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CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION IN SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN DEVELOPMENT OF UKRAINE

АКТУАЛЬНІ ВИКЛИКИ ДЛЯ ДЕРЖАВНОЇ ПОЛІТИКИ ТА УПРАВЛІННЯ ЩОДО СОЦІАЛЬНО-ГУМАНІТАРНОГО РОЗВИТКУ УКРАЇНИ

The article examines current challenges for public policy and governance in the field of social and humanitarian development of Ukraine under martial law. It identifies key problem areas caused by the war, including internal displacement, economic losses, security threats, psychological consequences, humanitarian crises, and human rights violations. Particular attention is paid to the functioning and transformation of education, culture, and healthcare systems in conditions of limited resources and shifting state priorities toward defense needs. The study analyzes the social and humanitarian components of Ukraine's Recovery Plan, focusing on mechanisms for strengthening social protection, supporting vulnerable populations, and ensuring access to essential services. It emphasizes the importance of adaptive governance, institutional resilience, and effective coordination among public authorities, local self-government, and civil society. The findings demonstrate that sustainable social and humanitarian

development under martial law requires a comprehensive, flexible, and security-oriented policy framework capable of addressing both immediate challenges and long-term recovery objectives.

Keywords: *public policy, public administration, social policy, humanitarian development, martial law, education, healthcare, social protection.*

У статті розглядаються актуальні виклики для державної політики та управління у сфері соціального та гуманітарного розвитку України в умовах воєнного стану. Визначено ключові проблемні сфери, спричинені війною, включаючи внутрішнє переміщення, економічні втрати, загрози безпеці, психологічні наслідки, гуманітарні кризи та порушення прав людини. Особлива увага приділяється функціонуванню та трансформації систем освіти, культури та охорони здоров'я в умовах обмежених ресурсів та зміщення державних пріоритетів у бік потреб оборони. У дослідженні аналізуються соціальні та гуманітарні складові відновлення України, зосереджуючись на механізмах посилення соціального захисту, підтримки вразливих верств населення та забезпечення доступу до основних послуг. Підкреслюється важливість адаптивного управління, інституційної стійкості та ефективної координації між органами державної влади, місцевим самоврядуванням та громадянським суспільством. Результати дослідження демонструють, що сталий соціальний та гуманітарний розвиток в умовах воєнного стану вимагає гнучкого та орієнтованого на безпеку управління, здатного вирішувати як нагальні виклики, так і довгострокові цілі відновлення.

Ключові слова: *державна політика, державне управління, соціальна політика, гуманітарний розвиток, воєнний стан, освіта, охорона здоров'я, соціальний захист.*

Problem statement. The current stage of the development of Ukrainian statehood is characterized by unprecedented challenges caused by full-scale armed aggression, which has radically changed the landscape of the socio-humanitarian sphere. Traditional models of state policy, which were formed in conditions of relative stability, turned out to be insufficiently adaptive to critical

transformations, namely massive internal and external population displacement, destruction of social infrastructure, shortage of human resources in medicine and education, growing demand for social rehabilitation of veterans and injured civilians.

The problem lies in the emergence of a significant gap between the existing tools of public administration and the new, dynamic needs of society. State policy in the social and humanitarian sphere today is forced to operate in a «crisis management» mode, while simultaneously trying to lay the foundations for post-war recovery and adhere to the standards of European integration.

Thus, the relevance of the study is due to the need for theoretical substantiation and practical development of new approaches to managing socio-humanitarian development, which would be based on the principles of resilience and human-centricity in conditions of security turbulence.

Analysis of recent research and publications. The scientific and analytical literature reflects the contemporary discourse on the transformation of Ukraine's social and humanitarian policy in the context of a full-scale war. The analysis allows to identify four key vectors of research. Firstly, studies of institutional transformations and strategic planning (V. Borshchevsky, E. Matveyev, H. Parubchak, O. Vasilytsia and others) emphasize that the war became a catalyst for reviewing public administration mechanisms. Secondly, works on ensuring human rights and the legal regime (O. Dzhafarova, S. Shatrava and others) analyze the limits of human rights restrictions under martial law. Thirdly, social protection of vulnerable groups and IDPs (works by V. Kononets, V. Krasnonozhenko, K. Mikulya and others) note that the war significantly complicated the implementation of social guarantees, requiring new approaches to the digitalization of services and the targeting of assistance. Fourthly, humanitarian policy and the recovery plan of Ukraine (articles by T. Gumenyuk, A. Ivanov and others) consider humanitarian policy as a holistic system for protecting national interests. The analysis of the literature indicates a shift in the social and humanitarian sphere from standard administration to security management. Researchers are unanimous in the fact that sustainable development of an organization or state as a whole is possible only if human

resources and social risk management are integrated into the overall national security system.

Research objectives. The purpose of the paper is to reveal current challenges for public policy and administration in social and humanitarian development of Ukraine. Objectives of the paper are to identify and systematize the key external and internal challenges that affect the social and humanitarian development of Ukraine, to develop strategic directions for improving public policy and management aimed at sustainable social and humanitarian recovery and European integration.

Presentation of the main material. The current public policy in Ukraine is formed and implemented on the basis of legislation, which defines the procedures and processes used during martial law and corresponding actions. Today, with each day of russian aggression, the number of citizens in need of various kinds of social and humanitarian assistance from the state is increasing [2, p. 151].

The war in Ukraine, which began in 2014 and escalated into a full-scale russian aggression on February 24, 2022, has had profound consequences for the country's social and humanitarian spheres, specifically in the following aspects.

Internally displaced persons (IDPs). The war caused massive displacement of people, first, within the country and, second, abroad. Millions of Ukrainians became internally displaced persons, seeking refuge in safe regions of Ukraine and those who moved to Europe and other continents to escape from bombing and shelling. This has created significant challenges in the field of housing construction, health care and social support.

Economic consequences. Appropriate governmental support for the development of social and humanitarian spheres depends on the successful development of the country's economy, which is considered the main source of its financing [5, p. 64]. The war resulted in significant economic losses for Ukraine. The destruction and damage of the infrastructure, the stoppage of production, the loss of sales markets and economic instability have greatly affected the lives of citizens. This led to an increase in unemployment, a decrease in the standard of living and an increase in social tension.

Threat to security. Military actions of Russia pose a threat to the security of Ukraine citizens in all regions of the country. People are constantly at risk of physical injury or loss of life, no matter what part of the country it is (western or eastern, southern or northern). The safety of citizens is a priority of the government, but there are still many challenges in ensuring full security.

Psychological effects as war has a serious impact on people's psychological well-being. War injuries, loss of family and friends, experiencing stressful situations can lead to the appearance of post-traumatic stress disorder.

Humanitarian crisis in controlled areas and on the front line. As a result of the fighting, many people have lost access to basic vital services such as water, electricity and medical care.

Human rights violations, including the release of propaganda, abuse of power, and crimes against humanity. This includes attacks on civilians, beatings, detentions, ethnic conflicts and sexual violence. These violations have a long-term impact on the lives and well-being of their victims.

Losses in education and culture. The new role of education as a socio-humanitarian sphere is of interest, primarily because education becomes the most important resource for the development of the humanitarian direction and performs state-building functions. Through education, the state influences the formation of students' worldview values, learning the language and joining new cultures, they often later become leaders of state policy. The state-building function of education is also manifested in the fact that universities, acting as «think tanks», participate in the formation of new humanitarian directions [12, p. 683-684]. Today hundreds of schools and universities were destroyed or ruined. Cultural monuments and museums are also affected by military operations. This has led to a loss of opportunities for education and development, as well as a loss of cultural heritage.

Martial law is a special legal regime introduced in Ukraine in the event of armed aggression or a threat of attack, or danger to the state independence of Ukraine and its territorial integrity. It means granting the relevant state authorities, military command, military administrations, and local self-government bodies the powers necessary to avert threats, repel armed

aggression, ensure national security, and eliminate dangers to Ukraine's state independence and territorial integrity. It also involves the temporary, threat-induced restriction of constitutional rights and freedoms of individuals and citizens, as well as the rights and lawful interests of legal entities, with a specified duration for such restrictions [11]. The peculiarity of martial law is that it is a special regime introduced under a threat to national security. It is provided for certain restrictions on civil rights and freedoms, in particular on education, culture, health care, etc. It is known that human rights and freedoms determine the content and orientation of the State [3, p. 40].

Public administration under martial law has its own characteristics and mechanisms of development. They require separate scientific research in order to develop effective proposals on priorities and directions for increasing the efficiency of state administration during the confrontation with external aggression. At the same time, to solve the specified task, it is necessary to adequately assess the institutional transformations that are taking place in Ukraine today, as well as to outline the range of priority changes required by the system of managerial decision-making and the mechanism for developing strategic plans at the national and regional levels [1].

The formation and implementation of the public policy of martial law involve the following: development of the legislative framework; formation of relevant structures; planning and conducting of actions for mobilization, protection of the population and other tasks; communication. The social and humanitarian component of this process is defined by means of [8]: comprehensive support and protection of children and families with children displaced (evacuated) abroad; the introduction of mandatory cumulative pension provision (the second level of the pension system); popularization and development of adoption; implementation of veteran integration programs, which include educational and recreational initiatives for veterans and their families, as well as employment initiatives; providing housing (for young families, families with children); development of the child rights protection system; creation of conditions for professional re-adaptation of parents who lost their job positions as a result of the war; development of the system of regional implementation of veterans' policy by forming a network of modern

service offices for veterans' affairs; creation of a system of veteran development centers on the basis of educational institutions; transformation of the network of hospitals for war veterans into modern rehabilitation centers in order to ensure the appropriate level and scope of rehabilitation assistance within the three-level rehabilitation system; effective functioning of the support system for evacuated/returned children; the newest integration policy of Ukraine; conducting an analysis of the effectiveness of various tools for supporting citizens (cost and benefit analysis) within the framework of key policies; development and implementation of changes to the legislation on the provision of social benefits; development of a training program for officials of local self-government bodies regarding planning, provision, monitoring and assessment of the quality of services; improvement of financing mechanisms for the provision of services (including social, correctional, other services) for children and families with children, etc.

During the period of martial law, the activities of local authorities are aimed at ensuring the operation of the Constitution and laws of Ukraine, implementing measures of the legal regime, defense, civil protection, and the protection of the rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests of citizens. Martial law entails granting public authorities, military command, military administrations, and local self-government bodies to avert threats, repel armed aggression, and ensure national security [4, p. 199]. In this regard, and in accordance with the Law of Ukraine «On the Legal Regime of Martial Law», temporary state bodies (military administrations) are established [11].

Under martial law, local self-government bodies play a significant role in the protection and defense of local communities. According to the Law of Ukraine «On the Legal Regime of Martial Law», local self-government bodies continue to exercise the powers granted to them by the Constitution of Ukraine and other laws of Ukraine. Local self-government bodies are obliged to facilitate the activities of the military command and military administrations in ensuring the measures necessary for the implementation of the legal regime of martial law in the respective territory and the protection of public safety. The village, town, or city mayor of a local community (in a territory where active hostilities are not being conducted) may, during the period of martial law, make

decisions with mandatory notification of the head of the respective regional military administration within 24 hours regarding: making changes to the numerical and personal composition of the executive committee of the respective village, town, or city council; approving the temporary structure of the executive bodies of the council, the total number of the council staff and its executive bodies, and the formation of other executive bodies; delegating specific inherent powers of local self-government bodies to bodies of self-organization of the population, as well as transferring funds, material, technical, and other resources necessary for their implementation; introducing changes to the local budget necessary for the implementation of the legal regime of martial law by the military command or the respective military administration.

Thus, military administrations consolidate the efforts of local authorities; together with public bodies, local self-government bodies, public associations, enterprises, institutions, organizations, and citizens, they implement measures of the legal regime of martial law, defense, civil protection, public safety and order, and the protection of the rights, freedoms, and legitimate interests of citizens [11].

The main tasks of reforms in the medium-term perspective in the field of governmental social policy are aimed at strengthening social protection for various categories of citizens, as well as at resolving issues of comprehensive regulation of the social protection system in Ukraine [7, p. 85]. The field of social services requires systemic improvements at the national level and guarantees at the international level [6, p. 313]. Educational, cultural and health policy of martial law is of special interest.

One of the most important aspects of the educational policy of martial law is ensuring the safety of the students and educators. The measures aimed at ensuring the safety of educational institutions of all types are being introduced at the same time as supporting education in general. The educational system, which is still under damage during the war, needs governmental funding and resources for its functioning and implementation of the principle of education accessibility for all population groups and respect for human rights. Corresponding measures are provided by the Projects of the National Program for the Recovery of Ukraine regarding the development of

the education system [10]. In addition, the educational policy is aimed at providing the necessary competencies for the Armed Forces and Defense Forces, as well as strengthening the ideology of national unity.

The educational policy during martial law is constantly changing compared to peacetime, because the country's priorities and needs differ. Martial law can cause:

- changes in the content of education, in particular, in the updating of military training, mandatory military training courses, special programs on military affairs, etc. The State concentrates its efforts on ensuring the training of military youth, introducing new disciplines into the national security curriculum, and promoting the active development of research in the field of military science. Within educational programs, during the study of educational subjects/disciplines and during the learning process, patriotic education of the population is activated, the purpose of which is to increase the level of national consciousness and identity;

- changes in the financing of education, namely its reduction because of the increase in spending on defense and security of the State;

- changes in the State order for specialties that can be useful in wartime, namely - engineering, medicine, research, etc. The educational policy can be aimed at training specialists for military industrial enterprises since the state of war is usually accompanied by an increase in military production, which requires appropriate professionals.

During martial law, the State prioritizes military needs and resources. This, in turn, regarding culture and arts policy of martial law, can lead to a reduction in funding for cultural programs and projects. Under such conditions, cultural institutions and governing bodies in the cultural sphere are forced to function in the context of a limited regime. Secondly, during the period of martial law, patriotic and military themes in culture become more relevant. The government actively supports the creation and distribution of works of art that embody and popularize military feats, victorious spirit and heroism. Thirdly, the role and importance of national ideology in cultural life are increasing throughout the country. The State, with the help of cultural instruments and tools, actively

promotes those political and ideological views and values that are relevant for military actions and advancement on the way to victory.

During the period of martial law, the government focuses on ensuring security in culture, that is, on the protection of cultural values from hostile actions and open theft of cultural property; carrying out special measures for the protection and restoration of cultural heritage, for countering cultural aggression and propaganda of hostile ideology; the support of cultural institutions, such as museums, theaters and libraries, which can become important centers of spiritual life and leisure for the population during martial law; financing of cultural projects that contribute to the moral and spiritual mood of the population, increasing patriotism. In order to support the military forces, concerts and other events are organized with the participation of military bands and choirs, exhibitions of artworks dedicated to the war are held, and financial support is provided to military museums and other cultural military institutions related to the war.

The period of martial law is an emergency situation that requires the State to take appropriate measures in protecting the health of the population - to provide emergency medical care to the wounded, sick and victims of war. Corresponding measures are foreseen for the period of restoration of the State and its health care system [9]. This policy is aimed at ensuring the maximum safety and health of the population, especially military personnel who are on the front lines and in the combat zone. During the period of martial law, the State implements a number of health protection measures, namely: mobilization of medical workers and deployment of medical centers in the combat zone in order to provide first aid to the wounded, to use reserves of medical supplies and equipment and to provide quick and high-quality medical care; development of Action Plans in case of outbreaks of epidemics and other diseases that are a threat to the life of the population within which the State focuses on the development and implementation of national programs to improve public health, in particular, adopting a special program for disease prevention, ensuring access to free medical care, as well as creating conditions for a healthy lifestyle; ensuring the production and distribution of medical products necessary to preserve the health of the population; carrying out large-

scale campaigns for the prevention of infectious diseases, for example, vaccination; making decisions on limiting the movement of people and introducing quarantine measures to prevent the spread of diseases; providing support for the mental health of the population and helping in overcoming post-traumatic stress. In turn, the main areas of modernization of the health care system after the war can be: the restoration of medical infrastructure aiming to begin by restoring the destruction associated with the damage to buildings, medical equipment, medicines and other resources; ensuring the availability of medical services, because, after the war, many people may need medical assistance and this can be achieved through the creation of new medical facilities, the development of vehicles for transporting patients, etc.; professional development of medical personnel as the war is already leading to the loss of medical personnel and the downsizing of those who remain and therefore, it is necessary to develop the medical staff by improving their qualifications, creating new training programs and providing additional incentives for the medical staff; development of the system of control and quality assurance of medical services as after the war, the number of patients in need of medical care may increase.

Conclusions. It can be concluded that the social and humanitarian spheres in Ukraine are a complex task that requires attention to various aspects of citizens' lives. It requires systematic and coordinated work by the government and relevant institutions to achieve positive changes. The active participation of the State, the public, non-profit organizations and other stakeholders affects the creation of favorable conditions for the functioning of the social and humanitarian spheres under martial law.

Consequently, martial law should be considered as a means of restoring conditions under which a person can effectively realize their rights and freedoms. Accordingly, human rights define the limits of the public authorities' activities regarding the introduction of martial law and the means they employ. At the same time, a certain number of rights cannot be restricted, and the restriction of other rights must not destroy their essence.

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