

FACTORS ENSURING COOPERATION BETWEEN LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT AND STATE ADMINISTRATIONS IN THE IVANO-FRANKIVSK REGION OF UKRAINE

Petrenko Viktor, Andrusyak Pavlo, Kulyk Tetyana, Rusanov Gennadiy

Conservatism is something that practically any person or group of people has regardless of the occupation. The positive aspect of this is that it guarantees the preservation and utilization of traditional positive experience, that in the past allowed to develop and implement decisions determining the behavior of persons and groups of people in certain situations. The negative aspect of this is the hypertrophied attempt to avoid any innovations and changes in personal or group behavior even when it requires changes in the external or internal environment of the person or group.

For a number of reasons (lack of competition, lack of management experience, attempts to avoid risk, inadequate motivation etc.) such behavior patterns is most characteristic for government officials working in local self-government and state administration bodies of post-socialist countries. This rather negatively affects the development of civil society in general and entrepreneurial sector as one of its main components.

Unlike government officials, entrepreneurs cannot allow themselves to demonstrate the least of negative conservatism since they are internally motivated for constant generation, search and implementation of innovative ideas in those areas that may and should yield income, even at the cost of high risk.

Innovative development of the society requires searching for logical balance between positive conservatism and justified risk. This in turn requires to search for optimum balance in utilizing the conservative characters of government officials and risk-taking of entrepreneurs by ensuring proper cooperation between these two cohorts in implementing the planning, organization, motivation, and control functions. The implementation of these functions has to be independent, qualified, and unbiased, innovative and creative. All these requirements cannot be fully accomplished either by government officials who are governed strictly by existing legislation or by separate entrepreneurs however successful they may be.

All these requirements may be fulfilled only by organizations, objectives, staff, policies and procedures of which guarantee non-biased operation, high qualification, innovative approaches and creativity in research, developing and implementing expert evaluations and recommendations. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) which are aimed at business development and support are exactly such institutions. Only such organizations can bring together and effectively utilize the available intellectual resources to the benefit of the community and to influence development processes through joint work of government officials and entrepreneurs aimed at identifying and achieving community goals.

Understanding of this situation by all the parties interested in promoting social and economic development can be vividly demonstrated at the example of the City of Ivano-Frankivsk (Ukraine) and Ivano-Frankivsk Region, where a rather extended network of business support NGOs was formed with the initiative of local communities and some support from governments.

This process, which was started from the formation of clubs and associations (entrepreneurial, business women, employers, manufacturers.), which were at the beginning aimed exclusively at protecting the interests of their members, with time led to the formation of such strong non-governmental organizations as “Regional Association of Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs”, “Private Initiative Development Agency”, “Association of Economic Development of Ivano-Frankivsk”, “Business Initiatives”, “Business Entrepreneurship Support Center” and others. Similar institutions appeared in other communities throughout the region, among which are “Kolomyia Economic Development Association”, “Rohatyn Social and Economic Development Agency”, “Precarpathian Agency for Reconstruction and Development” (Yaremche). Having concentrated proactive academics, entrepreneurs, experts, managers, community and political leaders, the aforementioned NGOs received the opportunity to effectively influence the development and implementation of a number of government decisions related to business and economic development of the region.

The detailed report that will be presented at the conference will contain specific examples of positive cooperation between Ivano-Frankivsk State Regional Administration, Ivano-Frankivsk City Administration and other local governments with NGOs as well as results of such cooperation and future perspectives.