

## ПОЛІТИЧНА КУЛЬТУРА ТА ІДЕОЛОГІЯ

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ORCID ID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5864-4931>*Huryk M. I., Ternopil National Economic University*CIVIC CULTURE UNDER DECENTRALIZATION:  
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*The article deals with the problem of establishing a of civil culture as a condition for the successful implementation of decentralization in Ukraine. The author conduct a systematic analysis of specific features of civility, attempt to reveal the nature of the transformation of the culture of civicism in the context of decentralization reform. The study was analyzed of specific forms of civic activity: citizens' appeals, general meetings, public examination, public hearings, public consultations, was emphasized that electoral participation of citizens is one of the most important components of the culture of civic citizenship. It is noted that the sign of a high level of civic culture is the association of citizens with non-governmental organizations that raise their members' sense of cooperation, solidarity and civil patriotism, which ensures the political structuring of society. The importance of the role of youth civic engagement in the process of decentralization reform is highlighted. An analysis of the evolution of the role of civil society in the course of decentralization reform was conducted. It is proved that the purpose of civil society is to reconcile society with the combination of private and general interests, mediation between personality and state power. It is emphasized that strategic decisions for the structures of civil society are strategic decisions that involve the transfer to the regional level of procedures through which the functions of public authorities are subject to control by the public, which ensures greater autonomy of regional governance. It has been proved that decentralization, due to its instrumentality, creates an appropriate space for the formation of a pluralistic civil society, with the expansion of opportunities for self-recruiting communities into different institutional structures. The authors emphasize that mobilization of civil society takes place through the formation of joint responsibility as a certain form of civic consciousness, which serves to confirm the coincidence of social and civil participation in the implementation of relevant initiatives.*

**Key words:** *citizen, citizenship, civic self-awareness, culture of citizenship, decentralization, civil society, united territorial communities.*

**Problem formation in general and its connection with important practical and scientific tasks.**

Human citizenship is realized, above all, through active participation in community activities, serving as a basic element of society. The formation of effective territorial communities is the basis of decentralization reform, aiming at local self-government empowering, citizens activation in interaction in order to meet their own needs and interests at the municipal level. Successful implementation of power decentralization in Ukraine requires different forms of civic activity of the population aimed at forming effective civil society institutions. Only effective civil society is a mean of citizens conscious self-expression, ready for self-organization and self-realization of their own interests, which is the basis of civil culture.

**The aim of our study** is to analyze the main forms of citizen's participation at the municipal level, as the main dimension of civic culture in the context of decentralization reform in Ukraine.

**Selection of previously unresolved parts of the general problem highlighted in the article.**

The problem of the influence of civil culture on the quality of decentralization reform and intensification of civil society institutions becoming in Ukraine.

**Analysis of recent research and publications.** The question of the civil culture interrelation and power decentralization has been the subject of research by such foreign scientists as: A. de Tocqueville, G.V. F Hegel, M. Weber, Y. Habermas, K.-O. Apel, D. Böhler, G. Wittimo, F. Fukuyama, O. Heffe,

S. Baumgen, R. Dalton, D. Bittchen, K. Boyle, K. Taylor, P. Waitt, T. Marshall, A. Seligman and ukrainian authors: V. Averyanov, V. Bakumenko, O. Boryslavska, M. Bratkovsky, I. Gritsyak, B. Danylyshyn, A. Lelechenko, V. Mamonova, O. Skripniuk, I. Tsurkanova, etc.

**Presenting of main material.** The category "civil society" is first and foremost related to the concept of "citizen" as a social type of person, characterized by the ability to combine their own and public interests, a sense of duty towards the Motherland [12, p. 117]. The social essence of a citizen is realized by him not through the concept of "citizenship", which is a formal legal status, but on the basis of civil culture. The idea of civil culture is based on the individual ability of the citizen to participate actively in the affairs of society and the state, on the basis of a deep awareness of their rights and responsibilities, maturity of political and legal consciousness, a sense of patriotism [12, p. 122]. The civic idea also implies a person's awareness of himself as a member of a unified social community formed to address vital public issues. The realization of this idea is connected with the formation of a person who is aware of his responsibility and involvement in the life of the community and its assets, for which citizens opinion and sympathy [10, p. 242]. It follows that a person's participation in community life is an integral citizenship attribute and, at the same time, a citizenship manifestation. The contemporary researcher S. Huntington considers the active citizenship participation in socio-political life as a characteristic feature of the third stage of democratic society development, which comes after its structural and representative stages [25, p. 115].

In particular, the theory of participatory democracy is based on the citizens rights to participate in the formation of public authorities, to control their activity, to influence on decisions making process, equal voting rights for all decisions, the exercise of this right in election and referendum procedures, and direct involvement in community life issues. The citizens participation in solving issues of local importance contributes to the growth of their self-awareness, self-esteem and respect for human values: freedom, justice, social equality, which are important for self-organization and protection of their rights and freedoms from the arbitrariness of the state. Awareness of the citizen's responsibility for the state of affairs in the state also contributes to the activation of civil society. This process is manifested in the context of power decentralization reform in Ukraine.

Decentralization means such a way of defining and differentiating tasks and functions, whereby most of them are transferred from the level of central authorities to the lower level and become the lower level bodies tasks [2, p. 128].

Decentralization involves bringing authorities closer to the people and delegating authority and responsibility to representative bodies in communities. According to the American political scientist A. Toffler, decentralization is a "global shift of power" that frees the individual from state custody and allows for democracy to be built from the bottom up [30, p. 24]. In addition, an increase in financial resources on the ground also implies an increase in responsibility for their using. As the authority level on the ground increases, so should the responsibility level for decisions made by officials. In doing so, the public should not be left out of the community problems, but should use all possible tools to reduce corruption and to satisfy the rights of every citizen in that community. In order to form an effective mechanism for monitoring the activities of local authorities, a partnership relations system between the state and civil society institutions should be established. Such partnerships, improving the authorities activities and ensure their transparency and openness, is a factor in improving the provision of administrative services in the community. Therefore, Centers for Administrative Services to the Population are being created as part of decentralization reform in the united territorial communities. According to the Economic Development and Trade Ministry were established 713 Administrative Service Centers in Ukraine (1 July 2017) [18]. According to the Law on Administrative Services, ASC should provide community residents with quality services in various life spheres, as well as accept reports, declarations, complaints, enter into contracts and agreements with representatives of economic entities that have a monopoly position in the relevant services market (water, heat, gas, electricity, etc.) [5].

The role of civic culture in the context of decentralization is also increasing, as the public can engage in various forms of influence on the government in order to address the urgent problems of its coexistence in communities. An important mechanism for citizen participation, a manifestation of their civic competence, is to appeal to the authorities. In particular, the Ukraine Law "On Citizens' Appeals" stipulates that Ukrainian citizens have the right to apply to bodies state, local self-government, citizens associations, enterprises, institutions, organizations regardless of ownership, mass media, officials according to their functional duties with remarks, complaints and suggestions regarding their statutory activities, statement or request for the exercise of their socio-economic, political and personal rights and legitimate interests and complaints of their violation. [14]

An important form of direct population participation in resolving issues related to local government is the Assembly of Citizens, which is approved by the Laws of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government", the Constitution of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine "On Approving the Regulations on General Meeting of Citizens at the Residence in Ukraine" are convened at the place of citizens residence to discuss the most important issues of local life) of any issue related to local government [13]. According to the content of the Law of Ukraine "On Local Self-Government", members territorial community members have the right to initiate consideration in the council (in the order of local initiative) of any issue related to the jurisdiction of local self-government [9]. In addition to the above forms, citizens have the right to carry out public examination. This right is regulated by the government Resolution "On Approving the Procedure for Promoting Public Expertise of the Executive Bodies Activity №976, which gives the right to civil society institutions: to carry out expertise and evaluate the activity of local self-government bodies, to evaluate the effectiveness of making and executing such decisions by such bodies; solving territorial community problems [8].

Public hearings are one of the building elements partnerships and trust between the state and civil society, consultations with the public, which, in accordance with the provisions of the Ukraine Law "On Local Self-Government", are formal meetings at which representatives of local authorities receive public opinion on a specific decision or action by local authorities [16]. The key to the success of public hearings is the citizens cohesion in the topics preparation and the range of issues to be discussed. The subject of the hearing may be a variety issues of concern to the community, including local taxes and fees, utility bills, local budgets, development programs. For example, in Lviv and many other cities of Ukraine, decisions of the executive committees on setting utility bills were overturned by the courts because they did not pass the statutory public consultation [3].

In addition, Ukraine citizens have a right taking part in a general meeting at the residence place to discuss or make decisions on important issues for territorial formation [6]. Decisions taken in the framework of the current legislation are binding on the citizens territorial self-organization bodies of all citizens residing in the respective territory.

Citizens electoral participation plays a special role in decentralization, which is one of the most important civic culture component, because elections are the most common, accessible and mass way of involvement in social and political life, the power formation, a means of influencing on the political course formation, the occasion and needs [7]. The right to vote for citizens is enshrined in Article 38 of Ukraine Constitution, which states that citizens have the right participating in the administration of state affairs, in all-Ukrainian and local referendums, to freely choose and to be elected to state authorities and local self-government bodies. Citizens also enjoy an equal right of access to public service, service in local self-government bodies [10].

Equality of the access right to service in local self-government bodies in the context of decentralization can be implemented precisely for young people having a considerable ideas and proposals for community development. Creativity, a fresh perspective on community development, especially the village community, can be the first step in a young people's political career. An good example of youth involvement in local self-government bodies is the Youth Committee of the Baikovtsky community of Ternopil region. Many successful projects have been implemented due to the young people activity there [20].

Under new electoral law, young people have little chance to state's power taking part, but they can demonstrate their professional skills on the local level. Choosing candidates having creative programs that substantiate their political views can create the preconditions for community revival. A striking example of the high professional skills realization is the activity of 27-year-old Yulia Turchmanovich, who heads the Youth Committee of the community in her native village of Baikovtsi, and is a deputy and secretary of the Baikovsky Village Council [20]. Along with this, it is worth noting that the youth activity in the electoral processes is rather low. Age-related studies of previous elections show that the least active group is of voters aged 18 to 24 and those over 60, with the most active being citizens aged 50 to 59 [11]. A large number of political leaders are trying to attract young people to the polls, but political technologists consider this age group of the electorate the least stable.

In many countries that have implemented decentralization reform, the problem of low youth activism has also taken place, but states have tried to activate youth as it is a driving force in the electoral process. In Ukraine, the proportion of young people who cannot decide their political preferences at all is about 16%, and only every third voter under the age of 25 is ready to vote [20]. That is why, in the context of decentralization, special attention should be paid to the problems of young people in order to encourage them to change of civil society and in changes of the community socio-economic development. After all,

young people are most capable of implementing new ideas, and therefore their involvement must take place before the elections. This will allow her to evaluate the opportunities that will be given to her as a result of the candidate election. Therefore, when making choices under new territorial and administrative conditions, young people should pay special attention to the programs with which politicians go to the polls and actively participate in the electoral processes and in the processes of community development as a whole.

Engaging citizens in decentralization processes is the basis for successful reform implementation. Decentralization itself contributes to the nation consolidation around a common goal – joint responsibility for the state future. On this basis, researchers D. Bitchen and K. Boyle believe that the power decentralization, aimed primarily at ensuring "national unity, ... public authorities, by delegating some of their powers to civil society, influence it in such a way that it reflects the nation interests as a political community, whereby governmental structures and civil society institutions cooperate in unison" [22]. In view of this, the purpose of civil society is to reconcile society, to reconcile private and general interests, to mediate between the individual and the state government.

A sign of a civic culture high level is the uniting of citizens into non-governmental organizations, which ensures the political structuring of society, the separation of certain social groups interests, facilitates the relations formalization between political institutions and public organizations and associations. The active and effective activity of public and non-governmental organizations contributes to the institutional development of civil society and its institutions. Such organizations not only socialize citizens by shaping the practical and behavioral dimension of citizenship culture, but also best address the social problems of their territorial community by actively engaging its residents. Thus, citizens learn to take responsibility for the state's affairs in the environment of their cohabitation, to maintain order in it, to observe established behavior standards. It is important that non-governmental organizations cultivate a sense of cooperation, solidarity and civic patriotism among their members. Organizations members display better than others political wisdom, social trust, political activism, and subjective civic competence.

**Conclusions.** Thus, our analysis made it possible to understand the impact of civic culture on the decentralization processes in Ukraine. Specific forms of civic activity: citizens' appeals, general meetings, public expert examination, public hearings, public consultations, citizens electoral participation, citizens association into non-governmental organizations foster in their members a sense of cooperation, solidarity and civic patriotism, social security. An analysis of the evolution of the civil society role in the decentralization reform proves that only it is able to provide some of society mobilization for finding positive dynamics in the state development, which is an important component of the modernization reforms implementation. In turn, the aim of civil society is to reconcile society, to reconcile private and common interests, to mediate between the individual and the government. It is strategically important for civil society structures to make managerial decisions that imply a transfer to the regional level of procedures whereby the functions of public authorities are subject to control by society, which ensures greater autonomy of regional governance. Decentralization, through its instrumentality, creates an appropriate space for the pluralistic civil society formation, with the capacity to recruit communities into different institutional structures and to develop high-level civic cultures.

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**Гурик М. І. Громадянська культура в умовах децентралізації: муніципальний рівень**

*У статті осмислюється сутність громадянської культури в умовах децентралізації в Україні. Автор проводить системний аналіз специфічних ознак громадянськості, робить спробу розкрити характер трансформації громадянської культури на муніципальному рівні. У дослідженні проаналізовано специфічні форми громадянської участі: звернення громадян, загальні збори, громадська експертиза, громадські слухання, консультації з громадськістю, наголошено на тому, що електоральна участь громадян, є однією з найважливіших складових громадянської культури. Зазначено, що ознакою високого рівня культури громадянськості є об'єднання громадян у неурядові організації, які виховують у своїх членів самоорганізацію і самодисципліну, почуття співробітництва, солідарності та громадянського патріотизму, що забезпечує політичну структурування суспільства. Висвітлено важливість ролі громадянської активності молоді в процесі здійснення реформи децентралізації. Проведено аналіз еволюції ролі громадянського суспільства у ході проведення реформи децентралізації. Доведено, що призначення громадянського суспільства полягає у примиренні соціуму, поєднанні приватного та загального інтересів, посередництві між особистістю та державною владою. Наголошується на тому, що стратегічно важливими для структур громадянського суспільства є прийняття управлінських рішень, які передбачають передачу на регіональний рівень процедур, завдяки яким функції органів державної влади піддаються контролю з боку суспільства, що забезпечує більшу автономність регіонального управління. Доведено, що децентралізація завдяки своїй інструментальності створює відповідний простір для формування плюралістичного громадянського суспільства, з розширенням можливостей для власного рекрутування громад у різні інституційні структури. Автори наголошують на тому, що мобілізація громадянського суспільства відбувається завдяки формуванню спільної відповідальності як певної форми громадянської самосвідомості, що слугує утвердженню співпадіння суспільного та громадянського у процесі реалізації відповідних ініціатив.*

**Ключові слова:** громадянин, громадянськість, громадянська самосвідомість, громадянська культура, децентралізація, громадянське суспільство, об'єднані територіальні громади.