

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN PROVIDING VOLUNTEER SUPPORT FOR THE ATO SOLDIERS IN THE EAST OF UKRAINE

The paper analyses the activities of volunteer associations in Ukraine that created a powerful volunteer movement, which is difficult to find any equivalents for in the world. The scale of volunteers' actions in Ukraine demonstrates that the level of the social consciousness of citizens has grown considerably. Ukrainian volunteer movement to help the soldiers who serve in the zone of ATO has been recognized by the state; volunteers are actively engaged in the work of the system of public authorities on all levels; volunteer groups are being created in different state institutions; the government works on changing the legal framework to improve their work in the new environment. At the same time, there are many problems which are still not resolved. In the present military situation, volunteers and volunteer associations came forward as an instrument of influence on the state which helps to solve the existing problems in society effectively.

Keywords: volunteer movement of help for the soldiers in the ATO zone, volunteer organizations, civil society, Ukraine.

ВЗАЄМОДІЯ ДЕРЖАВИ ТА ГРОМАДЯНСЬКОГО СУСПІЛЬСТВА У ВОЛОНТЕРСЬКІЙ ДОПОМОЗІ БІЙЦЯМ АТО НА СХОДІ УКРАЇНИ

У статті досліджено діяльність волонтерських об'єднань в Україні, які створили настільки потужний волонтерський рух, аналогів якому у світі важко знайти. Масштаби дій волонтерів в Україні свідчать, що значно зріс рівень громадянської свідомості громадян. Український волонтерський рух допомоги бійцям у зоні АТО отримав державне визнання, волонтери активно залучаються до системи органів державної влади на всіх рівнях, у державних інституціях створюють волонтерські групи, держава змінює нормативну базу для покращення їх діяльності у нових умовах. Водночас ще залишається багато не вирішених проблем. У сучасних умовах військової ситуації, волонтери та волонтерські об'єднання заявили про себе як про інструмент впливу на державу задля ефективного вирішення проблем, що існують в суспільстві.

Ключові слова: волонтерський рух допомоги бійцям у зоні АТО, волонтерські організації, громадянське суспільство, Україна.

The establishment and development of the civil society (SC) is a key process and at the same time a problem for all democratic countries there are in the world. Thus the public policy of encouraging this process acquires a particular importance, considering that SC is a society of citizens with equal rights, which do not depend on the state. However, it does not mean that SC becomes an opposition to the state; on the contrary, it must co-operate with the state for the common good.

Maidan protests, territorial occupation of Donbas, start of the anti-terrorist operation and other events of the last years have considerably influenced the state of the SC in Ukraine. The society had felt what it means to be the subject of the Ukraine state policy, with which came an understanding of its significance and capacity in the life of the state. Changes that take place in Ukrainian society impose new conditions for cooperation of the government with non-governmental sector. New realities of life of Ukrainian citizens, which spread through the entire country and included all social groups of different ages, caused the creation of a unique social movement. Under the external military aggression of Russia and failure on the part of public authorities to promptly react and operate rationally in the situation of political conflict, volunteers and volunteer associations came to the fore – as a basis for providing help to the soldiers of ATO in the East of Ukraine. But despite the increasing scientific interest, the matter of cooperation between SC and public authorities for conducting volunteer help operations for Ukrainian military is not yet fully researched.

Such terms as “volunteer”, “volunteering”, “volunteer help”, “volunteer movement” are already quite common and widespread in Ukraine. The base term “volunteer”, that lies at the basis of understanding the volunteer work, originates from the Latin word “voluntaries”, which translates to “voluntarily, of one’s own accord”. The term had spread in the end of the XVIII century in France during the French Revolution, when ordinary citizens were voluntarily signing up for the National Guard troops. They were called volunteers and which stood for “people who voluntarily joined the army”¹.

The contemporary understanding of this category still retains the foundational idea of good will in its meaning. Volunteers are defined as people who help the others out of their own free will; people who are not limited by their paid work and other responsibilities; people who spend their time and health on actions, which will not provide them with a financial gain, but with pleasure of doing something useful for other human beings.

The history of volunteer movement started in 1859 by the French writer Henry Dunant, who had been struck by the consequences of the Battle of Solferino. He suggested creating the “Red Cross” – an organization that would work on volunteer principles and provide first aid for those taken hostage and injured. The principles that were laid down by H. Dunant work in volunteer organizations across the whole world. However, only during the 20th century

¹ Голуб В. А. Ключові поняття та категорії державного управління у сфері волонтерської діяльності. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Vnadu_2014_1_6

which brought several wars, had volunteering become a separate social phenomenon. After the First World War, young people from Germany and France carried out a large-scale project that had volunteers rebuilding farms destroyed by war in those areas that held the heaviest fights between the German and French troops. At the same time the Coordinating Committee for International Voluntary Service (CCIVS) was founded under the aegis of UNESCO with headquarters in Paris².

Nowadays the growing importance of volunteering is demonstrated by the fact that the UNGA designated the year 2001 the International Year of Volunteers, and the 5th of December – the International Volunteer Day. The phenomenon of volunteering is known in all existing countries, even though its definition may differ because it is usually is determined by the specifics of history, culture, social and political situation. Some countries place an emphasis on the absence of any reward, others – on the absence of coercion. Interpretation of volunteering, forms of its expression are different, but the values are general and universal: a desire, of one's own accord, to contribute to general welfare, in solidarity and without material rewards.

An American scientist J. Smith identified five key characteristic of volunteer activity: unpaid altruistic nature, voluntarism, organizational registration, regularity and social utility³. It is important that that volunteer activity is conducted in one's free from work or studies time.

During the 11th International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) World Volunteer Conference in Paris on September 14, 1990 the Universal Declaration on Volunteering was adopted. It addresses volunteering as an instrument of social, economic, cultural and ecological development. The Declaration stresses that volunteering is a voluntarily choice that represents personal views and positions; it is an active participation of citizens in the life of society, social activity within different associations. Volunteering contributes to the improvement of quality of life; to the personal prosperity and deepening of solidarity; to the realization of the basic needs on the way of development of just and peaceful society; to more balanced economic and social development and to creation of new workplaces and professions⁴.

The Universal Declaration on Volunteering adopted by the IAVE at its 16th World Volunteer Conference in Amsterdam identified the following principles of volunteer activity⁵: every woman, man and child has the right to associate freely and to volunteer regardless of their cultural and ethnic origin, religion, age, gender, and physical, social or economic condition; everyone has the right to be treated with respect for their dignity and culture; providing help of free service personally or in organized groups in a spirit of partnership and brotherhood; recognition of equal importance of personal and collective needs and ensuring their provision;

² Буздуган Я. Еволюція світового волонтерського руху. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/viche_2013_12_4

³ Smith J. D. Volunteering and Social Development // Background Paper for Discussion at an Expert Group Meeting. New York, NY: United Nations Volunteers, 1999. – 18 p. URL: <http://mirrorundp.org/capacity/cases/insights/volunteering.pdf>

⁴ Буздуган Я. Еволюція світового волонтерського руху. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/viche_2013_12_4

⁵ Загальна декларація про волонтерську діяльність. Міжнародна асоціація волонтерських зусиль на 16 Всесвітній конференції волонтерів в Амстердамі. – 2001. URL: <https://www.iave.org/advocacy/the-universal-declaration-on-volunteering/>

transformation of volunteering into an element of acquisition of new knowledge, skills, abilities, while stimulating people's initiative and creativity, providing them with the opportunity to be a creator but not an observer.

Therefore, taking into account these features, it is possible to formulate the following definition: volunteering is a non-compulsory, motivated, unprofitable activity by an individual in their free time, and is aimed at ensuring social welfare and safety for single individuals and society in general.

We believe that the interpretation of "volunteer movement" as an equation to volunteer activity is not quite correct. Volunteer movement is a variety of social movements that are often defined as a type of collective action in scientific literature, which are aimed for changes; also an embodiment of common will of all subjects of volunteer activity to resolve existing social problems.

Volunteer activity is carried out by providing volunteer help in the form of works and services. Both organizations and individual volunteers can provide volunteer help. This help can take different forms – from spontaneous temporary local initiatives to organized activity on a regular basis. In Ukraine there is an old tradition of social works, mutual support, caring about each other. People who worked in this field were called public figures, altruists, benefactors, philanthropists, and then people started calling them volunteers. This concept is represented by the following people: Volodymyr the Great, Yaroslav the Wise, Ivan Mazepa, private philanthropists Tereshchenko, Symirenko and other well-known figures that left their marks in Ukrainian history⁶.

During the days of the USSR the voluntary help and mutual aid were supported by the government: voluntary work as custody help, communist "Subbotnik" or socialist competitions were brought up to the level of a noble duty and were of an ideologically-compulsive nature. Volunteer movement in Ukraine started developing after the state became independent. Creation of the Ukrainian version of "Crisis hotline" with volunteers working there became a prerequisite for this process.

Actions related to volunteering in Ukraine are governed by the Act "On volunteering activity" of 19 April 2011⁷. It was adopted before the UEFA European Championship in 2012 and was meant only to set the norms of participation of volunteers in the upcoming sport competitions. The law has been criticized, in particular for its provision stating that only those organizations, which had gotten their legal status from the main body of the executive branch in the field of volunteer activity, can be called volunteer organizations. Therefore most of the volunteer organizations were working illegally. In March 2015 Ukrainian parliament passed an Act "On

⁶ Лях Т. А. Волонтерство як суспільний феномен // Проблеми педагогічних технологій : зб. наук. пр. / Волинський державний університет імені Лесі Українки. 2004. URL: <http://elibrary.kubg.edu.ua/1565/>

⁷ Про волонтерську діяльність: Закон України від 19 квіт. 2011 р. № 3236-VI. URL: <http://zakon5.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/3236-17>

the amendment of some laws of Ukraine regarding volunteer activity”⁸. It was undoubtedly important, but, in opinion of volunteers, did not solve all the problems.

Events in 2014 caused the increase of interest in volunteer organizations run by society and state. Volunteer movement, which has developed under the influence of the Revolution of Dignity and Russian external aggression, became an unprecedented display of public self-organization on this scale. We can distinguish two factors that caused the increase in volunteer movement activity: first of all – an internal political crisis that unbalanced the system of public administration, lack of high-quality management decisions, shortage of resource possibilities; secondly, it is the external aggression that deepened the imbalance between the state’s ability to execute its functions effectively and providing the basic needs of citizens. Crisis processes in the state and external influences are a threat to existence of Ukraine as a nation state, which was perceived by the citizens as a personal challenge. Under these circumstances, patriotic people took upon themselves the responsibility for the development of the situation related to the Euromaidan revolution events and the military operations in its borders.

According to the Ukrainian “Anti-terrorism” Act of 14 April 2014, an anti-terrorist operation was launched in the East of Ukraine – which is a “complex of coordinated special measures, aimed at preventing and stopping the terrorist activity, setting free hostages, providing safety for the citizens, clearance of terrorists, minimizing the consequences of their activities”⁹.

Volunteering in Ukraine that got widely spread under political and military circumstances is far from the classical understanding of this phenomenon. ATO volunteering is not only a manifestation of committed activism of patriots to support the fighters, an element of self-organization of our society but also a new social need. Volunteer movement that has emerged along with the beginning of the ATO in the East of Ukraine is focused on providing support in two ways: helping Ukrainian soldiers and those who were hurt; helping internally displaced persons who were forced to leave Crimea and Donbas.

The Revolution of Dignity was a prerequisite for development of the volunteer movement aimed at providing help to Ukrainian soldiers. During the Euromaidan Revolution times many people were willing to help the protestors – they would keep them warm, feed them and take care of their wounds. This massive movement grew into a number of volunteering associations: “Maidan self-defence”, “Automaidan”, “Euromaidan – SOS”, etc. Later on many of these have taken upon themselves a much more difficult and large-scale work – they started feeding, providing medical help and equipping Ukrainian army that keeps fighting with the separatists in the East – thus the name “people’s army”. Millions of people joined the raising of money, food and equipment for the protectors of Ukraine¹⁰.

⁸ Про внесення змін до деяких законів України щодо волонтерської діяльності: Закон України від 5 березня 2015р. № 246-VIII. URL: <http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/246-19>

⁹ Про боротьбу з тероризмом: Закон України від 20 березня 2003 р. № 638-IV. URL: <http://zakon2.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/638-15>

¹⁰ Тохтарова І. М. Волонтерський рух в Україні: шлях до розвитку громадянського суспільства як сфери соціальних відносин. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Tpdu_2014_2_5.

Volunteer movement was growing bigger in its scale. Thus, according to the nationwide poll “Volunteering in Ukraine”, prepared by GFK Ukraine requested by the UN in November 2014, 23% of Ukrainians have been previously involved in volunteering, 9% of which started to provide free assistance to others in the last year. In 2014 the number of Ukrainian citizens who were donating funds increased to 63%, and by 2014 – to 49%. Ukrainians were most ready to donate for help to the Ukrainian army, wounded and sick children. Although the overall percentage of people who help is relatively low, Ukrainians tend to accept the major role of volunteering in social processes. Thus, 62% of Ukrainians recognize the importance of volunteers in the political changes in 2014, 85% believe that volunteer movement contributes to consolidation of peace, and 81% consider volunteering a mandatory part of civil society¹¹.

In a survey conducted by the Ilko Kucheriv “Democratic initiatives” Foundation and sociological service of the Razumkov Center, it was found that the level of activity and participation of society in volunteering in 2015 had slightly decreased. Only 13% of Ukrainians were engaged in it during the year. The greatest activity was shown by the residents of the Western region (14%), the Central Ukraine (13.5%) and Donbas (19%); less activity was witnessed in the South (8%) and East (8%). 41% of respondents gave financial support to hold charity events and other actions by charity organizations. The main form of participation in charity is still donating to charity boxes. Just under a third (30%) of the interviewed financially helped those in need, and 26% were putting aside money from their income for the charity. 47% of respondents provided people and social organizations, which were solving some problems, with financial and material help to the people. A lion’s share of volunteer efforts (nearly 65% of benefactors) and material aid provided in 2015 is accounted for helping the army¹². Thus, the main focus of volunteers is on assisting Ukrainian soldiers in the ATO zone.

Let’s highlight the main areas that the volunteers are taking care of: collection and delivery of the necessary resources to the ATO zone; providing medical aid to the wounded in the ATO zone; assistance to the internally displaced persons; searching for people who went missing and help in releasing the hostages. Volunteers coordinate their actions with soldiers and fighters of volunteer corps. The most famous are those volunteer initiatives that operate in the area of providing the army with everything necessary: starting from clothing, helmets, body armor and food to weapons and vehicles. Volunteers also joined the initiatives of repairing military equipment, manufacturing unmanned aerial vehicles and other various technical devices. Before the winter period there was always a growth in manufacturing of heating devices for tents and rooms, small potbelly stoves (even pupils at school are making them during crafts classes), etc¹³.

¹¹ Волонтерство в Україні: короткий спалах чи яскравий світанок? // Інформагенство Форум. 2014. URL:<http://for-ua.com/article/1074634>

¹² Постмайданна благодійність і волонтерство-2015: результати соціологічного дослідження // Фонд «Демократичні ініціативи» імені Льва Кучеріва. – 2015. URL:<http://dif.org.ua/article/postmaydannablagodiynist-i-volonterstvo-2015-rezultati-sotsiologicheskogoissledovaniya>

¹³ Мандебура О. Волонтерський рух в Україні як нова форма взаємодії влади і громадянського суспільства // ІПіЕНД імені І. Ф. Кураса НАНУ. URL:http://www.ipiend.gov.ua/?mid=12&action=article_detail&article_id=8

The medical direction is presented powerfully in the volunteer movement, collecting of medicines in particular. This movement is actively supported by the Ukrainian diaspora. Its representatives have been sending to Ukraine money, medicines, household products and other necessary equipment. They also formed their own structures, joined volunteer battalions, and provided medical care in frontline hospitals. Some volunteer groups are helping to search for the missing or dead soldiers. The massive part of these movements had formed after the tragedy at Illovaïsk, when the numbers of dead and gone missing were counted in hundreds. One of such organizations – the “People’s Memory” Union, operates in the ATO zone since September 2014¹⁴.

Other directions of volunteer work: memorial – commemorating the soldiers who died in the East of Ukraine. Volunteers created a “Book of Memory of the Fallen for Ukraine”; they are setting plaques for soldiers who died in the ATO zone and make up small corners of glory in their honor¹⁵; creating volunteer initiatives to provide psychological support. Some groups of volunteer psychologists are constantly present in the ATO zone, conducting psychological trainings with soldiers and recovery programs for the injured. Human rights direction – protecting the rights of those who are in difficult life situations; helping internally displaced persons in processing documents; negotiating the release of hostages, improving the conditions of their detention¹⁶.

Volunteer movement to support Ukrainian army has emerged spontaneously from the actions of separate volunteers who started uniting in groups. Over the time, some people became leaders, who united fragmented self-organized groups. Centralization enhanced the impact on the state apparatus and aid effectiveness. Since November 2014, a civil organization “Association of People’s Volunteers” operates in Ukraine. It includes a number of voluntary organizations that regularly provide assistance to the military and civilians in the ATO zone, ATO veterans and their families. The main mission of the association is promoting defence capacity and mobilization readiness of Ukraine and supporting the army and other paramilitary forces, which are created according to the law.

A number of volunteer associations are operating in Ukraine. According to the Ministry of Information Policy data, they are: the Coordinating Center in Kyiv, which helps IDPs in settlement and employment, “SOS Army”, nationwide union “Patriot”, charity foundation for the army “Come back alive”, democratic alliance “Care”, association “Everyone can help”, “Wings of the Phoenix”, “Support the Ukrainian army”, the Diana Makarova fund, “Volunteers without

¹⁴ Тохтарова І. М. Волонтерський рух в Україні: шлях до розвитку громадянського суспільства як сфери соціальних відносин. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Ttpdu_2014_2_5.

¹⁵ Мандебуря О. Волонтерський рух в Україні як нова форма взаємодії влади і громадянського суспільства // ІПіЕНД імені І. Ф. Кураса НАНУ. URL: http://www.ipiend.gov.ua/?mid=12&action=article_detail&article_id=8

¹⁶ Горелов Д. М., Корнієвський О. А. Волонтерський рух: світовий досвід та українські громадянські практики: аналіз. доп. 2015. URL: <http://www.niss.gov.ua/content/articles/files/volonter-697e4.pdf>

borders” and “Office hundred of assistance to Ukrainian army”¹⁷. The most effective volunteer organizations in Ukraine are the association “People’s rear”, including “People’s rear wheels” (supply of automobiles to ATO), “Medical People’s rear” (supply of medicines to ATO), “Help Army”, “National Project”, “Volunteering hundred”. However, the list of examples of volunteers’ effective self-organization is much wider and includes thousands of organizational structures and people, who are engaged in voluntary activity independently¹⁸.

It is impossible to calculate their exact amount because volunteer movement has grown to the size, when it starts looking like the whole country is helping the army, the wounded and IDPs. At the same time some people use this situation and while pretending to be a volunteer, make a profit from people’s trust. They use a wide range of methods to get money from people like simple pleas for donations to charity boxes at fake organizations, name and goal of which duplicates the already existing ones with high level of trust¹⁹. The Ministry of Interior of Ukraine issued the names of the so called “volunteer” organizations, representatives of which were gathering money for the ATO soldiers and their families but in fact were a fraud: “Children’s palms”, “Strong people”, “In the rhythm of a heart”, “Nine lives”, “Human’s ray of light”, “Mothers’ association”, “Support, faith, love”, etc²⁰.

Ukrainian volunteer movement is an ambiguous and sometimes controversial phenomenon. It generates positive as well as negative occurrences. We have to mention the abuse of volunteer status, non-transparent accounting, fund raising by the pseudo-volunteers, secret re-trading of the volunteered military equipment and numerous facts of their disappearance, etc²¹. Thus in the context of these negative manifestations, the importance of state – the institution which must coordinate and supervise the activities of volunteer organizations – is rising significantly.

One of the main functions of volunteers today lies in the area of political cooperation between the state and society, because, as many experts believe, volunteers were that power which made the government start the social dialogue with the society. The problem of interaction between the civil society and public authorities in Ukraine is the issue of deficit of trust. Volunteers demonstrate with their actions that they are working more effectively and faster than ministers and officials, they show good organization, coordination of actions, efficiency, discipline and dedication to the people of Ukraine²². Further social development that the general

¹⁷ Список волонтерських організацій, які надають допомогу у зоні АТО / Міністерство інформаційної політики. URL: <http://mir.gov.ua/content/volonterski-organizacii.html>

¹⁸ Горелов Д. М., Корнієвський О. А. Волонтерський рух: світовий досвід та українські громадянські практики: аналіз. доп. 2015. URL: <http://www.niss.gov.ua/content/articles/files/volonter-697e4.pdf>

¹⁹ Матійчик А. В. Волонтерська діяльність як детермінанта розвитку громадянського суспільства / Грані. 2016. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Grani_2016_8_15

²⁰ У МВС оприлюднили назви шахрайських «благодійних» фондів / Радіо Свобода. 2015. URL: <http://www.radiosvoboda.org/a/news/26978079.html>.

²¹ Мандебура О. Волонтерський рух в Україні як нова форма взаємодії влади і громадянського суспільства // ІПіЕНД імені І. Ф. Кураса НАНУ. URL: http://www.ipiend.gov.ua/?mid=12&action=article_detail&article_id=8

²² Сахань О. М. Волонтерський рух в сучасній Україні як механізм протидії деструктивності влади / Проблеми взаємодії влади та громадськості. URL: http://www.rusnauka.com/33_IAN_2015/Politologia/10_200309.doc.html

public faced requires coordination of actions with the state, involving a wide range of specialists and experts, taking integrated decisions, development of state programs, projects and strategies.

For a long time there were no mechanisms of such cooperation in Ukraine. But at the end of 2013 the situation changed. During the Revolution of Dignity times a confrontation between the representatives of the civil society and bureaucracy has occurred. It brought the majority of the civic organizations to the opposition, but later the fight with Russia's aggression united the powers of the civil society and the state.

According to the law of Ukraine "On volunteering activity", the realization of the state policy in the volunteer activities field is conducted by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, Ministry of Social Politics and other government authorities and local governance authorities. The rapid growth of the volunteer movement scale in Ukraine in the first half of 2014, performances of its leaders in the social dialogue and its influence on the socially active part of the citizens actualized the question of control of this phenomenon by the government authorities and structures. The official recognition of volunteering by the public authorities is an important element of system of interaction between the state and the society. Furthermore, the official government recognition of the volunteers' activities is a primary precondition of their cooperation development – as a condition for effective realization of the state policy on volunteer activity.

Starting from autumn 2014, volunteers have been working closely together with the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine. Well-known volunteers were actively brought into the ministry structures, in particular – D. Arahamia (the founder of volunteer organization "People's project") was assigned a Procurement Matters Commissioner, Y. Biriukov (the founder of the "Phoenix wings") – an Associate Minister of Army Provision and T. Rychkova lead a new state enterprise, which provides the forces of special operations. A Volunteer Council was created under the Ministry to address the issues of food, medical and material provision. Volunteers work in the Ministry of Defence departments and are responsible for the provision of the Armed Forces of Ukraine²³. In the end of 2014 at the initiative of a well-known volunteer and President Advisor Y. Biriukov, a "Volunteer Desant" was created. Eight volunteers started working for the Ministry of Defence to strengthen the rear services and public procurement. They implemented an electronic procurement system and electronic register for the Ministry property accounting; development of a new technical environment for the providers; innovations in the military nutrition field and warehouse automating. So the creation of the Volunteer organizations Council in the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine and integration of volunteers to state departments and agencies management, the AFU rear services made the Ministry work more transparent and effective, which improved the material provision of the army.

Because of the large-scale terminations the "Volunteer Desant" was disbanded and a new "Project Office for Reforms" was created – a Ministry of Defence unit consisting of 30 managers

²³ Тохтарова І. М. Волонтерський рух в Україні: шлях до розвитку громадянського суспільства як сфери соціальних відносин. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Tpdu_2014_2_5.

from volunteer and business environment (A. Zahorodniuk – the head of the unit). It is responsible for material provision, procurement, medicine, etc²⁴. And coordinating center for hostages' release, set up at the Ministry of Defence is working on searching and rehabilitation of those held hostage, social protection of the negotiators. Ten volunteers, who have experience negotiating with DPR and LPR and other illegal armed formations, comprise the unit. In August 2015 Y. Biriukov created a Coordinating Center "Sarmat" within the same Ministry which is led by O. Lipiridi. The headquarters are on the front-line in the ATO zone and is responsible for rear and medical provision, granting the corresponding status to the fighters, payments and submitting soldiers for awards.

The founder of one of the well-known volunteer organizations Georgiy Tuka became a Governor of Lugansk oblast military-civil administration in July 2015, and in April 2016 he was assigned a Deputy Minister of temporary occupied territories and internally displaced persons in Ukraine. Assignment of volunteer to this position indicates the changes in reforming Ukrainian society. Thus involvement of volunteers to working in government authorities and letting them work on development and realization of state social programs is one of the mechanisms of collaboration between state and civil society.

The state, through its bodies and authorities, supports community-based initiatives about implementing volunteer activity, guarantees and ensures the protection of human rights, freedoms and legal interests of the volunteers, recipients of volunteer support, volunteering organizations and foundations, which are provided by the Constitution of Ukraine and other laws. Volunteer activities are often coming out beyond the legal field when quick actions at assisting the ATO soldiers are required. Therefore, other mechanisms of interaction are: the change of the legislation aimed at elimination all the obstacles that can directly or indirectly prevent people from engaging in volunteer activity and reduction of the tax burden that places volunteers at a disadvantage.

On March 5, 2015 a Law "On the amendment of some laws of Ukraine regarding volunteer activity" was passed, which took into account the interests of all volunteer initiatives and organizations. This Law cancelled the obligation to register the volunteer organization in the Ministry of Social Politics, insurance, recognized the informal groups and allowed individual volunteer activity²⁵. Even though it did not solve all the problems, it brought the Ukrainian volunteer movement closer to the world standards and became a significant step to establishing partner relationship between Ukrainian volunteers and the state. Thus, the adopted set of laws is aimed to assist the volunteers' work.

However, the question of granting the volunteers the combat veteran status is still unregulated. In June 2015 according to the Law, volunteers obtained the war invalids status and

²⁴ Волонтерський десант» демобілізований. Ідеолог проєкта Давид Арахамія об експерименті в МО / Українська правда. 2015. URL: <http://life.pravda.com.ua/society/2015/11/5/202712/>.

²⁵ Про внесення змін до деяких законів України щодо волонтерської діяльності: Закон України від 5 березня 2015р. № 246-VIII. URL: <http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/246-19>

extended this law's application to volunteers' families, if the member died or went missing²⁶. The issue of acknowledging the volunteers' combat veteran status is not resolved, though, in the soldiers' opinion, volunteers who work in the ATO zone are risking their lives near them and deserve this status²⁷.

Therefore volunteering in Ukraine is not just providing financial or physical assistance, but the expression of active citizenship. After the Revolution of Dignity and the beginning of the events in the East, volunteering has received a great public and political recognition. This turning point has changed the pattern of relationship between civil society and the state, showing a significant influence on the development of the third sector – volunteer movement in particular. Under these circumstances, a wide public attention was attracted to volunteering. It has become an object of interest for public authorities, which were trying to regain people's trust by interacting with volunteer organizations.

Analysis of the activities of volunteer organizations in ATO zone allows us to highlight the following areas of their work: the military area, associated with supporting particular military units, collecting and transporting necessary equipment to the ATO zone (vehicles, body armor, camouflage nets, uniforms, etc.). This also includes repair volunteering. The second area is medical volunteering – providing military with medical supplies, aiding the wounded, raising funds for the treatment of ATO fighters. Migration – creation of the assistance centers to help with buying, finding new house and work, collecting humanitarian aid; participation in search activities in order to find those soldiers who went missing. Volunteers also provide soldiers and settlers with psychological and legal assistance, are engaged in exporting the civilian population from the front and front-line war zone.

A number of volunteer associations are working across the whole Ukraine that created a powerful volunteer movement, which is difficult to find any equivalents for in the world. The scale of volunteers' actions in Ukraine demonstrates that the level of the social consciousness of citizens has grown considerably. Ukrainian volunteer movement to help the soldiers who serve in the zone of ATO has been recognized by the state; volunteers are actively engaged in the work of the system of public authorities on all levels; volunteer groups are being created in different state institutions; the government works on changing the legal framework to improve their work in the new environment. Yet it is early to evaluate the results of this cooperation as there are many problems which are still not resolved. In the present military situation, volunteers and volunteer associations came forward as an instrument of influence on the state which helps to solve the existing problems in society effectively.

²⁶ Про внесення змін до Закону України «Про статус ветеранів війни, гарантії їх соціального захисту» щодо статусу осіб, які захищали незалежність, суверенітет та територіальну цілісність України»: Закон України від 07.04.2015 № 291-VIII URL: <http://zakon4.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/291-19>

²⁷ Тохтарова І. М. Волонтерський рух в Україні: шлях до розвитку громадянського суспільства як сфери соціальних відносин. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Tpdu_2014_2_5.

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