded protesters was organised. In this regard, it can be stated that the Maidan, as well as the volunteer movement of that period, evolved from the people and received the support of the majority of the country's population. At the same time, volunteers provided assistance to the Maidan participants free of charge, on a voluntary basis and on the basis of "a kind of mutual assistance" M. Matyash (2017), O. Nagornyuk (2020).

A comprehensive study of the rise of the volunteer movement during the revolutionary events of late 2013 and early 2014 is available in the research conducted by G. Zhekalo (2015). The author concludes that since 2014, the volunteer movement in Ukraine has become one of the most important forms of self-organisation of the population, which manifested itself in the material support of tent cities throughout the country (provision of food, medicines, household items), "personal performance of social, educational, medical, informational work", as well as in the defence of the country from Russian mercenaries and illegal armed groups in the East of Ukraine, when thousands of Maidan Self-Defence participants and other citizens joined volunteer battalions to fight against external and internal threats (Kornievskiy, 2015).

Volunteer activity intensified especially with the occupation of Crimea by Russia and the outbreak of hostilities in eastern Ukraine in spring 2014. At the same time, the volunteer movement covered all spheres of socio-political, socio-economic and humanitarian life of the country, and in many cases, former participants of the Revolution of Dignity became the organisers and active figures of the volunteer movement. In the following months, tens of thousands of Ukrainian citizens joined the volunteer movement and took an active part in raising funds, providing Ukrainian soldiers at the front with everything they needed, helping internally displaced persons from the occupied areas of Donbas and Crimea, etc (Taran, 2023a).

As noted by L. Zhuzha (2019), the importance of the volunteer movement in the transformation of social processes in the post-Maidan period also lies in

the functions aimed at the development of civil society performed by volunteers, including social function (providing ATO/JFO participants with everything they need), economic function (raising funds and material items for military personnel and internally displaced persons), military function (participation of volunteers in volunteer formations, while providing weapons was the prerogative of the state, and equipment and vehicles were the responsibility of both the state and the volunteers themselves), the function of organisation and self-organisation (streamlining the activities and support of volunteers, especially those "who were sent to the ATO/JFO area from a given district or city", that is helping their fellow citizens), the function of mobilisation (facilitating the mobilisation of the population to defend the country), the function of coordination (coordinating the efforts of patriotic citizens to support the military and residents of the eastern regions of the country), the function of integration (bringing people together to help the military and civilians), communication function (organisation of relations between the community and the military, IDPs and government representatives), consolidation function (uniting citizens to strengthen the fight against internal and external threats), political consolidation function (promoting the formation of public qualities), identification function (focused on strengthening the sense of belonging to the Ukrainian nation and state). At the same time, at the initial stage of the ATO, it was the social, economic and military functions of civil society that played a leading role.

According to O. Gorelov & D. Kornievskiy (2015), the rise of the volunteer movement in Ukraine in 2014 was due to two factors, "the internal political crisis, which led to an imbalance in the public administration system, a lack of quality management decisions, and a lack of resource capacities, and external aggression, which deepened the imbalance between the state's ability to effectively perform its functions and meet the basic needs of citizens".

Analysing the European experience of developing the volunteer movement as a component of civil society, G. Melnychuk (2018) concluded that, unlike in Ukraine, the share of people directly engaged in volunteer work is much higher. In general, approximately 100 million people in the EU countries are involved in volunteering, contributing up to 5% of the region's GDP, and in countries such as the UK, Sweden, Austria and the Netherlands, more than 40% of the adult population is engaged in volunteer work. At the same time, in countries such as Italy, Greece, Bulgaria and Lithuania, the volunteer movement is less widespread, with no more than 10% of the population engaged in volunteering.

It can be stated that in European countries, volunteers partially fulfil the functions of the state in terms of social support for the population, as well as create and implement various humanitarian programmes. For example, in Germany, the volunteer movement helps the

state solve various social and cultural problems. Unlike Ukraine, where the driving force behind the volunteer movement is the younger generation, in Germany, people of retirement age are actively involved in volunteering. Gradually, three groups of volunteer organisations were formed in Germany. The first one brings together volunteers who work to improve the welfare of society. The second group includes volunteers united by common interests. The third group is represented by volunteers who primarily work to improve the welfare of the organisation (Strepko, 2018).

Returning to the volunteer movement in Ukraine, it should be noted that through their activities, volunteer organisations and individual volunteers implemented tasks that should have been performed by public authorities, the armed forces and individual volunteer military associations, which was clearly observed at the beginning of the anti-terrorist operation in 2014-2015, when one of the activities of volunteer organisations was to assist the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military formations that joined the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) in eastern Ukraine. This rapid activity of volunteers was due to the fact that the Ukrainian army was virtually destroyed during the presidency of V. Yanukovich, and other security forces involved in the hostilities needed the most basic necessities, including weapons, uniforms, vehicles, food, communications and hygiene, which were largely provided by the efforts of volunteer organisations (Taran, 2023b).

This period was characterised by the formation of the leading volunteer organisations in Ukraine: "Come Back Alive", "Wings of the Phoenix", "Army SOS", "People's Project", "People's Home Front", "Volunteer Community", etc. The main activity of most of them was to help ATO/JFO participants (approximately 70% of volunteers were involved in this). Significant attention was also paid to addressing the social and domestic issues of the civilian population, especially internally displaced persons (IDPs), whose number increased dramatically with the outbreak of active hostilities in Donbas in the spring and summer of 2014, and as of 2021, the number of internally displaced persons was approximately 1.5 million, as noted by M. Taran (2023a). Volunteer organisations and centres were also established at the regional and local levels.

Specialised volunteer organisations providing assistance to internally displaced persons have gradually emerged, including the following CF "Right to Protection", "Everyone can help", CF Rehabilitation Centre "Maidan Hospital", "Good deeds Fund", etc. In addition to humanitarian support for IDPs, specialised volunteer organisations focused their activities on "providing medical and psychological assistance to internally displaced persons, social services and social security for IDPs, creating new jobs, helping to start their own business, solving problems related to pensions and social benefits, registering IDPs, etc." (Vashkovich *et al.*, 2022).

The volunteer movement during this period was characterised by joint emotional activity of all segments of the country's population. Examples of patriotic interaction aimed at helping ATO soldiers, internally displaced persons who had lost their permanent place of residence and found themselves in new, difficult economic and psychological conditions, and the families of the dead and injured were becoming widespread.

Considering the volunteer movement from this perspective, in the realities of the Revolution of Dignity and the beginning of the Russian-Ukrainian war, it should be noted that Ukrainian society was at the initial stage of transformation towards self-determination in the period of transition from a latent perception of its own independence to the need to fight for it. "This process can be interpreted as a basis for the formation of a nationally oriented personality, where the principles of a new educational humanistic philosophy should dominate, among which the leading ones are universal values that allow the implementation of democratic, humanistic ideas", according to V. Molodychenko & N. Molodychenko (2017).

Highlighting the main stages of the formation and development of the volunteer movement in Ukraine after independence, O. Golovko (2023) believes that it was the third stage, which covered the period from the end of 2013 to 2016, that marked the transformation of the volunteer movement into a civil society institution. This was caused by the revolutionary events of late 2013 – early 2014 and the fighting in the East of Ukraine. Various forms and areas of volunteer activity emerged, including providing assistance to ATO participants (the so-called army volunteering), internally displaced persons from Crimea and Donbas, searching for dead and missing soldiers (search volunteering); the legal framework regulating the establishment of volunteer organisations, the rights and obligations of volunteers was gradually improved.

In the following years (before the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russian federation), according to the author, the internal life and external situation in the country stabilised, a significant number of volunteer organisations ceased or curtailed their activities, and the most well-known organisations focused mainly on social, educational and cultural projects, not neglecting assistance to the military and internally displaced persons, however, these areas of volunteering, which were the main ones in 2014-2016 have become a priority for state authorities and local governments, which have taken on the main burden of providing for the military and civilians. However, the coronavirus pandemic has somewhat intensified the volunteer movement in Ukraine on the eve of the war.

According to M. Matyash (2017), the volunteer movement, which played a crucial role in supporting the Maidan, has become "the main driving force behind the country's reforms and an important component

of civil society”, which has united millions of Ukrainians in one way or another. After the occupation of Crimea and the outbreak of hostilities in eastern Ukraine, the author believes that “volunteering has risen to the highest level of development since Ukraine’s independence.... It was thanks to volunteers that in 2014 the country preserved its sovereignty, stopped Russian aggression in the east and restored a combat-ready army with high morale”. In turn, this combat-ready army, with the effective support of volunteers and millions of our compatriots, was able to withstand the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russian federation in February 2022 and defend its independence for the second time in the modern history of Ukraine.

Public support for volunteers, including financial donations, is evidenced by numerous sociological surveys conducted in 2014-2020. For example, in a survey on the state of volunteering conducted on 20-26 November 2014, which covered almost the entire territory of Ukraine, with the exception of Crimea, 62% of respondents stressed the significant role of volunteers in the country’s socio-political transformations, 85% noted the role of volunteers in strengthening peace in Ukraine, and 81% of respondents considered the volunteer movement an important component of civil society. At the same time, about a quarter of respondents were actively involved in the volunteer movement and/or provided financial assistance, primarily to the army, in 2014. At the same time, according to research by the Ilko Kucheriv Democratic Initiatives Foundation and the Razumkov Centre, 47% of respondents provided financial or material assistance to public organisations, including volunteer organisations. However, with the stabilisation of the country’s internal political and socio-economic situation, this figure has significantly decreased in the following years (to 42% in 2016, 41% in 2017, 38.5% in 2018, and 20.9% in 2020). In 2019, 68% of citizens trusted volunteers, while 61% trusted the Church and the Armed Forces of Ukraine (Kudrya, 2018; Bakovetska,

2020). However, compared to 2015, the level of trust in volunteer organisations has slightly decreased (at that time it was 74%).

Moreover, at the initial stage of the military confrontation in eastern Ukraine, the volunteer movement essentially took over the functions of the state, “providing the military with everything from food to resuscitation vehicles, jeeps and sophisticated optics”. In 2015, up to 65% of volunteers were involved in helping the army. By comparison, 21% of volunteers were involved in helping the sick and disabled, while the rest helped people in difficult life circumstances (primarily IDPs) or were involved in various projects. In total, 14.5 thousand people and more than 2.5 thousand organisations were engaged in volunteer activities in 2014-2015 (Matiychyk, 2016). Ultimately, the volunteer movement became the mechanism that allowed to resist the Russian armed aggression in the East of Ukraine and provide assistance to IDPs from the combat zone, “complemented the functions of state institutions that for one reason or another were not performed or were performed improperly”, and its representatives conducted educational activities with children and youth, were involved in social support of the population and environmental protection; the recipients of volunteer assistance were ATO/JFO participants, wounded and captured soldiers and their families, IDPs, and other citizens in difficult life circumstances (Beh, 2015).

The state of development of civil society in Ukraine and the involvement of volunteers in this process is also evidenced by the fact that after the Revolution of Dignity and before the full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine, the number of registered civil society organisations, including charities and volunteer organisations, increased dramatically. Thus, as of December 2021, 96,258 public organisations were registered in Ukraine, which is 19,193 more than in 2013 (an increase of 25%). The dynamics of registration of public and charitable organisations by year is as follows (Fig. 1).

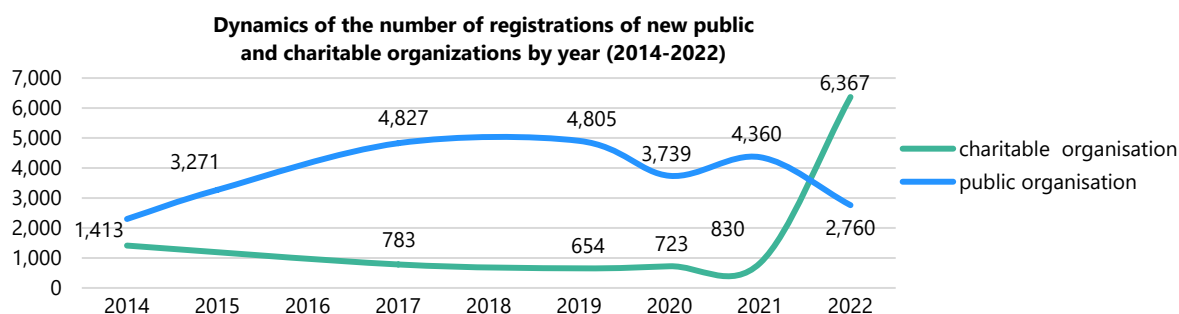


Figure 1. Dynamics of the number of registrations of new public and charitable organisations by year (2014-2022)
Source: compiled by the author based on Ukrainian civil society under the war. A report based on the findings of the study (2023)

At the same time, in the first year of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the number of mentions of charitable organisations, foundations, public associations and volunteer organisations increased almost 10-fold (from

9,398 mentions in February 2022 to 97,940 in November 2022) (77% of public organisations help the Armed Forces..., 2023). The number of registered charitable (including volunteer) organisations at the end of 2021

was 20,499, which is 5,598 (38%) more than in 2013. Finally, since 2014, volunteer organisations and individual volunteers have been establishing close cooperation with the executive authorities, in particular the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine, and local self-government bodies (organising joint events aimed at supporting IDPs), and actively participating in the elections to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and local elections. For example, in October 2014, the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine established the Council of Volunteers, headed by David Arakhamia. The main task of the Council was to provide logistical and medical support to the army, including the purchase of high-tech equipment and repair of vehicles. A month earlier, David Arakhamia, who was the founder of the "People's Project" volunteer organisation, became the Defence Minister's Commissioner for Procurement. In October 2015, Yurii Biriukov, the founder of the volunteer organisation "Wings of the Phoenix", became an advisor to the Minister of Defence on the issue of material support for the Armed Forces, and a month later, a well-known volunteer, Tetiana Rychkova, was appointed head of the state enterprise for the supply of the Special Operations Forces (Klimenko, 2018). Eventually, in the mid-term elections to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine held on 17.07.2016, T. Rychkova was elected as a Member of Parliament of Ukraine (electoral district 27, Dnipro). The founder and leader of the volunteer group "People's Home Front", H. Tuka, served as the head of the Luhansk regional military-civilian administration from 22.07.2015 to 29.04.2016, and then was appointed Deputy Minister for the Temporarily Occupied Territories and Internally Displaced Persons of Ukraine (Matyichyk, 2016).

During the 2014 elections, commanders of volunteer battalions that fought in eastern Ukraine were also elected to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, including the then commander of the "Donbas" battalion Semen Semenchenko (Kostyantyn Hryshyn), the first commander of the Azov regiment Andrii Biletskyi, and during the 2019 elections to the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, a well-known volunteer Serhii Prytula became a member of parliament on the list of the "Holos" party.

Summing up all of the above, it is worth emphasising that it was the revolutionary events of late 2013 and early 2014 and the Russian aggression in the East of Ukraine that became a turning point in the development of the volunteer movement, which led to the institutional and organisational formalisation of volunteering during this period, and the volunteer movement received the support of millions of our compatriots and took a worthy place in Ukrainian society, contributing to the final establishment of the civil society institution in the country.

■ Conclusions

Consequently, the volunteer movement in Ukraine, which was organised in 2014, had a decisive impact on

the final establishment of the foundations of civil society in our country and the European choice of the country's development. Until then, despite the existence of some domestic and foreign volunteer organisations, legislative and organisational support for volunteering from the state, the volunteer movement in Ukraine was developing rather poorly and ranked among the last in Europe in terms of its scale. However, the revolutionary events of late 2013 and early 2014 dramatically changed the face of the volunteer movement in Ukraine, which played a major role in organising Euromaidan and the Revolution of Dignity, and since 2014 has been actively involved in the fight against Russian aggression and socio-political and socio-economic transformations in the country, and has become an important component of civil society in Ukraine, relying on the support of millions of our citizens (approximately three-quarters of Ukrainians trusted volunteers). In 2014-2021, thousands of new public and charitable organisations were created in Ukraine, and it is difficult to imagine their activities without the participation of volunteers. In 2014-2016, numerous volunteer organisations were also established: "Come Back Alive", "Wings of the Phoenix", "Army SOS", "People's Front", "Right to Protection", "Everyone Can Help", "Good Deeds Foundation", etc. New areas of volunteer work have emerged, including providing comprehensive support to ATO/JFO participants and civilians, especially social and legal protection of internally displaced persons. International volunteer organisations also stepped up their activities in Ukraine. With the financial support of international and domestic charitable institutions, various cultural and educational projects and socio-economic development programmes, including support for small business development, were implemented.

In the first years after the Revolution of Dignity, the volunteer movement became institutionalised, gained recognition from society and government agencies, and took over a significant part of the state's functions, including protection against internal and external threats and social security and social support. Volunteer organisations actively cooperated with all segments of the population, as well as with state and local authorities, and well-known volunteers participated in national and local elections. In general, volunteerism as a movement has contributed to the awakening of the calls for unification, self-determination, resilience in the face of the threat to the existence of the state, its independence and autonomy, national awakening, and the simultaneous pursuit of justice and defence of modern democratic principles.

In the future, the process of establishing volunteer organisations at the regional and local levels and their impact on social processes in territorial communities, as well as the interaction of volunteers with local authorities on issues of support for the population and community development, require a deeper study.

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■ Conflict of Interest

None.

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Український волонтерський рух та розвиток громадянського суспільства (2014 – лютий 2022)

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Анотація. Волонтерський рух, сформувавшись після Революції гідності, відіграв значну роль в трансформації суспільно-політичних процесів в Україні, а також у відбитті російської агресії з 2014 р. та соціальному захисті населення, зокрема внутрішньо переміщених осіб, разом з тим його значення у становленні громадянського суспільства в Україні є недостатньо вивченим. Метою роботи було висвітлення ролі волонтерського руху в становленні громадянського суспільства в Україні, починаючи з Революції гідності, коли відбулися кардинальні зміни в різноманітних сферах життя українського соціуму, та до початку повномасштабного вторгнення РФ на територію України. У роботі були використані наступні методи наукового пізнання: аналіз, синтез, історичний метод, а також аналіз наукових публікацій. Було встановлено, що до кінця 2013 р. волонтерський рух, незважаючи на певну підтримку з боку держави, в тому числі його законодавчого регулювання, розвивався досить повільно, як і інститут громадянського суспільства в Україні. Було виявлено, що події Євромайдану та Революції гідності призвели до трансформаційних процесів в суспільно-політичному та соціально-економічному житті країни, остаточно сформувавши інститут громадянського суспільства, і мали вирішальний вплив на піднесення волонтерського руху в Україні. Було досліджено процес масового створення громадських об'єднань, в тому числі благодійних і волонтерських організацій. Було узагальнено участь представників волонтерського руху у всебічній підтримці учасників антитерористичної операції та цивільного населення, зокрема внутрішньо переміщених осіб, захисту довкілля, здійснення благодійної діяльності та просвітницької роботи. Практична цінність роботи полягає в тому, що автор комплексно дослідив роль волонтерського руху у встановленні та розвитку громадянського суспільства в Україні, а результати роботи можуть бути використані громадськими об'єднаннями в організації волонтерської роботи.

Ключові слова: антитерористична операція; благодійна діяльність; внутрішньо переміщені особи; волонтерські організації; громадянське суспільство; громадські об'єднання; Революція гідності