
Social capital as the basis of intersectoral social partnership

ALEXEY IVANOVICH PLOTNIKOV¹

¹Postgraduate Student, Department of Political Science, State Educational Institution of Higher Professional Education “Donetsk National University” (Donetsk, Donetsk People's Republic)
Email ID: 89112340775@mail.ru

Abstract: This article considers social capital as the basis for intersectoral social partnership based on the interpretation of the essence of social capital, indentifying its main features: non-monetary nature, trust, ability to self-growth with increasing frequency of use, allowing successful solving of social problems. Particular attention is paid to trust as the foundation of the organization of social interaction and an indicator of the size of social capital. As a result of comparing the concepts of social capital and intersectoral social partnership, the author identifies a key feature characterizing social capital and intersectoral social partnership – interaction with the goal of development, which in turn allows us to consider social capital and intersectoral social partnership as intercomplementary processes. Based on the consideration of the main features of social capital, its structure and essence as a process, the author concludes that social capital is the basis of intersectoral social partnership, its integral part and necessary basis for the development of civil society and the formation of a social state.

Keywords: social capital, social networks, intersectoral social partnership, trust, civil society.

INTRODUCTION

Intersectoral social partnership is currently viewed as a promising model of high potential, in which cooperation between the three sectors of society increases the possibilities for solving social and political problems and makes an important contribution to the development of civil society and the formation of a social welfare state. Social capital is a prerequisite for a developed civil society, which in turn becomes a natural catalyst for social welfare¹. Today, by social capital, we mean the ability of a society to organize itself and act together. At the same time, social capital is a multivalued concept: it cannot be moved arbitrary, it cannot be measured by any quantitative methods.

German sociologist C. Offe believes that the concept “social capital” should not be used in the scientific community, it should be replaced by the concept of “social asset”. However, the concept “social capital” is today actively used in the sciences describing society, and this has to be reckoned with. In addition, the concept of “asset” is considered by most researchers as an economic category. Therefore, changing the concept will not make its definition clearer.

The concept presupposing the existence of social capital is the opposite of the concept of individualism. The latter arose as a result of the modernization processes that intensified in European countries during the 19th century. The concept of “social capital” was introduced into scientific discourse by P. Bourdieu in his article “Forms of capital” (1983) to denote social connections that can act as a resource for obtaining benefits, while social capital, being a group resource, cannot be measured at the individual level². The sources of this idea can also be found in the works of E. Durkheim and M. Weber³.

Today, the basis of social capital is the system of relationships where people are among themselves⁴. V.V. Radaev believes that social capital cannot be usurped by an individual or a narrow group of persons, since it is a supra-individual good that cannot be reduced to separate material and value attributes⁵.

According to F. Fukuyama, social capital can be characterized as a set of rules of behavior that are not formally fixed, but that are understandable and followed by all members of the social group, which they formed in the process of social relationships⁶.

In discussions about social capital, the positions of P. Bourdieu, R. Putnam and J. Coleman are most theoretically substantiated.

J. Coleman in his works examines social capital through the prism of rational choice theory, focusing on the utility that a person can acquire from social connections⁷. In his works, the most important of the concepts describing social capital is its information potential. “An important form of social capital is the potential for information that inheres in social relations”⁸. Social capital, according to J. Coleman, is based on socially shared norms: trust, cooperation, solidarity, readiness to make sacrifices, while the significant is not so much the quantitative indicator of social connections as their qualitative characteristics. “The unwritten law within the collective, which is the

support of an extremely important form of social capital, is the norm that encourages everyone to sacrifice their own interests and act in the interests of the collective”⁹. According to J. Coleman, “the essence of social capital lies in its expression as a public good: an actor or actors creating social capital usually receive only a small part of it”¹⁰.

Thus, social capital produces social norms that promote conscious selfless interaction, cohesion and maintenance of interests that are significant for all members of a social group, which in turn is the fundamental basis of intersectoral social partnership.

P. Bourdieu defines trust as the most important prerequisite and compulsory condition for the emergence of social capital. Highlighting cultural, economic and social among the main categories of resources available to individuals, the researcher characterizes social capital as opportunities that open up to members of social groups¹¹. The amount of capital is understood as the expression of the essence and magnitude of social relations in quantitative forms. According to P. Bourdieu, all types of social capital, when combined, lead to a multiplier effect. As the advantage of social capital over economic resources, P. Bourdieu sees reducing in transaction costs, since achieving a certain level of trust allows avoiding barriers and restrictions imposed by formal institutions and bureaucratic structures.

Social capital underlies the multiplier effect, which is one of the basic characteristics of intersectoral social partnership. The presence of a synergistic effect from the contribution of each actor in achieving a common goal as the essence of intersectoral social partnership is noted by most researchers of this issue¹².

Using his own approach, according to which social capital is subdivided into several types, R. Putnam defines the essence of social capital as the value of social connections, while their qualitative indicator, and not quantitative one, is decisive. In R. Putnam's works, social capital is investigated in two dimensions – cultural and structural. The structural section illustrates the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of social networks; the cultural one appeals to the semantic content of norms symbolizing the concepts of reciprocity, solidarity, trust, cooperation and support. At the same time, R. Putnam suggests considering the intensity of the use of social connections as a criterion for the degree of social capital maturity in structural terms. The researcher notes that the norms, formed and strengthened within the framework of one social group, subsequently spread to the whole society, which contributes to its solidarity¹³.

Thus, one of the important features of social capital is illustrated – the ability to self-growth with an increase in the frequency of use, which forms the basis of intersectoral social partnership as a social interaction of the state, commercial and non-profit sectors, based on the historically established form of social relations.

The authors of all three concepts discussed above define trust as a fundamental factor of social capital, which is a social resource of members of society that arises and increases as a result of the interaction of its members with each other, which is the basis and result of their collective actions to achieve common goals. Social capital cannot be classified as a personal good, due to its non-monetary nature¹⁴. At the same time, being a public good, it allows successful solving not only social problems, but also individual ones. According to O. Rogach, the radius of trust directly correlates with the “size” of social capital¹⁵. Reducing the radius of trust is the main factor in restraining the processes of democratization, as well as the efficiency and productivity of public interaction.

Social capital is a fundamental and integral element of the modern democratic process¹⁶. Its state is taken into account in the formation of most Western economic and sociological models (the research program of the World Bank, questionnaires of the World Values Survey).

The main features of social capital were listed above: non-monetary nature, the ability to produce social norms that promote conscious selfless interaction (trust, cooperation, solidarity, readiness to make sacrifices), the ability to create a multiplier effect, self-growth with increasing frequency of use. Intersectoral social partnership can be defined as the relationship between partners that they enter into to effectively achieve sustainable development goals¹⁷.

Thus, we can identify a key feature characterizing social capital and intersectoral social partnership – interaction with the goal of development, which in turn allows us to consider social capital and intersectoral social partnership as intercomplementary processes (Fig. 1).

Upon a detailed examination of the structure and essence of these processes, it can be concluded that they not only proceed at the same levels, but have a similar essential basis, intersectoral social partnership follows from social capital, being its derivative (Table 1).

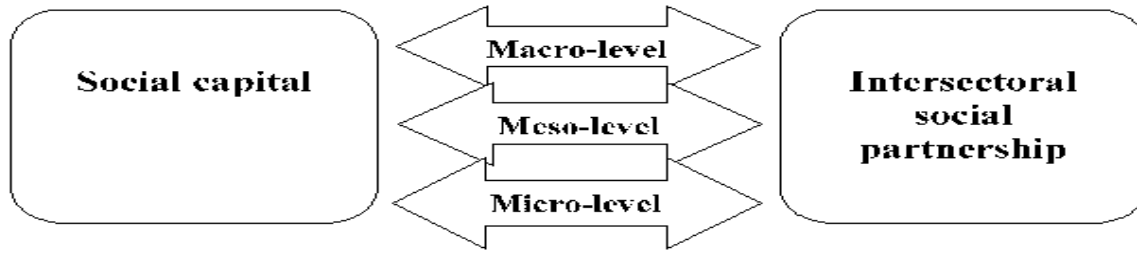


Fig.1: Relationship between social capital and intersectoral social partnership at three structural levels.

In the case of social capital, this is expressed in the formation of social connections aimed at increasing the potential of social development; for intersectoral social partnership, this task is implemented through the interaction of social groups.

Social capital is one of the most important non-economic factors in the development of society; social connections based on the principles of trust, cooperation, solidarity and consideration of the interests of all actors contribute to the development of intersectoral social partnership.

Table 1: The structure and essence of processes in relation to social capital and intersectoral social partnership (according to Turner J., Ans Kolk, Willemijn van Dolen, Marlene Vock)18.

Interaction level	General characteristics of processes in relation to social capital	General characteristics of processes in relation to intersectoral social partnership
Macro-level	Associations of individuals to address fundamental issues related to production, reproduction, regulation and coordination of basic needs.	It provides an opportunity to achieve broader social goals and joint decision-making.
Meso-level	Corporate elements of human capital and categorical elements that generate social differences that affect attitudes towards them in society.	It creates benefits for training, expands opportunities for attracting, motivating and retaining employees, enhances corporate image and maintains reputation.
Micro-level	Direct personal relationships within corporate and social cells.	It provides the ability to access partner networks, can create benefits, such as more opportunities for training and professional development.

Thus, based on considering the main features of social capital, its structure and essence as a process, it can be concluded that social capital is the basis of intersectoral social partnership, its integral part and a necessary basis for the development of civil society and the formation of a social state.

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