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# The Role of Public Organizations in Ensuring National Security of Ukraine

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## Abstract

This article aims to identify the forms of participation of public organizations in national security. The basic methodological approach of the research is the analysis and generalization of the normative legal support and the scientific works that allowed to systematize and characterize the existing forms of participation of public organizations to guarantee the national security of Ukraine. The article emphasizes the importance of the influence of public organizations in the state of national security and the importance of a comprehensive and coordinated approach to involve public organizations in national security, generalizes and describes the forms of participation of public organizations to guarantee national security through the lens of the main forms of their interaction with the authorities of the organizations (information, control, consultation, active participation), the legal and organizational directions to strengthen the role of civil organizations in guaranteeing the National security. It is concluded that this type of research has practical value for representatives of the authorities and the public sector on possible ways to improve the role of public organizations to guarantee national security.

**Keywords:** public organizations in Ukraine; National security; institutional interaction, forms of participation, comprehensive approach.

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## El papel de las organizaciones públicas en garantizar la seguridad nacional de Ucrania

### Resumen

Este artículo tiene como objetivo identificar las formas de participación de las organizaciones públicas en la seguridad nacional. El enfoque metodológico básico de la investigación es el análisis y la generalización del apoyo legal normativo y los trabajos científicos que permitieron sistematizar y caracterizar las formas existentes de participación de las organizaciones públicas para garantizar la seguridad nacional de Ucrania. El artículo enfatiza la importancia de la influencia de las organizaciones públicas en el estado de la seguridad nacional y la importancia de un enfoque integral y coordinado para involucrar a las organizaciones públicas en la seguridad nacional, generaliza y describe las formas de participación de las organizaciones públicas para garantizar la seguridad nacional a través de la lente de las principales formas de su interacción con las autoridades de los organismos (información, control, consulta, participación activa), las direcciones legales y organizativas para fortalecer el papel de las organizaciones civiles en garantizar la seguridad nacional. Se concluye que este tipo de investigaciones poseen valor práctico para los representantes de las autoridades y el sector público sobre las posibles formas de mejorar el papel de las organizaciones públicas para garantizar la seguridad nacional.

**Palabras clave:** organizaciones públicas en Ucrania; seguridad nacional; interacción institucional, formas de participación, enfoque integral.

### Introduction

Ensuring national security, that is, protecting state sovereignty, territorial integrity, democratic constitutional order and other national interests from real and potential threats, is one of the priorities of every modern country. In an age of globalization, as the world becomes more interconnected and interdependent, new challenges are rapidly becoming universal and posing real threats to national security (Vlasiuk, 2017). The range of threats and challenges to national security is constantly expanding, in particular, globalization processes have exacerbated issues such as the fight against terrorism, pandemics, organized crime, and trafficking in human beings (Pavliuk, 2012). For some countries, including Ukraine, the issue of preserving territorial integrity and sovereignty has become more acute.

Describing the national security system as a set of state and non-state institutions, united by goals and objectives for the protection of national interests, domestic and other researchers from post-Soviet countries give the most important role in this system to public authorities (Korniiievskiy, 2008). However, the authorities responsible for national security today are clearly unable to adequately counteract the diversity of the 21st century's dangers. In general, there is no harmonized mechanism for ensuring national security in the system of central executive authorities today, there are no links and interaction regarding its security (Stroianovskiy, 2017). In such circumstances, the role of democratic civilian control, which is an indicator of the maturity of society itself, is enhanced (Vlasiuk, 2017). As the experience of democratic states shows, it is the development of civil society with systematic state support that allows to attract additional human, organizational, financial and technical resources to provide social and other socially significant services, as well as to reduce public expenditures (Decree of the President of Ukraine, 2016). In addition, public organizations are more effective in responding quickly to national security threats.

The events of recent years have convincingly demonstrated that in certain critical situations where public institutions are disorganized and weakened, spontaneously by nature self-organization of citizens is capable of responding to internal and external threats to national security (Yablonsky *et al*, 2016). Thus, the military aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, which led to the annexation of Crimea and the occupation of certain regions of Donetsk and Luhansk regions, created a new space for active activity of public organizations in the field of national security, the key areas of which are human rights activities, enforcement of rights monitoring, provision of rights monitoring and psychological assistance to volunteers and military and civilian victims, search for prisoners, hostages, and victims (Yablonsky *et al*, 2016). During the COVID-19 pandemic, civil society organizations themselves were the first to implement various projects aimed at protecting national interests and became a driving force in national security. On the growing influence of public organizations, including in the area of national security, shows rising confidence in them (Ukraine 2019-2020: Wide Opportunities, Contradictory Results, 2020). However, the overall level of involvement of the citizens themselves in the activities of non-governmental institutions remains paradoxical. Thus, only 7.5% of Ukrainian citizens are involved in active civil activity. Almost the share of those who participate in the work of public organizations and associations has not changed: in 2019 90% of the citizens of Ukraine did not belong to any of the organizations, associations or parties, in 2013 – 85.5% (Civil Society in Ukraine: The View of Citizens, 2019).

Interestingly, as national security threats increase, the number of public organizations increases. Thus, in Ukraine at the beginning of 2017, 76 thousand were registered, in 2018 – 80.5 thousand, in 2019 – 84.6 thousand

public organizations (Ukraine In Numbers 2018: Statistical Collection, 2019). However, increasing the number does not indicate an improvement in the quality of the activity. Many public organizations areas and activities are duplicated, potentially reducing the efficiency of their resources. In addition, the cooperation of public organizations and authorities in ensuring national security often depends on situational moments, personal factors, a set of other subjective moments (Pavliuk, 2012). Of course, without the help of the public, no state would be able to cope with national security in an emergency situation. At the same time, without a comprehensive and coordinated approach to national security, the potential of the public sector is being misused. For example, some scholars have quite rightly criticized indentured volunteers, who are often unprepared and can duplicate the actions of each other and the authorities, thereby wasting resources (Chan, 2020).

That is, on the one hand, the range of instruments of influence of civil society on the formation and implementation of state policy in the field of national security is expanding, and corresponding changes are made to the legislation. On the other hand, the question remains of the effectiveness of the new institutional and procedural capacities of civil society actors to ensure national security, to identify possible forms of their participation in this field. Research on forms of involvement of public organizations will help to identify ways to strengthen the role of the public sector in ensuring national security. At the same time, it is clear that in the conditions of globalization, when numerous external and internal threats to national security in various spheres appear annually, the issue of strengthening the role of public organizations in ensuring national security, creation of proper conditions for their effective activity in this area, formation of new approaches and the mechanisms of their cooperation with the authorities become extremely relevant.

## **1. Literature review**

The issue of national security and its security has been the subject of many scientists' attention for a long time. Predominantly, scientists are researching individual components of national security. Thus, O.A. Mashkov paid attention to environmental security as a component of national security (Mashkov and Mamchur, 2018), economic security – O.S. Vlasuk (2017) and others, civil defense – Yu.Ye. Kharlamova (2018). The conceptual view of national security as a multifaceted phenomenon, whose components are foreign and domestic political, military, economic, social, humanitarian, scientific, technological, environmental, information and other components of national security in general, is common among

scientists (Korniiievskiy, 2008). At the same time, in developed foreign countries, national security is classified as military and national security; issues of ensuring the security of the individual and society, especially in the social, economic and environmental spheres, are not actually taken care of by the governmental structures of these countries (Korniiievskiy, 2008). Some scholars divide modern security threats into “hard security” and “soft” threats according to two types of security – “hard” and “soft” (soft security). Hard security includes the military and defense aspects of national security, while soft security focuses on potential political, social and economic challenges to national security (Vlasiuk, 2017). Therefore, it is possible to speak about the existence of a narrow and broad understanding of national security and its security, depending on what threats are the focus of its attention. The narrow approach assumes that national security is aimed at identifying and combating “cruel” threats to the military and defense aspects. Ensuring national security in its broad sense includes activities to identify and overcome both “hard” and “soft” security threats.

As a rule, researchers are exploring the role of public organizations in providing individual components of national security, without a comprehensive approach. Thus, contemporary researchers pay particular attention to the issues of public organizations’ activities in the system of information security of Ukraine (Sipailo and Sipailo, 2017; Lisovska, 2014; Zakharenko, 2015; Blaha *et al*, 2017; Holovka, 2016). Among the research studies highlighting the issues of involvement, shaping the ability of civil society to counter crime and terrorism in the context of an anti-terrorist operation, one should mention the publications on the work of jurists of Yu. Nikitin (2014), I. Ryzhov and V. Strohoho (2015), Yu. Opalko (2016), A. Rudenko (2018). Schneiker (2020) explored the peculiarities of establishing cooperation between public organizations, including in the field of national security, which noted that public organizations have a mutual benefit (Schneiker, 2020). K. Pavliuk (2014) also drew attention to the growing tendency for the association of public organizations in the community, which contributes to the development of effective interaction between them. Indeed, cooperation between public organizations continues to gain momentum. Thus, in 2015, there was an All-Ukrainian gathering of representatives of public associations of veterans and participants of anti-terrorist operation, the purpose of which was to hold a dialogue between the authorities and public associations of war veterans. In 2016, the All-Ukrainian Meeting of Search Engines was held, dedicated to the results of the work of the humanitarian mission “Evacuation 200” on search, exhumation and removal of soldiers killed in the ATO area. As an example of pooling the resources of public organizations, you can also give the All-Ukrainian Coalition of Non-Governmental Organizations for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, which includes regional and local non-governmental organizations active in combating trafficking in human beings.

L. Sipailo and N. Sipailo (2017) as a result of research of forms of interaction between non-governmental and state organizations on national security, distinguished the following: holding general press conferences, round tables, speeches in the media; providing each other with information on the provision of services to coordinate efforts; holding joint actions, meetings; teaching partners the basics of social work, sharing experiences; the provision of services that supplement the services guaranteed by law; conducting collaborative (or custom) research on the problem. These forms of interaction were divided into four main groups: information, control, consultation and active involvement of public organizations (Sipailo and Sipailo, 2017). In accordance with this concept, we develop the opinion of the authors and systematize the forms of participation of public organizations in ensuring national security based on their separate forms of their interaction with the authorities.

Forms of participation of public organizations in ensuring national security were fragmentally investigated by K. Pavliuk (2014), who noted that in fact the main forms of activity of public organizations in modern Ukraine are as follows: holding rallies and demonstrations; conducting exhibitions, meetings, conventions, meetings, conferences, lectures, seminars; organization of sports, wellness and fundraising activities; organizing celebrations to celebrate national and city holidays, etc. However, this is too narrow an understanding of the forms of participation of public organizations in ensuring national security, which envisages only active participation of public organizations, but does not cover such forms of interaction between state and non-state actors as information, consultation, control.

The involvement of public organizations in national security should be considered not only at the national level but also at the regional and local levels. After all, every region and locality has, in addition to national, regional and local interests and needs that are a subject of security. As a rule, a significant role is played by the public in the implementation of integrated or highly specialized (targeted at specific aspects of security) regional and local programs. Although public organizations appear to be implementing these programs by consent, they are generally the driving force behind their implementation and carry out the lion's share of program activities. Therefore, further research into the role of public organizations in national security may focus on their role in regional and local security.

The position of some scholars regarding the threat to national security in the activity of foreign and international non-governmental public organizations is somewhat unfounded (Pavliuk, 2012). In fact, the activities of Ukrainian public organizations would not have been possible without the support of international donors, in particular: EUAM (The European Union Advisory Mission), Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Delegations of the European



Commission to Ukraine, Freedom House, USAID Agency, International Renaissance Foundation, UNDP Eurasia Foundation, Embassies of the United States, United Kingdom, Netherlands, Canada, etc. The role of the OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, who since 1999 has been planning, implementing and monitoring the implementation of projects to help Ukraine strengthen its security and improve legislation, institutions and practices in line with democracy standards, should be noted separately. Projects can cover all aspects of OSCE activity and involve both governmental and non-governmental organizations in Ukraine (Memorandum of Understanding Between the Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE) And the Government of Ukraine on the Establishment of a New Form of Co-Operation, 1999). The OSCE cooperates with many national security actors in Ukraine.

Thus, during 2018, the Ministry of Defense co-operated with the OSCE in several areas in the field of national security (White Paper, 2019). In today's context, special attention is paid to the activities of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, which was created to help reduce tensions and promote peace, stability and security. OSCE Observers are also present at the Gukovo and Donetsk checkpoints, which are tasked with monitoring and reporting on the situation at the Donetsk and Gukovo checkpoints, as well as moving across borders (Survey of OSCE Field Operations, 2019).

It should also be noted the role in ensuring the national security of Ukraine of the Red Cross Society of Ukraine, whose main purpose is to protect human life, prevent and alleviate human suffering during armed conflicts, natural disasters, catastrophes and accidents, assist the Armed Forces medical service and health authorities assistance to the state authorities of Ukraine in their activities in the humanitarian sphere (Krasiy and Palivoda, 2019). However, often donor assistance is situational, project-based, non-systematic, and a coherent approach to its use. For example, as part of improving the effectiveness of domestic violence response, both the OSCE and the UNPF and the EUAM have trained police mobile brigades to respond to domestic violence. At the same time, local public organizations also trained the specialists of such mobile crews. The haphazard, uncoordinated approach to the distribution of donor assistance resulted in police being trained several times on the same issue, while donor assistance was also indispensable for the logistical support of mobile brigades.

This implies the importance of a coordinated approach to the use of donor assistance resources. At the same time, despite the large number of studies on national security, the complex issue of the role of public organizations in ensuring national security, in particular the forms of their involvement, as well as the ways of enhancing their participation in national security, remains poorly understood, which makes the research relevant.



## 2. Materials and methods

The methodological framework of the research is a system of general scientific methods and approaches, among which the leading methods are analysis and generalization, allowing to highlight narrow and broad approaches for understanding national security, systematize the existing forms of non-governmental organizations involvement in national security of Ukraine, clarify the deficiencies in their organizational and legal support and suggest the ways to strengthen the influence of non-governmental organizations in the sphere of national security. The method of induction allowed the authors to proceed from the position of the need to engage not only authorities but also non-governmental organizations for ensuring national security, as the axiom that is common to various ideological doctrines and theoretical concepts, which sometimes advocate opposing principles and approaches in modern democratic societies. The method of synthesis allowed to represent the role of non-governmental organizations in ensuring national security in the organic integrity of its components, and the systematic method helped to research the interaction of abovementioned organizations with the authorities in ensuring national security as a systemic phenomenon with logically interconnected elements. Formal and logical methods allowed to identify the most common forms of non-governmental organization participation in the field of ensuring national security and focus on those which require the improvement of their organizational and legal support.

In the course of writing the article, a significant array of data from national sociological surveys, official statistics, regulatory acts, expert assessments and recent research works on this issue were analyzed. The method of generalization allowed the authors to conclude that mostly scientists study certain components of national security (environmental, economic, informational, civil etc), but the role of non-governmental organizations in ensuring national security has not been comprehensively studied. The research is based on previously developed theoretical provisions, which are clarified or supplemented by new arguments, built using the method of observation, taking into account own experience of involving the authors in the activities of NGOs (NGO "All-Ukrainian Public Center "Volunteer"", NGO "Faith, Hope, Charity"), as well as international donor organizations (the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Project Coordinator of OSCE in Ukraine, UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), The European Union Advisory Mission (EUAM).

The statistical method was applied by the authors to assess the dynamics of the creation of non-governmental organizations depending on the socio-political situation in the country and the influence of threats to national security on the state of involvement of non-governmental organizations

in the activities of citizens. The method of hermeneutics allowed to study the content of regulations governing the activities of non-governmental organizations in Ukraine, including their participation in ensuring national security.

Formal legal, concrete sociological, comparative and dialectical methods were also used to study the state of involvement of non-governmental organizations in ensuring the national security of Ukraine and the prospects for the development of public sector in Ukraine. As a methodological limitation of the research, it should be noted the potential presence of the features of forms of non-governmental organizations involvement in ensuring national security, depending on the level of activity of this organizations – national, regional, local. However, as part of the research, this aspect has not been studied.

### **3. Results and discussion**

Public administration of national security should be built taking into account the peculiarities of organizational forms, orientation and nature of work of public associations, their real and potential capabilities (Pavliuk, 2014). In developed countries, the main forms and models of interaction of public organizations with the state have a clear regulatory framework (Konstantinovskaya, 2016). The Law of Ukraine “On National Security of Ukraine” stipulates that public associations, registered in accordance with the procedure established by law, are guaranteed the opportunity to: 1) restricted access; 2) carry out research on national security and defense issues, publicly present their results, create public funds, centers, teams of experts, etc.; 3) carry out public examination of draft laws, decisions, programs, submit their conclusions and proposals for consideration to relevant state bodies; 4) participate in public discussions and open parliamentary hearings on the activities and development of the security and defense sector. That is, this law only identifies four possible forms of participation of public organizations in ensuring national security (The Law of Ukraine, 2018).

**Table 1. Form of participation of public organizations in national security**

Forms of interaction between authorities and public organizations on national security	Forms of participation of public organizations in ensuring national security
Informing	Information requests (access to public information)
	Authorities' reports
Control	Public monitoring
	Public examination
	Public councils
	Analytical research
Consultations	Public hearings
	Dialogue platforms
	Admission to the advisory and advisory bodies
Active participation of public organizations	Social project contests (social order)
	Training, retraining and training
	Autreach activities

(Own elaboration, 2020).

However, the analysis of other legal acts and practices of public involvement in national security allows to distinguish other forms. As a whole, as a result of the conducted research, considering that the key subjects of national security are the authorities, we believe that the forms of participation of public organizations in ensuring national security can be systematized depending on their forms of interaction with the authorities (informing, monitoring, consulting and active participation) (Table 1).

Let's look at some of these forms of participation of public organizations in ensuring national security, which, in our opinion, is in need of improvement. Thus, an important element of the mechanism of public control is the systematic preparation and publication of reports by the authorities on activities in the field of national security. For example, in order to systematically inform the public about the activities of the security and defense sector of Ukraine, the state of implementation of measures for the development of the security and defense sector periodically, but not less than every three years, White Paper bodies or other analytical documents (Law of Ukraine, 2018). Thus, the Ministry of Defense annually publishes "White Book" (2019), which is a kind of report to the public on what has been going on in the army for the year. It would be advisable in such a format

to report on all issues related to national security to the authorities, as reporting to the authorities helps public organizations identify problematic aspects of the activities of the authorities and, if possible, direct their resources to address them.

An important tool for public control over government action is analytical research conducted by non-governmental think tanks. The largest number of think tanks is in Europe – 27.2%, among which Ukrainian think tanks play a significant role (Global Go to Think Tank Index Report, 2019). At the same time, Ukraine lacks domestic sources of funding for think tanks (Pavliuk, 2014).

In accordance with the legislation of Ukraine, scientific and expert support for coordination and control of activities in the field of national security and defense is carried out by the National Institute for Strategic Studies with the involvement of leading scientific, analytical and expert institutions of Ukraine and civil society institutes. However, the lack of cooperation between state and non-state think tanks is situational, the lack of joint long-term projects, which negatively affects the performance (Vlasiuk, 2017). Therefore, in order to improve the cooperation of state think tanks with non-state organizations, it is necessary to transform the practice of deliberative situational cooperation into the practice of continuous coordination and strategic interaction.

It is noteworthy that the procedure for holding public hearings has a different approach to normalization, in particular depending on the level of their conduct. Thus, public hearings at the local level are envisaged in accordance with the Law of Ukraine “On Local Self-Government in Ukraine” (Law of Ukraine, 1997). At the national level, the order of public hearings is standardized depending on the subject of the hearing. For example, individual Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (1998) regulate the procedure of holding public hearings on nuclear energy and radiation safety, the procedure of holding public hearings in the process of environmental impact assessment (Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, 2011). In our view, such a scattered approach to rulemaking is not rational.

One of the newest forms of addressing urgent national security issues in Ukraine at the national and regional level is the Dialogue Platforms, which are organized by the Regional Offices of the European Consultative Mission in Ukraine (EUAM), and which facilitate the establishment of mutual understanding between the authorities and public organizations on security issues and public organizations. developing a common position and action plan for national security at regional level. Information on the results of the dialogue platforms conducted is published on official websites of the authorities. However, it draws attention to the fact that the authorities, by demonstrating public interaction, primarily resort to finding facts of

direct or/and indirect consultations with the public. In the meantime, the information on the received and taken into account proposals or the reasons for their rejection are mostly missing, which complicates the detection of the effectiveness of such measures. In this regard, it is difficult to determine how public consultations, as well as public discussions and hearings have influenced the final decisions of public authorities (Public Activity of Citizens of Ukraine, 2019). Without this component, public consultation is of a formal nature.

The results of the analysis and generalization of the existing legal support and the available scientific researches on the participation of public organizations in national security allow to distinguish the legal and organizational directions of strengthening their influence on the state of national security. The legal direction envisages the improvement of legal support for the functioning of public organizations in the field of national security. Thus, the National Security Strategy of 2015 is still in operation in Ukraine, in which the role of the public is mentioned only a few times: first, civil society involvement is envisaged to improve professional security training in information security and implementation of national educational programs in media culture; secondly, the involvement of leading scientific, analytical and expert institutions of Ukraine and civil society institutes is provided for scientific and expert support of coordination and control of activities in the field of national security and defense, which is directly carried out by the National Institute for Strategic Studies. Given the variety of possible forms of public participation in national security, this approach appears to be limited and incomplete in the National Security Strategy.

Therefore, it is necessary to speed up the process of adopting a new National Security Strategy, with due regard for the proposals of public organizations received in consultation with the public, as well as enhancing their impact on national security in all areas of identified threats and challenges. In addition, it is recommended that a unified form of reporting on the implementation of action plans for the implementation of the National Security Strategy be implemented in all regions and all national security actors, including public organizations. Unfortunately, many strategic documents in Ukraine and annual Action Plans remain largely declarative and do not meet the set goals (Monitoring Study, 2019). The same can be said about the agreements and memoranda signed on cooperation and cooperation between the authorities and non-governmental organizations. Therefore, it is important to monitor the implementation of the declared tasks in the relevant agreements and memoranda, and to provide for the liability of the responsible entities for the failure or improper or untimely performance of the tasks stipulated in the strategic documents and plans for their implementation. In order to ensure a comprehensive and coordinated approach to the involvement of public organizations in national security, it is appropriate to define more specifically the role and place of public

organizations in the national security system in the Law of Ukraine on National Security, to clearly identify all possible forms of their participation in national security and peculiarities of their interaction with the authorities (Law of Ukraine, 2018).

The organizational direction of improving the influence of public organizations on the state of national security provides, first and foremost, an increase in the level of coordination of activities of authorities and non-governmental organizations in identifying, assessing and forecasting threats to national security, and implementing international cooperation on these issues. It is well known that public organizations have to spend part of their resources to raise funds to achieve their humanitarian goals. However, the limited number of donors and contributions received leads to competition among public fundraising organizations. It is therefore very important to manage the relations between these organizations and donors, to coordinate this process, which will facilitate a comprehensive approach to national security. It is advisable to create an appropriate focal point, which will summarize information on existing public organizations relevant to national security, keep a register of them, organize it into the directions and forms of activity of organizations, display in it links to the official sites of organizations and provide public access to it.

At present, the system of accounting of public organizations in Ukraine makes it impossible to obtain information on civil society organizations, their numbers, activities, contributions to national security, etc. The lack of access to quality information about NGOs and their activities does not allow to analyze the contribution of organizations to society and to carry out their comparative analysis (Palivoda *et al*, 2016). Such a registry will potentially help coordinate efforts of public organizations, exchange information, facilitate their cooperation, and address their funding, including from foreign and international donors. Thus, one of the tasks of such a focal point should be to communicate with donor organizations that promote national security in order to distribute resources equally and to identify rational and effective ways of using their assistance.

In addition, it is this body that can control the spending of donor assistance on the most urgent challenges and threats to national security. For this purpose, it is important to create an appropriate registry of threats as part of the National Security Strategy of Ukraine. A similar register exists in the United Kingdom (National Risk Register, 2017). The registry should also contain a description of the possible consequences of the occurrence of a specific threat, determine the areas of responsibility and the order of response of the competent authorities and public organizations.

Creating a common platform for public organizations will facilitate their effective cooperation and enhance their role in national security. It is interesting that in the current conditions of counteracting the coronavirus

as a threat to national security, the authorities have declared the creation of a unified mechanism for coordination of providing international assistance to Ukraine, which should make it possible to accelerate communication of Ukraine with international partners and organizations willing to provide humanitarian, financial and logistical assistance. (Pristaiko, 2020). However, this decision is a situational response to the inherent threat to national security. It is important to institutionalize such a mechanism on an ongoing basis and broaden its scope for national security in a broad sense. It may be an optimal solution to set up a national agency, such as the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), but whose activities would focus on internal tasks rather than external ones. like these organizations. The tasks of such a focal point should also include coordination of activities, sharing of information and experience, establishing horizontal links, combining efforts and supporting the most promising civil initiatives of all parties involved in national security.

Narrow and broad approaches to understanding national security can be distinguished. The narrow approach covers exclusively the military and defense aspects of national security. Ensuring national security in the broadest sense also includes responding to potential political, social, information, environmental, economic and other challenges to national security. However, a narrow and broad approach presupposes that ensuring the national security of the state is a matter not only of public authorities, but of the entire society, and the existence of an effective network of modern public organizations becomes one of the conditions for ensuring national security and the regularity of public administration in a democratic society. In today's context, public organizations, as an integral part of civil society, are not sufficiently involved in the implementation of national security policy, despite the fact that they have considerable potential and are actively involved in this process.

Thus, interaction between the public sector and the authorities is an important aspect of national security policy and determines its effectiveness. At present, the adoption of a number of pieces of legislation makes it possible to speak of an extension of the legal field for cooperation between public authorities and civil society institutions. At the same time, given their scattered and novelty, it is too early to talk about the systematic and effective interaction practices. Ukraine is in the process of developing tools and practices for cooperation in this area, adapting legislation to European standards. At the same time, it is important not only to promote the development of public movements aimed at ensuring national security, but also to ensure the efficient use of their resources and potential through a comprehensive and coordinated approach.

Mechanisms of interaction between the state and society need



improvement, including on the basis of systematic information on possible forms of involvement of public organizations in ensuring national security and their high quality legal and organizational support. The main forms of participation of public organizations in ensuring national security include: information requests, reports from authorities, public monitoring, public examinations, public councils, analytical studies, public hearings, dialog platforms, joining advisory and advisory bodies, participation in social project contests, training, retraining, training, information and education activities. Of course, this list is not exhaustive, and with the development of society and the mechanism of national security, it may include other forms of public organizations involvement.

## **Conclusion**

The results of the analysis and generalization of the current legal support and the available scientific and analytical studies on the participation of public organizations in national security allow to distinguish the legal and organizational directions of improving their influence on the state of national security. The legal direction envisages the improvement of legal support for the functioning of public organizations in the field of national security. The organizational direction of improving the impact of public organizations on the state of national security presupposes, first and foremost, an increase in the level of coordination of activities of state bodies and non-governmental organizations in identifying, assessing and forecasting threats to national security, preventing such threats and ensuring their elimination, international cooperation on these issues.

The results of the study can be used in further discussions about the role of public organizations in ensuring national security, exploring the effective forms of their participation in this activity. Further studies may focus on the involvement of public organizations in national security at national, regional and local levels, each of which has a specific character. Strengthening the role of public organizations in ensuring national security requires a comprehensive approach that includes legal and organizational lines. Within the legal direction it is necessary to: 1) establish requirements for reporting by the authorities on the considered proposals from public organizations or grounds for their rejection; 2) eliminate the scattering of legal norms regarding the procedure of holding public hearings on various legal acts; 3) accelerate the process of adopting the new National Security Strategy, with due regard for the proposals of public organizations, as well as enhancing their impact on national security in all areas of identified threats and challenges; 4) develop and approve a single form of reporting on the implementation of action plans aimed at implementing the National

Security Strategy; 5) in the Law of Ukraine “On National Security of Ukraine” it is more specific to define the role and place of public organizations in the system of national security, to fix the forms of participation of public organizations in ensuring national security and the peculiarities of their interaction with the authorities (Law of Ukraine, 2018); 6) to provide for the occurrence of responsibility of the subjects for non-fulfillment or improper or untimely fulfillment of the tasks in the field of national security provided by the strategic documents and plans for their implementation.

Within the organizational direction, it is necessary to: 1) ensure the implementation of the legislation on systematic reporting on national security within the competence of each of the state entities involved in national security; 2) establish, by a single standard, continuous monitoring of the implementation of agreements and memoranda on cooperation in the field of national security between the authorities and public organizations; 3) to transform the practice of advisory situational cooperation into the practice of continuous coordination and strategic cooperation in the field of national security; 4) create a single registry of threats as part of Ukraine’s National Security Strategy; 5) to improve the register of public organizations, in particular, to organize them into directions and forms of activity, to display links to official sites of organizations and to provide public access to it; 6) Introduce an effective mechanism for coordinating the involvement of public organizations in national security and providing them with donor assistance through the creation of a single focal point for public organizations’ involvement in national security.

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