

Post-War Inclusive Recovery of Ukraine: What is the Role for the Government in Building Up Public Welfare State?

Ilchenko-Syuyva Lesya

National University Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Kyiv-Mohyla School of Governance, Kyiv, Ukraine

Eugene Syuyva

Abstract: Full scale war of Russia against Ukraine that started on the 24th of February 2024, has an enormous impact on the public policy decision making and implementation in Ukraine, it's policy environment, stakeholders and policy actors. It highlighted old problems in public policy processes and procedures but at the same time opened new areas and underlined new issues that Ukraine has to face. As far back as military operations in 2014 (annexation of Crimea and first invasion of Russian troops on Ukrainian territory) the new social issue emerged in Ukraine. It created new social group – military veterans. It was absolutely unknown area for Ukraine and Ukrainian authorities that implied urgent needs for revising strategies, priorities and policies, the ideas of public welfare state have been brought more and more often. After February 24, the issue has been growing in geometrical progression as number of military veterans grows rapidly. Thus, since 2014 to now Ukraine has 2,5 million military veterans and the number increases rapidly each month. As of today according to the statistical data of the Ministry of Veterans, the number of veterans, members of their families and members of families of fallen may increase up to 4-5 million .

It became obvious that the society should rely on their specific civil and military experience and potential while developing and implementing new strategy of reintegration of dischargees. Having in mind the mentioned above potential quantity of dischargees and members of their families as well as members of families of fallen the problem became more and more urgent and can't be neglected. The recent researches show that those who participated in military operations come back to their old work places very rarely. They would better take training and retraining (or academic programs) in other spheres, or search for the positions in public sector, or open own businesses. According to statistic data in Ukraine dischargees tend for the third option – open their businesses (up to 40%) .

At the same time it worth to underline that “Despite the ongoing full-scale war, the Ukrainian authorities, with support of international partners i.e. World Bank and European Investment Bank, continues to implement a rapid recovery program” (Prime Minister of Ukraine said) . Rapid recovery program implies the wider involvement of public organizations and active citizens in the development, implementation and control of post-war community development, the organization of a multi-level dialogue and discussion of a common vision of post-war recovery and development, the involvement of the diaspora and temporarily displaced persons abroad in post-war development communities and Ukraine as a whole.

These two areas implementation of rapid recovery program and needs of dischargees can be naturally connected. Denise Brown, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Ukraine, underscored the need to invest in Ukraine's people because the future of the country depends on them. “The war is not over. The suffering is not over,” she said. “But communities in Ukraine are demonstrating significant courage and commitment in driving their own inclusive recovery processes and they need the continued support of their international partners.”

The paper discusses and provide cases of reintegration of dischargees in various areas. As an example, overall overview of the public policy for veterans' reintegration of dischargees in various areas.