



24^{MAY}

ТРАВНЯ

2019



Інститут Д-ра Я.-У.
Сандала, Норвегія
Fil. Dr. Jan-U. Sandal Institute,
Norway

Житомирський національний
агроекологічний університет
Zhytomyr national
agroecological university, Ukraine

64 САМІТ СОЦІАЛЬНОГО ПІДПРИЄМНИЦТВА

64 Summit "Conversations on Emerging Issues in Social Entrepreneurship"



МІНІСТЕРСТВО ОСВІТИ І НАУКИ УКРАЇНИ

**ЖИТОМИРСЬКИЙ НАЦІОНАЛЬНИЙ
АГРОЕКОЛОГІЧНИЙ УНІВЕРСИТЕТ**

FIL. DR. JAN-U. SANDAL INSTITUTE

**ДИСКУСІЇ З АКТУАЛЬНИХ ПИТАНЬ
СОЦІАЛЬНОГО ПІДПРИЄМНИЦТВА**

**CONVERSATIONS
ON EMERGING ISSUES IN SOCIAL
ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

**Матеріали 64-го Саміту
Соціального підприємництва
24 травня 2019 року**

Житомир - 2019

DEMOCRATIC INNOVATIONS IN UKRAINE

Tkachuk I.Y.

PhD, Department of Finance and Credit,
Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University;
Affiliated Honorary Research Fellow,
Fil. Dr. Jan-U. Sandal Institute, Norway

The main democratic innovations that were introduced in Ukraine during the years of independence are considered. An attempt to justify the reasons for their occurrence in accordance with the historical context was made.

Keywords: innovations, democracy, democratic innovations.

Democratic innovations are a new concept, which was scarcely used by scholars until 2000, but has become quite frequently used only after 2010 [1]. G. Smith provided the first definition of the notion of «democratic innovations», which became widespread. Accordingly, democratic innovations are "institutions specially designed to strengthen and deepen citizen participation in the process of political decision-making" [3].

B. Geissel points out that democratic innovations are "a new practice deliberately and purposefully implemented to improve the quality of democratic governance in any particular state, regardless of whether it has already been tried in another state." In addition, the scientist notes that democratic innovations "involve citizens in the decision-making process" [2].

Thus, Geissel B. divides all democratic innovations into three large groups [2]:

1. Direct democracy.
2. Shared management and network management.
3. Consultative and discursive procedures ("mini-publics") [2]:

Democracy is very popular in the developed world as a form of government. Thus, the number of ways and means of engaging citizens in the decision-making process is increasing almost every day.

For Ukraine, which has only recently become an independent and democratic state in historical terms, the rapid growth of types of democratic innovations is also inherent.

Since 1991, when democratic innovations were first introduced on December 1 as a referendum (referendum on Independence), Ukraine has introduced a large number of democratic innovations that cover virtually the entire range of innovations that exist in other countries. However, the stages of their implementation, efficiency, use and scientific

development can vary significantly.

We believe that the most significant democratic innovations in Ukrainian practice are: association of co-owners of multi-family houses, e-governance system; budget of participation; public hearings; endowments; crowdfunding; public-private partnership; creation of foreign funds; introduction of inclusive elements of community management; social networks, social networking groups, etc. This list does not pretend to be exhaustive, because the number of democratic innovations is steadily increasing. In addition, we note that the list contains democratic innovations of both the higher level and their subspecies.

The introduction of each democratic innovation has its consequences both in general for the society and the state, and for civil society in particular. We will analyze the peculiarities of the introduction of the previously listed democratic innovations.

As already noted, one of the first democratic innovations in Ukraine was a referendum.

However, the first "democratic" innovations that came to Ukraine, did not require any efforts from Ukraine as a state for its introduction. That were foreign organizations and foundations.

Thus, foreign funds that provided support (institutional, normative and financial) for the development of democracy, the liberalization of the economy and the promotion of the development of civil society and its institutions, did not require anything other than the permission to work, or rather the absence of a ban.

We should note that on January 16, 2014, "dictatorial laws" were adopted, one of the provisions of which was the recognition by "foreign agents" of those NGOs that received charitable support from foreign donors. Accordingly, such organizations were deprived of the right to exempt from paying

a profit tax. However, these laws were adopted in violation of the regulations of the Verkhovna Rada, were subsequently recognized as supreme to the Constitution of Ukraine and canceled.

In 1997, the Law "On Local Self-Government" provided for the right of the local community to hold public hearings, proposals on which results became mandatory for consideration by local self-government bodies.

Legislative consolidation of the possibility of co-owners of multi-apartment buildings merged into the association of co-owners of multi-family houses [5] became the democratic innovation that changed the development of the NGOs in Ukraine. These associations became peculiar schools of democracy, as co-owners of houses had to unite for the purpose of achieving a common goal, to negotiate and to compromise with each other.

The Law "On Personal Income Tax", adopted in 2003, provided for the possibility for philanthropists to provide support for recipients of charitable assistance (including NGOs) in the form of endowments. This innovation (in the case of the proper development of society) can radically change the development of the CSOs and charity in general. The reason is it has many financial benefits, which is important both for the benefactor (it helps to save the body of the endowment) and for the recipient of charity (a source of reliable income; flexibility in making financial decisions; increased ability to withstand the financial crises; the possibility of increasing the body of the endowment) [4].

In 2006, the social network Facebook went beyond the educational institution for which it was created and became available to all users. Various groups and individual profiles in social networks are, of course, democratic innovations, although the goal for their primary introduction was different. Today, diverse political forces, politicians and well-known

people, social associations are represented in social networks. They attract a huge number of supporters who are their "subscribers." Thus, social networking users are actively involved in expressing opinions about specific issues that they are concerned about and need to be solved. Moreover, any of them can act as the initiator of such a discussion.

The spread of Internet technologies, the emergence of other social networks have begun a rapid development of innovation in all spheres of society. This also applies to democratic innovations, which began to develop much faster since 2006. Thus, it can be argued that for Ukraine the 2006 year became to be a turning point. Until 2006, the implemented democratic innovations required additional efforts from citizens. After 2006, the situation has changed dramatically. Now the use of democratic innovations has become much easier. With Internet connection, access to the decision-making process is immediate and does not require any effort (because most of the democratic innovations are implemented using digital technologies). However, it is interesting that those innovations that had been introduced before 2006 became more accessible. The reason is that the information about them is widely distributed thanks to the latest technologies on the Internet.

Thus, in 2015, Ukraine introduced such innovations as electronic appeal, electronic petitions and the budget of participation, in 2016 - state funding of political parties In 2017, the Concept for the Development of Electronic Democracy in Ukraine was approved.

So, democratic innovation is a new concept. Their main role in society is to increase the involvement of citizens in the decision-making process. Globalization and the growing role of democracy in the world lead to an increase of the number of democratic innovations and their spread, which is also relevant to Ukraine. Since 2006, the number of democratic innovations

has increased significantly, due to the development of Internet technologies. In the near future, the further development of democratic innovations is expected as a result of the penetration of Internet technologies into the lives of individuals and states in general. Therefore, in the long run it is important to investigate the impact of their introduction not only on political processes, but also on economic ones.

References:

1. Elstub S., Escobar O. (2017). A Typology of Democratic Innovations. Paper for the Political Studies Association's Annual Conference, 10th-12th April 2017, Glasgow. [Electronic asset]. Available at: <https://www.psa.ac.uk/sites/default/files/conference/papers/2017/A%20Typology%20of%20Democratic%20Innovations%20-%20Elstub%20and%20Escobar%202017.pdf>

2. Geissel B. (2009). On the evolution of Democratic Innovations. Prepared for delivery at the 21st World Congress of Political Science, Santiago, July 12 to 16, 2009. [Electronic asset]. Available at: http://paperroom.ipsa.org/papers/paper_150.pdf

3. Smith, G. (2009). Democratic innovations: Designing institutions for citizen participation, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

4. Tkachuk, I. (2016). Tkachuk I. Financial support of Ukrainian non-governmental organizations activity. Thesis for the degree of the Candidate of Economic Sciences. Lviv.: 2016. 285 p.

5. Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2005). On the association of co-owners of an apartment building: Preamble to the Law of Ukraine. [Electronic asset]. Available at: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/annot/2866-14>.