

MECHANISMS OF INTERACTION BETWEEN PUBLIC AUTHORITIES, CIVIL SOCIETY, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DURING THE RUSSIAN-UKRAINIAN WAR¹

*Postupna Olena - Associate Professor of the Department of Management of Training
Research and Production Center, National university of civil defense of Ukraine*

*Polianskyi Mykola - Student of the Training Research and Production Center, National
university of civil defense of Ukraine*

ABSTRACT

Ukraine has been fighting for its independence and identity for ten years in the war against the Russian aggressor. In the first half of 2014, when the Russian army illegally crossed Ukraine's borders and began seizing parts of its territory, Ukrainian society began to unite to resist the intentions of the leadership of the Russian Federation to restore its status as a superpower – an empire. Another powerful impetus for the consolidation of Ukrainian society was the full-scale invasion of Russian troops into Ukrainian territory. Over two years of war, the Russian army has caused significant damage to critical infrastructure, the manufacturing sector of the economy, social and cultural institutions, the housing sector, and there has been destruction of the Ukrainian population. The Ukrainian military defends the lands of their homeland and tries to hold the front lines. During this time, civil activists, volunteers, business representatives, in cooperation with public authorities, have opened a second front – humanitarian front and are actively engaged in providing humanitarian aid to war victims; organizing the evacuation of people from areas dangerous to their lives; accommodating internally displaced persons and improving their living conditions; assisting residents of buildings affected by explosions with materials and funds; providing assistance to military personnel, medics, and rescuers, etc. There is constant communication between public authorities and representatives of the civil sector, establishing connections with international organizations to address community issues, and improving mechanisms of

¹ (Illustrated By The Experience of The Non-Government Organization (Ngo) "Lookingforce 'Angel'")

this interaction. Many volunteer and civil organizations have changed and expanded the scope of their activities. An example of this is the Non-governmental organization (NGO) "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'", initially created with the primary goal of finding missing persons. However, during the war, the organization dramatically redirected its activities to address people's needs, and now, in addition to its main activity, actively engages in evacuation, humanitarian aid, assistance to the military and civilian population, and establishes connections with international partners. Moreover, this organization is not only focused on the wartime period but already outlines prospective directions of its activities for the post-war period.

Keywords: Public authorities; Civil sector; International organizations; Mechanisms of interaction; Russian-Ukrainian war; Humanitarian issues; Post-war challenges and needs.

1. INTRODUCTION

The participation of governance entities in joint activities with civil society institutions during crises defines managerial interaction. The primary purpose of managerial interaction in such cases is to unite the efforts of public governance bodies and civil society institutions, as well as involve international organizations in addressing social needs arising from societal necessities during crises (Khitra, O., 2019). In Ukraine, the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war, now in its tenth year, represents such a crisis. In this war, Ukraine is fighting for its independence and identity. It's worth noting that when the Russian army illegally crossed Ukraine's borders in 2014 and began occupying parts of its territory, Ukrainian society started uniting to resist the Russian leadership's intentions to restore the status of a superpower – an empire (Vidnyansky, S., 2022).

Another significant impetus for the consolidation of Ukrainian society was the full-scale invasion by Russian forces in 2022. Within just two years of active warfare, the Russian army inflicted significant damage to critical infrastructure, the industrial sector of the economy, social and cultural institutions, residential areas, resulting in casualties among the Ukrainian population. Ukrainian soldiers defend their homeland and attempt to hold the frontlines. Meanwhile, activists, volunteers, business representatives, in collaboration with public authorities, have opened a second front – the humanitarian front. They provide assistance to war victims, organize the evacuation of people from dangerous areas, accommodate internally displaced persons, improve their living conditions, help residents of buildings affected by

explosions with materials and funds, and support military personnel, medics, rescuers, and others.

There is continuous communication between public authorities and representatives of the civil sector, relationships with international organizations are established to address community issues, and mechanisms of this interaction (legal, organizational, communication, informational, self-regulation, stimulation of public opinion, etc.) are being improved. Many volunteer and civil organizations have changed and expanded the scope of their activities. In this context, the experience of the Non-governmental organization "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" (hereinafter referred to as NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'") is valuable (Charter of the NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'", 2021). Initially focused on finding missing persons, the organization has reoriented its activities to meet people's needs during the war and is now actively involved in evacuation, humanitarian aid, support for the army, civilians, and abandoned pets, as well as establishing connections with international partners. Moreover, this organization is not only focused on the wartime period but is already outlining prospective directions for its activities in the post-war period.

Therefore, based on the practical experience of NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'", we will demonstrate how mechanisms of interaction between public authorities, civil society, and international organizations operate during the Russian-Ukrainian war, identify problematic aspects of this interaction, and outline prospective directions for improving these mechanisms in the post-war period.

2. METHODS

The achievement of the article's goal is facilitated by the use of general scientific and specialized research methods (Krutiy, O., 2012; Petrovsky, P., 2015; Polevoy, M., 2010; Radeiko, R., 2014; Shevchenko, M., 2010) suitable for studying the experience of NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" in crisis situations. This includes examining changes in its activities during the active phase of the Russian-Ukrainian war, identifying theoretical and practical foundations for the functioning of mechanisms of interaction between public authorities, civil society, and international organizations, pinpointing problems existing in the interaction of these entities to achieve socially significant results, and outlining prospective directions for improving these mechanisms in the future.

The primary scientific methods employed in the study are empirical and theoretical research methods, along with general scientific methods.

2.1. Methods of Empirical Research

The following empirical research methods were utilized in the study: observation, natural experiment, and comparison (Krutiy, O., 2012; Shevchenko, M., 2010). Specifically, the observation method allowed for the analysis of NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" activities to specify the mechanisms of interaction between this organization and various societal actors to achieve socially significant results; to compare the achieved results and identify problematic issues encountered by this organization in its work.

The natural experiment method (Shevchenko, M., 2010) facilitated the examination of the interaction process between NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" and public authorities, law enforcement agencies, and employees of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (hereinafter referred to as SES); representatives of the public and international organizations; to clarify the characteristic features of the interaction process and determine its reliability in unpredictable situations.

The comparison method enabled the identification of problems arising in the activities of NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" during the implementation of humanitarian missions and interaction with public authorities.

2.2. Methods of Theoretical Research

During the investigation of the defined issues in the study, the method of formalization was employed as a method of theoretical research (Radeiko, R., 2014). It ensured a comprehensive overview of the functioning of such a mechanism of interaction between public authorities and representatives of the civil sector, such as the legal one. Generalization of existing legal documents used in the activities of NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" enables the identification of problematic aspects and the development of approaches to their resolution.

2.3. General Scientific Methods

General scientific methods are logical methods primarily used as means of cognition and thinking (Petrovsky, P., 2015). Specifically, in the study, the method of analysis and synthesis was employed, allowing the development of recommendations for improving the communicative mechanism of interaction between public authorities and representatives of the civil sector. The historical method (Polevoy, M., 2010) enabled the investigation of the

emergence, formation, development, and changes in the directions of NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" in chronological sequence to identify patterns and contradictions in their activities. The method of induction and deduction was used to justify the necessity of implementing new forms and directions of activity for NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" in the future, particularly in the post-war period.

3. RESULTS

As previously mentioned, using empirical and theoretical research methods, as well as general scientific methods, let's illustrate, using the example of NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'", how mechanisms of interaction between public authorities, civil society, and international organizations operate during the Russian-Ukrainian war.

Firstly, it should be noted that NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" started its activities in 2020, with its main goal being the organization and conduct of search operations to find missing persons. Members of the organization prioritize searching for missing children, as they are the most vulnerable, and every minute can play a crucial role in saving their lives and health. However, not only these arguments played a significant role in emphasizing the importance of searching primarily for this category of individuals. One of the authors of this article, who is also the head of NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" - M. Polianskyi, experienced being abducted by strangers with unknown motives during his childhood. Although the child was quickly found with the help of law enforcement agencies, his childhood experiences influenced the conscious choice of the organization's further activities.

Today, the organization's members have gained experience in search activities and possess good professional equipment, they act quickly and coordinatedly, closely cooperate with law enforcement agencies, other specialized civil organizations, volunteers, and anyone willing to help. As a result, approximately 90% of all missing persons have been found alive. Overall, starting from 2020 up to the present day, members of NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" have conducted over 200 search operations in regions of Ukraine such as Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Kherson, and Kyiv. For instance, in 2020, in July, out of 6 reports of missing persons, 4 individuals were found alive and the relatives of one person were identified. In August, out of 10 reports, 9 individuals were found alive and the relatives of one person were found. In 2021, from January to February, out of 15 reports, 12 individuals were found alive (80%), 1 person was found deceased, and 2 individuals are still missing. From October to December, out of 41 reports, 29 individuals were found alive, 7 were found deceased, and 5

individuals are still missing.

It is worth noting that a large number of people go missing in Ukraine – approximately 9,000 each year. In 2020 alone, 8,692 individuals were considered missing. And this is official information, meaning written reports of a person's disappearance submitted by relatives or acquaintances to law enforcement agencies. Today, in the conditions of war, there are many more missing persons, but it is impossible to provide a specific number, primarily due to the fact that the occupying country illegally takes children from Ukraine to its territory without the consent of parents/relatives, tortures and kills civilians in the occupied territories, takes military personnel captive, and does not always include them in the lists of prisoners of war, shells civilian populations in cities and villages that are difficult for Ukrainian military and volunteers to access in order to retrieve the wounded or the bodies of the deceased. All this only confirms the necessity of creating such civil organizations as NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'", which already have positive experience in search activities and are willing to help in finding missing persons.

3.1. Organizational and Legal Mechanism

The organizational and legal mechanism of interaction between public administration bodies and civil society organizations defines the internal order and coordination of this interaction based on specified laws, procedures, and regulations governing the actions of all participants in the organizational system (Vasylykovskiy, O. 2023). The number of participants in this system is sufficiently large and variable. However, the state, through relevant bodies at all levels - central, regional, and local, plays a key role in this organizational system. Also, power is represented by local self-government bodies, law enforcement agencies, and others in a specific territorial community (Kovtun, Y., 2022). Civil society institutions also represent a large number of participants, including public, charitable organizations, professional associations, religious, and other associations. International partners are often involved in addressing complex state issues, especially in emergencies or crisis situations.

The legal basis for cooperation between public authorities and civil society institutions and international organizations in Ukraine is laid down in such fundamental legislative acts as the Constitution of Ukraine, "On Public Associations," "On Charitable Activities and Charitable Organizations," "On State Registration of Legal Entities, Individual Entrepreneurs, and Public Formations," codes of Ukraine (Civil, Tax, Criminal), and other legislative and regulatory acts. Civil organizations also operate under an approved charter.

For example, the NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" operates based on the approved statutory document of 2020, which defines general provisions, legal status, purpose, areas of activity, procedures for acquiring and terminating membership, rights and obligations of organization members, governing bodies, procedures for appealing decisions, actions, inaction of the organization's governing bodies, and considering complaints, conditions for international work. However, since the beginning of the large-scale invasion of Russian forces into Ukrainian territory, the main directions of activity of the NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" have been significantly expanded due to the emergence of new needs and requests from people affected by the war and in need of various assistance. Therefore, to respond quickly to the challenges of external aggression and the needs of the population, the main directions of activity of the NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" were transformed, and a new charter was approved earlier this year (Charter of the NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'", 2024), significantly expanding the priority directions of activity. The most priority areas are:

- Providing assistance to law enforcement agencies or independent organization in searching for missing persons, after the members of their families, relatives, and other close persons have applied to law enforcement agencies;
- Communication with law enforcement agencies, media, families, relatives, and other persons who report the disappearance of close persons (after they have applied to law enforcement agencies);
- Creation and dissemination of distribution materials on missing persons, creation of an information database on missing persons;
- Cooperation with enterprises, institutions, organizations, including public and charitable ones, on issues of searching for people;
- Involvement of special equipment, tools, and technologies for searching for people;
- Training of organization members and other volunteers in methods and ways of searching for missing persons;
- Popularization of the activities of human rights defenders and coverage of the results of joint activities with them;
- Promoting compliance with the rights and freedoms of individuals and increasing society's awareness of these legal possibilities of individuals as personalities (including preventing human trafficking, discrimination, other manifestations of violence, cruel treatment, etc.);
- Promoting the practical implementation of nationwide, regional, local, and

international programs aimed at improving the socio-economic situation (including providing humanitarian assistance to the population, coordinating its receipt and distribution; improving the material situation of persons affected by the military Russian aggression against Ukraine, natural disasters, ecological, technological, and other disasters in peacetime and wartime);

- Creating and promoting the implementation of projects and programs to support persons who have become victims of war, armed aggression, and events equated to them;
- Supporting charitable and volunteer actions, informational, technical, and financial support for other civil organizations, enterprises, institutions to achieve the goal of the NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'";
- Involvement in solving the problems of persons affected by the war and providing assistance and protection to the population in emergencies in peacetime and wartime by a wide range of representatives of the public and foreign partners, including promoting their participation in programs and projects initiated by the organization in defined areas of activity.

It should be noted that in the search activities of the NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'", it is guided by the Law of Ukraine "On the Legal Status of Persons Missing under Special Circumstances" and begins the search only after an official appeal to it. It operates in cooperation with law enforcement agencies and coordination centers of regional military administrations, which are practically created in each region of the country.

Members of the NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" at the end of February - in March 2022, as residents of the most affected district of Kharkiv - Saltivka - a district that was heavily shelled by the aggressor country at that time, quickly responded to the needs of the residents and became active participants in evacuating people to safer areas of the city, regions, and to the central railway station. Using well-thought-out logistic routes, over 200 Kharkiv residents were evacuated within the first year of the war. Today, this work continues, but evacuations are now carried out from settlements in border regions (Kharkiv, Luhansk, Donetsk, Sumy, etc.), where there is an urgent need. Over the course of more than two years of war, this organization alone has evacuated approximately 400-450 citizens. This is an approximate figure since, in the conditions of war, the priority for NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" is, of course, to rescue and assist people, so there is a lack of time and human resources for collecting statistical data among the organization's members.

Regarding other activities of NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" within the framework of its humanitarian mission, during the period of 2022-2023, their activities were also aimed at providing critical supplies to the civilian population at the frontlines or those completely cut off from means of sustenance (grocery stores, pharmacies, hospitals, etc.). Members of the organization engaged other civil and volunteer organizations, businesses, and reached out to ordinary citizens to organize the collection and distribution of food, hygiene products, and medical supplies for the civilian population of Kharkiv, border settlements, and other regions. Additionally, NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" is involved in providing shelter and support for displaced people from affected communities, assisting the army and military medics, feeding and rescuing abandoned animals, participating in repairing homes damaged by enemy shelling (purchasing necessary building materials, boarding up windows with film and plywood), and more.

It is worth noting that the organization constantly receives official requests (letters) from the heads of territorial communities (urban, rural settlements) asking for help and specifying the needs of the community. This especially applies to those communities that have taken in a large number of internally displaced persons (IDPs). The financial capabilities of these communities are limited and not designed for such a large number of residents (sometimes IDPs outnumber local residents by 10-20 times), so leaders are forced to seek assistance. Requests for assistance are also made to NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" when there is a need to transport (evacuate), for example, valuable equipment of state or other institutions; help vulnerable populations (disabled individuals, children of war, lonely pensioners, etc.) with food, medicine, clothing, etc. Naturally, there is a reporting function within NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'". The organization's chair collects all requests, letters of assistance, and also prepares documents for the transfer of humanitarian aid.

It should be noted that NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" seeks related organizations in defined priority areas and signs cooperation agreements with them. For example, in June 2023, a memorandum of cooperation was signed with the Charitable organization "Coordination Humanitarian Center." Together, both organizations carry out humanitarian operations and provide humanitarian assistance to the civilian population affected by Russian armed aggression. The effectiveness of their work is achieved through constant communication, information exchange, and joint organization of humanitarian projects.

Despite the war, members of NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" continue their educational mission by conducting training sessions on search and rescue operations - the main focus of their activities. In June 2023, a training session was conducted in Kharkiv by members of NGO

"Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" in collaboration with the organization "Roses on the Arms," which was not only informative for new search and rescue participants but also tested in practice. During the training, all participants joined the search for a 2-year-old girl, V. Mujechuk, who went missing in the Chuguiv district of the Kharkiv region. In cooperation with the police, State Emergency Service, and the Coordination Humanitarian Center of the Kharkiv region, the girl was found alive on the 4th day of the search, far into the forest. This was a valuable experience for novice search and rescue workers and a great opportunity for NGOs to demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and abilities in action.

Another direction of NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" is international cooperation. It is carried out through participation in international projects, work with international organizations, and other forms that do not contradict the legislation of Ukraine, norms, and principles of international law. In the conditions of war, international cooperation is necessary as it provides broader opportunities for providing necessary assistance to affected populations. In April 2023, NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" signed a memorandum of partnership and cooperation with a separate unit of the Hungarian Ecumenical Aid Service in Ukraine to consolidate efforts in overcoming the consequences of full-scale military aggression in the social sphere, addressing the issues of internally displaced persons, and creating comfortable and safe living conditions. As part of this cooperation, NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" received 300 housing restoration certificates for residents of the Saltivka district of Kharkiv. With the money from these certificates, double-glazed windows were installed in multi-story buildings damaged by enemy shelling.

3.2. Communication and Information Mechanism

The communication and information mechanism facilitates the process of informational interaction among public authorities, civil society institutions, and citizens. Interaction among these entities largely occurs through the movement of information, not merely as an informational process, since communication entails both the transmission of information and its reception, as well as the opportunity to personally evaluate the process and outcome of this interaction (Polyarush, O., 2011).

In today's information society, there are countless opportunities for showcasing the results of one's activities for both public authorities and civil society institutions: social media, mass media, various mobile applications, television, radio, and so on (Kupriy, T., 2023). For instance, the NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" utilizes all available platforms for communication

to promote its activities, seek partners for collaboration, receive assistance requests, and reach out for help when needed.

Additionally, the organization reports on the outcomes of its activities, consistently engages with citizens to learn about their current needs. Members of the NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" are often invited to meetings held in various structural units of public authorities, where they can voice their opinions on the adoption of important management decisions.

It is worth noting that the activities of the NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" are systematically covered across the internet on various social media platforms (Instagram (https://www.instagram.com/_po_angel_/), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064499820819>), Telegram (@angelservice_bot; <https://t.me/+BrPodExw1JU0YjYy>); Viber (Ангел-UA)), as well as in various media outlets (online publications), local and state television channels, YouTube, and others.

4. ANALYSIS

Some scholars consider the active participation of civil society in all aspects of the socio-political life of the state to be a crucial condition for the success of public administration. In this context, the key issue is the interaction between government bodies and civil society institutions, as the legitimacy of state power, its content, and the stability of public administration depends on it. The modernization of all social institutions characterizes the modern development of Ukraine, but this process is complex, as it is accompanied by the struggle against an external enemy - the Russian Federation. Innovative mechanisms of interaction between government and society contribute to these processes. It is believed that they entail new forms of civic activism in combating corruption, increasing volunteer activities, and implementing transparency principles in government bodies and local self-government from national to local levels (Honcharuk, V., 2022).

As some scholars note, the state of scientific research on the formation of civil society through the means of government is low. Within the theoretical conceptualization of the problem of forming mechanisms of interaction between government and civil society, such political components as the state, government, and civil society deserve special attention. Often, state power is equated with the state, using the term "state power," as it is believed that the functions performed by the state and power coincide. However, some authors distinguish these concepts, considering that there are three different subjects - the state, power, and civil

society - all of which are equal participants in power relations. However, only the state and civil society, as key subjects of social interaction, have the right and opportunity to use power as a tool of influence on each other. Power is an element that unites the individual, the state, and civil society (Boychuk, M., 2007).

The processes of building civil society in modern Ukraine are accompanied by solving two key problems: achieving the necessary balance between, on the one hand, the state and its mechanisms of influence on civil society, and on the other hand, between civil society and its mechanisms of self-development and social control. This balance, according to the authors of scientific works, is necessary for building a democratic, legal, social state, as it allows avoiding unacceptable states in state development, namely - minimizing either civil liberties or state influence (Kukhta, B. et al., 1997; Kuzmenko, B., 1999).

There is a presumption that the interaction between government and society is built on two important components: the implementation of democratic principles, transparency, and openness in the activities of government bodies; ensuring the opportunity for direct participation of society representatives in governance processes and addressing issues of significant importance (Bondarchuk, N., 2023).

In scientific literature, such mechanisms of interaction between civil society and government institutions as comprehensive, considered in the context of public-private partnership development (Ivashova, L. et al., 2023); normative-legal (Lesnyak, V., 2024); informational-communicative, participatory, crowdsourcing, public control (Vasylovskiy, O., 2023) have been identified and analyzed. Also, forms of interaction between civil society institutions and various structures in different conditions have been considered. In particular, forms of interaction of civil society institutions and the Bureau of Economic Security of Ukraine include participation of civil society institutions in lawmaking activities; formation of personnel potential and exercising public control over compliance with the requirements of competitive selection; involvement in law enforcement activities (Pylyp, V., 2024). Forms of interaction between the state and society in emergency situations include holding meetings with leaders of public organizations; organizing thematic round tables, exhibitions about the work of public organizations; creating a club of leaders of public organizations, advisory bodies and councils at public authorities, social orders, municipal grants, conclusion of social contracts (Bielska, T. & Tsurkan, R., 2024).

The results of the activities of public organizations during the full-scale Russian-Ukrainian war determine their increasing role as institutions of civil society, which requires the government to make changes to certain legislative acts to regulate the status and activities of

national and foreign public organizations of various kinds - charitable, youth, children's, religious, professional, etc. (Kovalchuk, S. & Pivovar, M., 2022).

Generalization of the cited scientific works allows us to state that the process of studying theoretical and practical aspects of the functioning of mechanisms of interaction between government bodies and civil society institutions in recent times in the scientific community of Ukraine has received a new impetus, provoked by new crisis conditions in which the country finds itself today - conducting a state of war, massive rocket attacks on civilian population by the aggressor, humanitarian catastrophe in the occupied territories of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, etc. In such conditions, a large number of various civil society institutions have activated their work or reoriented themselves to social and military needs. However, these very institutions face certain problems in quickly addressing the most pressing issues in organization and providing assistance to all those in need. This indicates the need to develop recommendations for improving, primarily, such mechanisms of interaction between government bodies and civil society institutions as organizational-legal and communicative-informational.

5. DISCUSSION

Important problematic aspects of the interaction between public authorities, the civil sector, and international organizations, as exemplified by the practical experience of NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'", include a lack of personnel, inability to maintain statistics and reporting information for the organization itself. For public authorities, it often involves a reluctance to cooperate with civil society institutions, unwillingness to sign agreements on such cooperation, and failure to invite them to communicative meetings and events where problematic issues are discussed and managerial decisions are made. At the same time, there is a problem of disseminating truthful information regarding casualties among the civilian population and Ukrainian military personnel (including a list of names) in the information space, as this data can be exploited by the aggressor country to its advantage.

Regarding the prospective directions of activity for NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'", as a result of the war in Ukraine, a large number of citizens have fled to different countries and obtained refugee status. In many cases, family members are forcibly separated: part of the family is abroad, while another part remains in Ukraine. Unfortunately, there are cases of death among Ukrainian citizens abroad. Those who remain in Ukraine often try to repatriate the body of their deceased relative to bury them on native soil; however, due to the war, they often lack

the necessary funds to do so. Additionally, there is no program in Ukraine (only for Ukrainian military personnel) for the transportation of bodies of deceased civilian Ukrainian citizens from abroad. Furthermore, no corresponding legislative act has been created to regulate these issues.

6. CONCLUSION

Based on the examination of the practical experience of NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'", the article demonstrates how the mechanisms of interaction between public authorities, the civil sector, and international organizations work. It identifies problematic aspects and outlines prospective directions of activity for this organization.

In summary, it should be noted that during the period of the large-scale war, NGO "Lookingforce 'ANGEL'" provides a wide range of social and humanitarian services to the country's citizens and carries out a humanitarian mission. It promotes social initiatives, programs, and projects, conducts training sessions for anyone willing to participate in the search for missing persons, establishes international partnerships to organize assistance for those affected by military conflicts and emergencies. Although this NGO is relatively young (only 4 years old), it already has sufficient experience and serves as a driver of social change both in the country as a whole and in the areas of charity, volunteering, and civil society activation to help those in need.

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