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## **UNDP-UKRAINE PARTNERSHIP**

**Introduction.** After the Crimea Peninsula annexation and the beginning of the conflict in the eastern Ukraine, cooperation between Ukraine and the United Nations Development Program (hereinafter – UNDP) began to develop rapidly. Citizens and state institutions of Ukraine were supposed to have more external assistance. Therefore, the impetus for a new level of cooperation between Ukraine and UNDP was the deteriorating economic situation, declining living standards in Ukraine, human rights violations, and the Government's inability to provide sufficient assistance to conflict victims, children and internally displaced persons. In recent years, effective and time-bound achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals has been threatened due to the presence of a significant number of problems and the emergence of new ones.

**Review of recent publications.** Views on the problem and approaches to its solution have been covered by a small group of scholars. Basically, they draw attention to the lack of investment in order to overcome social and economic problems. G.V. Herasymenko [1] recommended developing the strategies for effective cooperation between international donors and government agencies, business and civil society to improve the work of international donor organizations; and T. Zatonatska [2] proposed to increase the investment attractiveness of the national economy and use budget funds efficiently. Furthermore, official UNDP documents and current statistics from the official sources [4; 7] have been used to reinforce the statements made in the paper under consideration [3; 5; 6; 8].

**Objectives of the paper.** The aim of the research is to identify the main problems and obstacles faced by UNDP in Ukraine.

**Results of the research.** UNDP is an important partner for Ukraine, which has been cooperating with this institution since the beginning of the country's independence. The organization focuses its activities on solving social and economic problems. This institution uses an integrated approach to solve global challenges. To

do this, UNDP uses the strategic plans of the United Nations, which are implemented by programs, funds, governments over a period of time. Accordingly, the goals set by such plans automatically become UNDP priorities in a number of countries, including Ukraine.

For 2018-2021, the following areas of cooperation between UNDP and Ukraine were identified: poverty reduction in all its forms and manifestations, acceleration of structural changes, building resilience to emergency and crises. However, taking into account the political, social, economic situation in Ukraine and in the world, the achievement of these goals may be delayed indefinitely [3].

The main phenomena that prevent the effective work of UNDP in Ukraine are the following ones. First, an active conflict in the eastern Ukraine. It destabilizes domestic politics, requires constant mobilization of resources, defense spending, military supplies, and so on. An important role is played by the fact that it is difficult to predict the actions of the enemy, so there is a risk of losing at any time the results that have been obtained by the joint efforts of UNDP and Ukraine [8].

The next problem is the spreading of COVID-19. It requires significant resources, rapid responses to new outbreaks, creates new and exacerbates existing challenges. The lack of jobs, increasing poverty rates, deteriorating environment, declining state economy are among them. The coronavirus spreading has become an obstacle to achieving the goals, that UNDP had undertaken to solve before the outbreak. The new assessments of global development published on the UNDP website may be the evidence itself. It is indicated, that the world level of education, health and living standards will fall this year for the first time since 1990. A decline is expected in most countries, whether rich or poor. Global per capita income is expected to fall by 4%. The World Bank has warned, that the virus could put 40 to 60 million people in extreme poverty this year [7].

Third, the lack of foreign investment. It is also reflected in the effectiveness of cooperation. The point is that UNDP allocates a small amount to Ukraine for the implementation of its projects. All the work of the organization is funded by voluntary contributions, which distributes among all countries where it operates. All these contributions come from Member States [2; 4]. At the same time, Ukraine is among the top 15 UNDP donors for 2019. Now so far we have not reached the level of development for Ukraine to be able to finance organizations and projects of other countries. The fact is that Ukraine funds itself a significant number of the projects, so it ranks 11-th in the list of donors. However, Ukraine, along with Paraguay, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and some other countries on the list, does not contribute regular resources, because it needs them as well. Ukraine is the main investor of projects, which UNDP realize there in full. For today, Ukraine contributes 147 million US dollars on achieving the goals.

The second largest financial assistance has been provided by the EU, whose contributions today reach about 1 million dollars. Regarding the statistic data provided, Denmark appears to be the next, then goes the Global Environment Facility, UNDP and others [4].

**Conclusion.** UNDP in Ukraine has faced challenges towards addressing key problems, such as peace, stability, poverty reduction in all its forms and manifestations, and the acceleration of structural change. The main obstacles identified are as follows: the war in the eastern Ukraine, the rapid spread of COVID-19 and the lack of foreign investment. Considering the importance of cooperation between Ukraine and UNDP, especially for our country, the problems that have arisen must be eliminated through joint efforts. It is necessary to promote the improvement of cooperation today and involve scholars, political scientists, analysts, international organizations, politicians, surrounding countries and all those interested in cooperation with Ukraine.

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## **FOREIGN POLICY OF MIDDLE POWERS: SWEDEN'S CASE**

**Introduction.** Middle powers serve as newsworthy example in the sphere of modern international relations research. Case of a state with average indicators in terms of power and capabilities but owing the ability to pursue an active foreign policy and influence the formation of the international agenda, increasing the interest of the world community in important and relevant issues, is more than needed to be analyzed. The case of Sweden in this dimension is significant as this, in many aspects, middle and not superior country has been able to run a highly influential and appreciated foreign policy. Sweden plays a role in the international arena that far exceeds its political, military, and economic parameters. Therefore, Sweden's example as a middle power state is the very experience of effectively constructing model of the foreign policy process organization, which can be effective for building the foreign policy of other states, including Ukraine.

**Review of recent publications.** Middle powers attract considerable attention of researchers, as well as Sweden in particular. Among the authors it is worth noting B. Kunz, C. Opitz, T. Etzold [5], N. Eklund [3] that focused on the security dimension of Sweden's foreign policy. E. Carlson [2], O. Elgström, M. Sundström [4] noted the country's efforts to ensure human rights and gender issues. As for R. Standish and L. Miles, they singled out Sweden's Euro-Atlantic cooperation as one of the important areas of political activity. Organizational bases of Swedish foreign