

Structural and Functional Model of the Social Sphere: Methodological Approaches and Legal Framework

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Abstract: The relevance of the study is that the social sphere should have a structural and functional model that will ensure human needs for security, education, work, health and well-being. In general, social sector development concerns how states and societies respond to the global challenges of social, demographic and economic change, as well as poverty, migration and globalization. The structural-functional model distinguishes between the different roles of national governments, families, civil society, the market, and international organizations in providing services and support across the life course from childhood to old age. The development of the social sphere is aimed at identifying and finding ways to reduce inequalities in access to services and support between social groups defined by socioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, migration status, gender, sexual orientation, disability and age, etc. The article determines that, for this purpose, the structural and functional model of the social sphere provides for the allocation of the following sectors: cultural and educational complex, medical and health care complex, social and household complex, system of social and labor relations, social protection system, and social processes. The structural-functional model of the social sphere envisages interventions (state regulation through legal norms) that directly affect the transformation of social welfare, social institutions and social relations. In Ukraine, the development of the social sector is becoming increasingly important due to the growing provision of social services.

Keywords: Social sphere, structure of the social sphere, functional model, social services, social protection.

INTRODUCTION

The social sphere is a specific environment for the direct functioning of the system of expanded reproduction of civil society in the process of implementing the state social policy to ensure the support of life for all segments of the population, satisfaction of social needs through the implementation of mechanisms for appropriation of means of life and existence. This is a certain set of technologically interconnected entities, organizations and institutions whose activities are aimed at realizing the target function of meeting the needs of the population in labor, services, spiritual culture and are regulated by specialized public administration bodies.

Social values are determined by various economic, political and social forces and can be created by many stakeholders, including businesses, governments and non-governmental organizations. At the same time, the government is central to human society and has the primary responsibility for inclusive social development, which requires the establishment and maintenance of social values in an orderly and synchronized manner in accordance with the plurality of views of society's participants. Failure of social development can occur when some key social values are ignored. Today,

internally, Ukraine needs to modernize and reform its inefficient governance, fight corruption, and ensure economic growth for its citizens, which requires a clear understanding of the structural and functional model of the social sphere in order to further develop effective mechanisms for its reform, using the total digitalization of all sectors and links within which social services and support are formed and provided to the population.

The modernization of scientific approaches to regulating the development of the social sphere is based on a creative combination of the provisions of the theory of the public sector, services and the development of sectoral/regional innovation ecosystems. The growing dynamism of social sector development, the transition to a collaborative model for innovation at the level of mostly virtual stakeholders, whose participants form networks of regional sustainable growth relationships within the framework of the four-linked spiral of "science-business-government-society", result in the rapid development of the theory and practice of forming an innovative policy for regulating all sectors of the social sector. For Ukraine today, this is an extremely important and urgent issue, as the need for social support is growing due to the scale of destruction that Russia causes on a daily basis. In addition, after the de-occupation, citizens of the territories need all spectrums of social services, including housing restoration, psychological and physical health, financial assistance, etc. Therefore, the study of the formation of a struc-

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tural and functional model of the social sphere is becoming relevant today.

The purpose of the study is an overview of methodological approaches and legal framework for the formation of a structural and functional model of the social sphere through the functioning of its sectors. It is advisable to allocate the sectors of the social sphere and review their functional component on the basis of the presented scheme of the structural and functional model of the social sphere. In addition, it is advisable to allocate the subjects of management functionality and regulators of the structural and functional relations of the social sphere.

ANALYSIS OF THE LATEST RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

The problem of building structural and functional relations in the social sphere is a topic of research by many scholars. Thus, the study of the concept of the social sphere and its relation to public life is presented by D. Lii. The scholar notes that the social sphere refers to social self-organization to create a common cultural landscape on which various forms of interaction are organized, through which social connection between strangers is created and public life is maintained. At the same time, it is recognized that different societies have different types of social spheres with different forms of cultural activity, and thus create different types of social life. The author has identified four types of social spheres (religious ceremonies, public holidays, leisure, and consumption) based on genealogical research and studied the social transformation of the nature of social life (Lii, 1998).

According to D. Galligan, the mechanism for building a model of the social sphere should be defined as a sphere of activity where actors can unite, sharing an understanding, rules and principles of activity. This understanding affects how people participate in such activities. The author reveals the concept of social spheres and considers how it helps to structure the social world, emphasizing the importance of forming a legal basis for the model of social interaction (Galligan, 2012).

Modern researchers no longer perceive the social sphere through the prism of public life, giving it a broader conceptual dimension. For example, S. Abrutyn conceptualizes the social sphere as structural and cultural environments in which all lower levels of social reality, such as individual, collective and clusters of collective actors, are embedded. Spheres such as religion or law differ in the degree of physical, temporal, and social differentiation relative to all other institutional spheres, as well as in the degree to which they are symbolically distinct and thus autonomous spheres of social reality. When viewed from an evolutionary and ecological perspective, institutional spheres lose the static character found in functionalist approaches. Instead, a recursive relationship between actors and the environment is established, emphasizing the role that the macro-level plays in shaping our daily lives and social reality (Abrutyn, 2016).

G. Lopushnyak considers the social sphere as an element of the ecosystem, which is a set of organizations and infrastructure facilities grouped according to certain interests of people, in particular, according to professional, governmental

and legislative bodies that have adapted to coexistence and joint functioning in a certain environment (including rules, laws, moral and ethical norms), forming a single whole with it, along with such components as economic, cultural, value and environmental. An important condition for the evolution (development) of such an ecosystem is its tendency to balance, which is achieved by harmonizing relations in the labor and social life of the population of the region, the state, and the world (Lopuschnyak et al 2021).

At the same time, N. Pigul notes that the growing role of the social sphere is a global trend in the transition from an industrial society to a post-industrial one, which is defined as an information and service one. In the process of global economic reforms initiated from the production sector, the social orientation is becoming increasingly important, which leads to the need to develop mechanisms for effective interaction of all sectors of the economy in solving social problems, creating appropriate frameworks for the formation of new subjects of social policy, and effective functioning of the social sphere. In this regard, the development of the social sphere is aimed, on the one hand, at improving the quality of human potential, and, on the other hand, at ensuring social stability in society, which is necessary for the effective implementation of economic processes. Given that the social sphere is aimed at human development, improving the quality of life, and changing the situation of social groups, it affects all spheres of society. The social sphere does not exist in isolation; it is influenced by interconnections with other spheres that together form society. A condition for the development of the social sphere is the functioning of the economic, political and spiritual spheres, because it is in these spheres that material and spiritual goods and values are produced and the functions of society's governance are performed. Thus, the social sphere intersects with other spheres, concentrating all the conditions of reproduction and development of society. In relation to them, the social sphere is a factor of strengthening and maintaining the stability of social relations and processes, their relative balance. This is a condition for maintaining the integrity of the entire social system (Pigul, 2013).

Studying the development of the social sphere, D. Churovsky notes structural changes in the foreseeable future that follow from social evolution:

1) Transition from hierarchy to network. Today, social evolution is in the process of a clash between the objective tendency to create a network and the subjective tendency to hierarchy. The ruling elites of the past and the power elite of today have created a hierarchical structure based on the basic values of - land and money - or the dominant form of social consciousness - religion and politics. Newly accumulated knowledge expands the complexity of society and the need for horizontal changes in the social structure. In general, the course of social evolution moves from a human-created hierarchy to a network created by objects. Hierarchical development is a quantitative process of knowledge accumulation. The transition to a network is a qualitative leap to a new social structure adequate to the complexity of modern society. The complexity of society creates a hierarchical network of newly created subsystems.

2) Transition from democracy to collabocracy. The decision-making mechanism will be transformed from collective to collaborative intelligence or from the already outdated democracy to a more sophisticated collaborative system. For example, in science and technology, among many other areas, collaboration is used as a method, meaning that there is no voting system at all. The decline of democracy today is objective in nature, as the complexity of modern society creates global problems that cannot be solved by a voting system. They require a problem-solving mechanism that is collaborative by nature and involves experts. Therefore, the transition from democracy to collabocracy is inevitable and a matter of time.

3) Creation of cooperation networks similar to a virtual brain and global mind. The horizontal social structure is in principle self-governing. This means that the local community should be organized in such a way as to manage resources, distribute and redistribute benefits, and make all important decisions to ensure the well-being of the local population (Tchurovsky, 2015).

These promising changes pose new challenges for the functioning of the social sphere and the revision of its structural and functional model.

When studying the problem related to the social sphere, the authors rely on studies such as: Verkhovod, I. et al. (2023). "Social Communications and Their Role in the Development of the Social Sphere", Trusova, N. et al. (2021). "Managing the intellectual potential in the business-network of innovative digital technologies", Dmytrenko, M. et al. (2021). "Management of corporate responsibility in the business environment: Socio-psychological aspect", Voronkova, V. et al. (2023). "Digital Technology Evolution of the Industrial Revolution From 4G to 5G in the Context of the Challenges of Digital Globalization".

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In writing the article, various methodological tools were used to achieve the intended goal, primarily the following research methods were used:

- Literature review. This method was used to familiarize ourselves with the latest research and publications on the subject of research and to familiarize ourselves with the main directions of development of the social sphere, while reviewing the most promising changes that await it;
- Abstraction. This method allowed us to focus the study on the specifics of the formation of the structural and functional model of the social sphere, which is provided for by the chosen topic of the article;
- Graphic method. This method was used to visually improve the perception of the results of the study. After all, the use of this method visually records the results of using the methods of systematization and generalization, which qualitatively enhances and facilitates the perception of the research results. 2 figures illustrating the information presented in the article were created using the graphic method;
- Deductive method. This method allowed us to logically divide the individual sectors of the social sphere for the sub-

sequent construction of the structural and functional model and to highlight their specifics;

– Methods of systematization and generalization. These methods were used to build a diagram of the structural and functional model of the social sphere.

The article was based on scientific articles and publications, UNICEF materials, etc.

RESEARCH RESULTS

The purpose of the social sphere is to create living conditions for individuals in line with the level of development of society, which is one of the most important criteria for realizing social justice. This is due to the fact that today the social sphere covers not only the poor and the unemployed, but also employees; along with social security, it includes income regulation, employment policy, etc. Considering that its main goal is to create the conditions necessary for human life, the state undertakes not to violate the interests of different groups of the population, not to assign them the role of social outcasts on certain grounds (physical age, race, appearance, gender, etc.). In many countries, the effectiveness of social policy is enhanced by the redistribution of social functions between central and local authorities. However, this is no longer enough today. It is necessary not only to redistribute social functions, but also to involve enterprises, various public structures, social groups and citizens in their performance. The functional structure of social policy does not remain unchanged, as it is influenced by the processes taking place in the economy and society. This is especially noticeable in times of crisis, when, on the one hand, there is a need to increase allocations for social programs, and on the other hand, financial opportunities for their implementation are systematically reduced, two functions arise.

These are regulatory (setting minimum standards) and adaptive (providing social assistance to the weakest segments of society). The social sphere of Ukraine has been operating in this state since 2022 due to the escalation of the Russian-Ukrainian war. With the end of the transition period, there are opportunities for an active social policy that can be reoriented from short-term goals arising from the need to neutralize the economic and social consequences of the crisis phase to long-term regulatory mechanisms for social justice and the creation of favorable conditions for human development. There is a widespread belief that only economic growth can solve the problem of poverty, and that direct action is unnecessary. The main factor hindering Ukraine's poverty reduction strategy is the hypertrophic concentration of property and the huge income disparity. Due to the large uneven distribution of growth results, the incomes of the richest part of society are increasing, while those of the poor are decreasing. There is no adequate poverty reduction because income redistribution exceeds economic growth and GDP growth. The strategy to overcome poverty, which is one of the most important principles of justice, should be active and systematic. The state's systematic approach to solving the problems of effective employment and wage growth, ensuring minimum social standards, bringing them closer to the real level of existence, social integration of low-income citizens, guaranteeing them equal access to education, social infrastructure (on which human capital development depends) against the

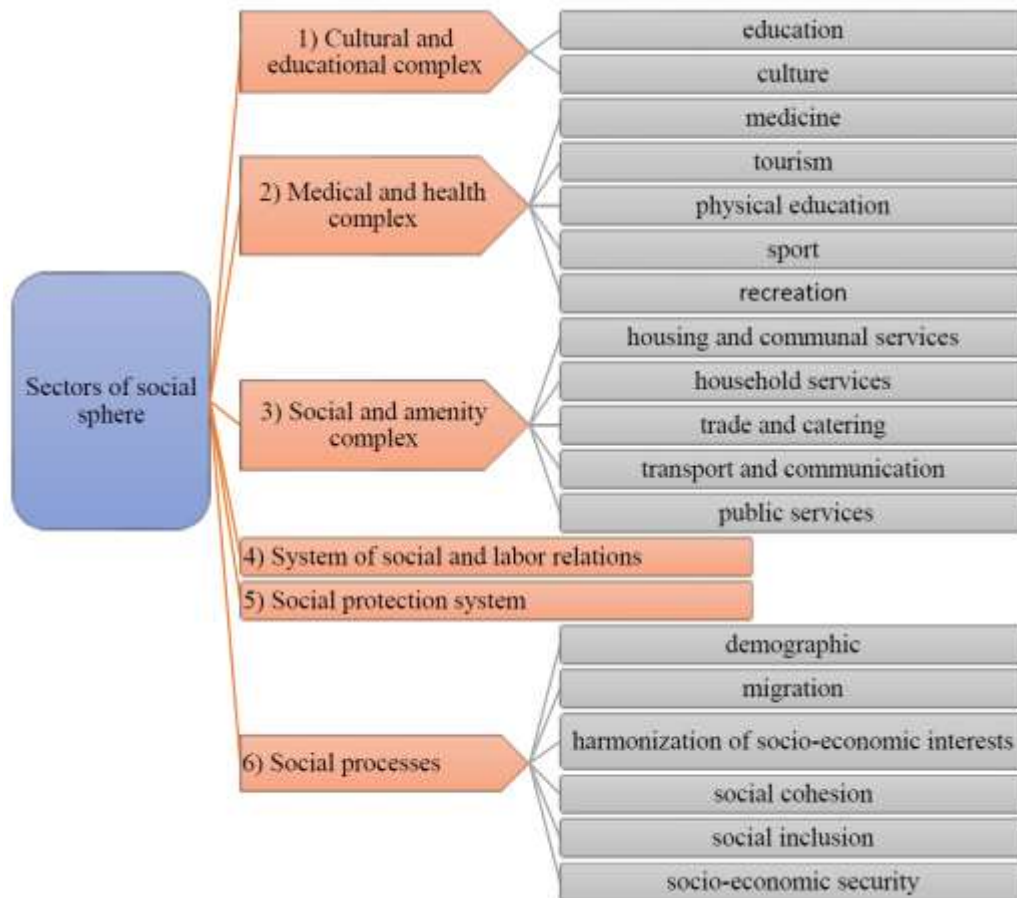


Fig. (1). Sectors of the social sphere.

Source: author's development.

background of overall growth makes it possible to implement projects in the social sphere. But this requires successful reform of the functioning of all sectors of the structural and functional model.

Stewart and D. Hartmann identify and summarize three areas of contemporary social processes that document a new structural transformation of the modern social sphere:

- 1) civic communication through new media;
- 2) professionalization of social movements;
- 3) new hybrid institutions, such as think tanks, non-profit foundations, and other public-private partnerships.

The authors note that these new formations define a unique autonomous, interstitial social field as the basis of the modern social sphere (Stewart and Hartmann, 2020).

Meanwhile, the structural and functional model of the social sphere should include the following sectors (Fig. 1):

- 1) Cultural and educational complex (education, culture).
- 2) Medical and health complex (medicine, tourism, physical education and sports, recreation).
- 3) Social and household complex (housing and communal services, consumer services, trade and catering, transport and communications, public services).

4) The system of social and labor relations.

5) The system of social protection.

6) Social processes (demographic, migration, harmonization of socio-economic interests, social cohesion, social inclusion, socio-economic security as an integral part of the social quality ecosystem).

The cultural and educational complex combines the areas of social work related to human reproduction, restoration of human performance and health promotion, as well as ensuring intellectual, spiritual and physical development. Cultural and educational complex is a set of institutions, establishments, enterprises, organizations and governing bodies that produce, distribute, store and organize the consumption of cultural and educational goods and services to meet the relevant needs of the population (Flinta, 2006). The spread of innovative technologies in the field of education has become an objective regularity caused by the new philosophy of education. Innovations should be seen as effective and successful innovations in the content, methods, means and forms of education and professional training of individuals, in the management of the education system, in the organization of the educational process, in the structure of educational institutions. Innovations have become especially relevant since the beginning of the large-scale war unleashed by the Russian Federation on the territory of Ukraine, when it is vital to

make quick, non-standard, and essentially innovative decisions. The functioning of the education system under martial law is characterized by an intensive search for new approaches to teaching, innovative forms of organizing the educational process, and effective pedagogical and information technologies. That is why supporting the active implementation of innovations in the education sector in wartime has become one of the key areas of work of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and its structural units (Shkarlet, 2022).

The Ministry of Culture and Information Policy of Ukraine is in charge of cultural development. The consequences of the war for the cultural and educational complex of Ukraine, as well as for individual sectors of education and culture, are difficult to predict today. In particular, the main concern is the financial and material support for meeting cultural needs, as well as the change in priorities, and the relegation of culture to the background in the process of rebuilding the state after the war. Today, great hopes are placed on the international community, investors, the Ukrainian diaspora, and the self-awareness of Ukrainian citizens to meet their own cultural needs (Ukrainian Cultural Foundation, 2022).

Similar to culture and education, the healthcare sector, which includes medicine, tourism, physical education and sports, and recreation, plays an important role in the social sphere. Successful development of this sector includes improving people's health and well-being, promoting people's empowerment, and contributing to the development of inclusive communities. Recreation, leisure and sporting activities can involve individuals, small groups, teams or entire communities and are relevant to people of all ages, abilities and skill levels. The types of recreation, leisure and sporting activities in which people participate vary considerably depending on the local context and tend to reflect social systems and cultural values. Participation in recreation, leisure and sports activities may be one of the few opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in public life outside their immediate family. In addition, the health care complex includes a system of health care facilities that provide health improvement (prevention, treatment), recreation and rest for people. Healthcare facilities are located in cities and remote settlements. This subsector is managed by the Ministry of Health. This is an important sector that has played a leading role in helping the population cope with the pandemic, and today the problem of treatment and rehabilitation of military and civilians who have suffered injuries and amputations, psychological abuse and disorders, etc. is becoming a major issue for Ukraine. And this problem will get worse in the near future.

Sanatoriums, boarding houses, health centers, children's health centers, recreation centers, tourist centers and shelters provide health and recreation. As a result of their combination, resort and recreational areas, tourist centers and tourist zones are formed in settlements or in certain territories. This area is managed by the State Agency for Tourism Development and the Ministry of Youth and Sports. Ukraine's recreational resources make it possible to develop summer and winter recreation, tourism, health improvement and rehabilitation of the population of Ukraine.

The social and communal complex comprises 4 main sub-sectors: consumer services; trade and catering; transport and communications; and public services. The housing and utilities sector meets the housing needs of the population and ensures the operation of residential buildings, hotels, small businesses and institutions. Consumer services include the individual production and repair of clothing, footwear and knitwear, housing repair and construction, hairdressing and repair shops for household appliances, vehicles, electronics, etc. It is constantly changing as old services are improved and new types and forms of services are introduced. The largest volumes of consumer services are provided in urban residential areas. Trade and catering includes retail stores and catering establishments. In addition to traditional enterprises in this sector, a network of specialized stores and fast food outlets is developing. Communication as a sector of the economy consists of enterprises, lines and nodes that ensure the process of information transmission over a distance (so-called telecommunications). This includes communication departments, telephone and telegraph exchanges, postal services, delivery services, radio broadcasting, television, Internet services, etc.

With regard to public services, the basic law for the provision of administrative services is the Law of Ukraine "On Administrative Services", which provides for the provision of public services in electronic form and access to information on administrative services via the Internet. For this purpose, a single state portal of electronic services, Diia, was introduced, whose main task is to provide services in electronic form (including administrative and other public services), provide access to information from national information electronic resources, including information about the user, through the user's electronic cabinet; accept applications by entities on the results of the provision of electronic services, review applications and administrative cases; provide users with information about electronic and administrative services, as well as other public services. The issue of forming the legislative framework for digitalization and the digital society falls not only within the competence of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine as a legislative body, but also within the competence of the relevant central executive body in terms of formulating and implementing state policy in the field of digitalization, digital development, digital economy, technologies and digital innovations, e-democracy, e-government, etc. In Ukraine, this is the Ministry of Digital Transformation of Ukraine (Krakowska and Babyk, 2022).

The paradigm of increasing the importance of labor and entrepreneurship should be the focus of attention for the sustainable development of the system of social and labor relations. Regulatory influence on the social sphere should be not unilateral, but bilateral and based on the close "interconnection of economy and society" at all levels of regulation. With this in mind, the development of the system of social and labor relations should be assessed by the parameters of its implementation in terms of the level and quality of life, development of social infrastructure, etc.

Social protection is the main task of the social policy of modern Ukraine, which aims to ensure human rights and guarantee the level and quality of life. Taking care of people in difficult life situations is one of the main directions of the

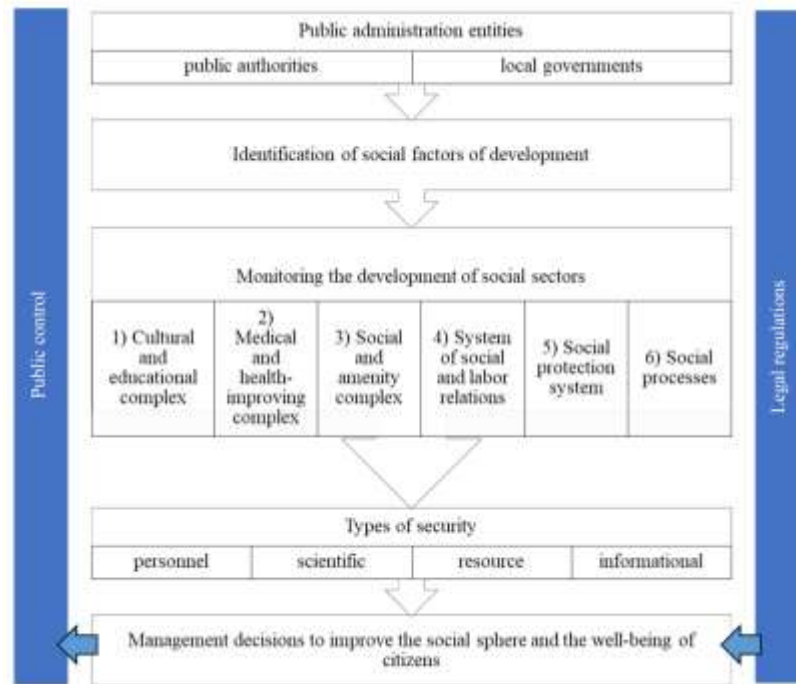


Fig. (2). Structural and functional model of the social sphere.

Source: (author's development).

state policy in the field of social protection of the population. Social protection of the population is one of the main functions of the state, which should always be performed for the benefit of those citizens who have problems in their lives and under any circumstances. The sphere of social protection is a person, a family, its well-being, not only material but also social, i.e. improvement of social life of a person, faith in its future. State measures to improve social protection of certain categories of the population do not cover the additional costs necessary for the daily activities of citizens. Therefore, it is necessary to preserve those priority areas of social protection that allow us to pay more attention to and support the livelihoods of residents in difficult social situations. Amid the war, the Ministry of Social Policy continues to operate in a crisis mode to provide social services: decisions on their implementation are made within one day, bypassing the lengthy approval procedure. The standard procedure for making decisions on social benefits involves a number of mandatory stages involving several institutions and can take up to 10 business days. Services are provided at the expense of local budgets, and it is important that the Ministry of Social Policy recommends that local authorities delegate decisions on the provision of social services directly to the institutions that provide them, if necessary. The simplified procedure applies to various types of services, including housing (Mashkova, 2022).

Currently, the process of digital transformation in the social sector is underway, implemented by the Ministry of Social Policy with the support of partners such as WFP, TAPAS, EGAP, UNICEF and the World Bank, which will fundamentally change the philosophy of interaction between the state and citizens by increasing the accessibility and transparency of social assistance and services, and the total implementation of IT systems to make the social sector more sustaina-

ble. The new philosophy of reforming the social sector is aimed at helping everyone overcome crises and difficult circumstances and develop the ability to move forward. This will help create a country where it will be convenient to start a family, raise children, actively age, and where every citizen will be able to achieve economic independence, regardless of life circumstances and any functional limitations. Currently, the Ministry of Social Policy is developing a social information system in the social sphere to speed up the provision of assistance and support to Ukrainians and facilitate access to social services at every stage of life. Currently, according to the report of the Minister of Social Policy, 13 million insured persons, 11 million pensioners, 7.6 million children, 2.7 million people with disabilities and almost 3 million households, as well as a large number of other categories of citizens who use various forms of assistance and subsidies in the social assistance system, receive social support. At the same time, the social sphere is one of the largest items of budget expenditures each year, and digitalization will make all social services transparent and fair, as they will reach those who really need them. And people will not need to spend time and effort collecting documents. At the same time, systemic solutions have a long-term effect, and the Ministry of Social Policy and the Ministry of Digital Transformation are currently working on such solutions. The implementation of this system allows us to create a solid foundation for digital services and thus provide intuitive and simple services to citizens, which ultimately makes the social sphere as efficient, transparent and comfortable as possible.

Therefore, the management functionality in the structural and functional model of the social sphere is assigned to the state, represented by public authorities and local self-government.

The regulators are public control and legal norms. Thus, public authorities form the necessary legal framework for the development of the social sphere in the context of its individual sectors and ensure their implementation and enforcement, while the functionality of public control should not be limited to control functions, but should form initiatives and requests for further reform and appropriate changes in the legislative field.

Therefore, in Fig. (2) shows a diagram of the structural and functional model of the social sphere.

The process of establishing public control over management decision-making in the social sphere can be viewed in two aspects with regard to the direct function of control:

1) Control is manifested in relation to the reality of the chosen norm, its proper structural ordering in time and space, its adaptability to the system's capabilities, and its compliance with the best achievements in other systems. Assessment of the normativity of the system from the standpoint of established criteria and requirements of the world's best practices becomes an objective need for development, a prerequisite for influence in management.

2) Control assesses the availability of quantitative and qualitative indicators of the controlled parameters.

CONCLUSIONS

The modern economy is largely integrated into a new post-industrial phase of social development, characterized by an increasing role of the social sphere. The process of global economic reforms, which began with the manufacturing sector, is now becoming more socially oriented. This determines the need to develop a mechanism for effective interaction of all sectors of the economy in solving social problems and to create an appropriate legal framework for the formation of new subjects of social policy and effective functioning of social services. It should be noted that today the reason for the development of the social sphere is that along with material needs, the needs for social and spiritual benefits created in the social sphere are growing. The combination of the material and social spheres makes it possible to ensure consistency between material well-being and spiritual development of a person. Qualitatively new technologies require a different level of education, training, general human culture, discipline and responsibility for the work assigned. All of these requirements lead to an increasing role and active feedback influence of the social sphere on the development of society. That is why the structural and functional model of the social sphere in its modern understanding covers 6 main sectors of the social sphere: cultural and educational complex; medical and health care complex; social and household complex; system of social and labor relations and social protection system; social processes.

Optimal processes of social sphere development are associated with the activities of institutions and organizations aimed at social protection of the interests of each person and ensuring the availability of basic resources for members of society. The main function of the social sphere is the reproduction and comprehensive life support of the individual and social society. This model is regulated by representatives of the government, local self-government through the estab-

lishment of legal norms under the supervision of public organizations and experts, who together strengthen cooperation in implementing the best digital solutions so that as many services as possible receive online support, making social services more accessible to citizens.

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